

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

Loving God Proclaiming Christ Living Generously Engaging All

Church Background: MDPC was established in 1955 in the Memorial area of west Houston. Besides the centrality and foundation of Jesus Christ, two principles have guided the church throughout its history: (1) Prayer - every member is prayed for every day; and (2) Generosity - the church practices dollar-for-dollar giving toward outreach.

MDPC is seeking to understand and embrace a missional paradigm for ministry. This means growing in our understanding of what it means for Christians to be sent into the world to be agents of transformation, rather than being an insulated and inward-looking community.

Church Ethos: As a congregation, MDPC is best described as Christ-centered, mission-minded, and discipleship-focused. Theologically, the church is mostly conservative and evangelical, but maintains a healthy and respectful diversity of opinions on non-essential issues. It is a church that values community, and though large, maintains a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Surrounding Community: MDPC is located in the western Houston suburbs, in Bunker Hill Village, one of several villages in the surrounding area. While MDPC members and participants come from all over Houston, the majority come from the villages and west Houston area. The immediate surrounding community is affluent, with residents typically being high-capacity business professionals.

Church Membership: The MDPC membership is about 3,700, with an average worship attendance of about 1,200 from four Sunday morning worship services. The majority of MDPC's members are age 45 and older, with the largest groups being Boomers and Builders. The church tends to be more of a family church, and we enjoy large and active children's and youth ministries.

Leadership: MDPC has been blessed by strong and effective leadership from its pastors and staff. Dr. Alf Halvorson is MDPC's sixth senior pastor, and has served here since 2014. Currently there are five other associate pastors, along with several non-ordained department directors. We are currently searching for an Equipping Ministries Pastor, a Caring Ministries Pastor and an Outreach Ministries Pastor or Director. There is a board of elders (the Session) which is made up of 53 men and women, elected by the congregation to provide leadership and representation. The ordained pastors also serve as members of Session. The Session is divided into several committees which give

vision and oversight to their respective ministries. We are committed to a healthy leadership model that embraces collaboration, communication, and mutual accountability. The staff is comprised of highly-competent professionals who bring considerable skills to their respective ministries. There is a high expectation for excellence and effectiveness, but this is balanced with an environment that promotes authenticity, teamwork, and lots of fun.

Leadership Transfer: Stemming from the work of an independent consultant, MDPC has committed itself to effective leadership transfer to successive generations. Like many established and mainline churches, MDPC has not done a good job of cultivating an environment where emerging leaders are identified, mentored, coached, and enabled. As a result, our young adults, youth and children can feel somewhat undervalued and underutilized. We understand leadership transfer as one of the most significant issues before the church, and realize that our future is dependent on finding success in this.

Denomination: Since July 2016, MDPC is part of *A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)*. The church is one of more than 300 churches making up the denomination. By its size, MDPC is in the top five churches in ECO. ECO is one of several families of churches that find its historical roots in the Protestant Reformation of the 1500s in Europe. These include Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, etc. Though our relationship with the denomination is important, it is secondary to being faithful in following Jesus Christ as Lord of the Church.

Theology: Since our historical and theological roots come from the *Reformation*, our theology emerges from the *Reformed Tradition*. This means we place great emphasis on: the Sovereignty of God, salvation by grace through faith, confession and repentance of sin, worship as a response to God, the sacraments of baptism and communion, and the calling and equipping of Christians. We also place importance on the covenant life, affirming that God's covenant of grace is generously offered through Christ regardless of age. Thus, we baptize infants and adults as an affirmation of that covenant. Likewise, we believe that God calls both men and women into leadership in the church.

Worship Styles: Currently MDPC offers four worship styles on Sunday morning. The Blended 8:30am service is typically led by an ensemble of band and vocalists, with the music being a mixture of hymns and contemporary songs with a somewhat "unplugged" feel. The Contemporary 9:45am service is typically led by the same worship ensemble as 8:30am, but is marked by electric and higher energy music. The Traditional 11:15am service features our 60+ voice choir with the organ as the typical accompaniment. The Spanish-language 11:15 am service is a joyful celebration of

traditional and contemporary Christian music. The largest service is the Contemporary, followed by the Traditional, followed by the Blended.

Our Mission Statement: In addition to our historic foundation, MDPC undertook a strategic planning exercise in 2015, which included the development of a new mission statement. We feel that this statement succinctly captures our identity as a body of believers and the mission to which God has called us:

Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

Anchoring our new mission statement is the scripture that has long served as our vision verse: "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God." (Hebrews 12:15a)

Our Core beliefs and how we live them out are:

We submit to the authority of scripture. We strive for Christ-centered and biblically-based preaching and teaching. We take the scriptures seriously as the authoritative Word of God and seek to interpret the Bible in relevant ways for today's Church.

We practice radical generosity. MDPC is committed to outreach through our Dollar-for-Dollar legacy of giving, and the involvement of hundreds of our members in the world.

We take risks without compromising our values. There is an entrepreneurial spirit at MDPC that encourages taking risks. This spirit has given birth to many discipleship programs in the church, and many evangelical and charitable programs outside the church.

We pray for each other every day. Prayer is a central element of MDPC. Our Partner in Prayer ministry involves more than 600 people praying daily for every member.

We strive to live missionally. We endeavor to broaden our congregation by welcoming people from different cultures, ethnic origins, and viewpoints into our community to be faithful followers of Jesus.

We value authenticity, humility and grace. We want our members to grow in Christ, generosity, prayer, outreach, and authenticity. We strive to achieve this through worship, Christian Education for children, youth and adults, small group ministry and programs like Men's Life and Bible Study Discussion.

We are committed to reaching out to our community and to addressing the emerging needs of the community and our members.

MDPC is a missional church that has been “blessed to be a blessing” to our community and constituency. Generosity is one of the pillars on which MDPC is built. We partner with 140+ missions to provide shelter, fresh water, disaster relief, job training, mentoring and tutoring in neighborhood schools, evangelism and discipleship for men, women and children. MDPC has a growing, vibrant Hispanic Ministry (Fuente Ministries). It operates a food pantry that serves over 200 Houston families every week.

Our members join God in His Kingdom work reaching out to the people of Mexico, Haiti, Central America, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt, South Africa, Croatia, Hungary, Indonesia, China, and more...while caring for those here at home. Our people live out the Great Commission daily by being the hands and feet of Christ to a world in need.

MDPC, in an increasingly secular society, seeks to reach people who do not have an active walk with Christ to help them discover how He can nourish and empower their lives. MDPC is called to witness the love of Jesus Christ by bringing as many people as possible, from whatever station in life, to faith in the Gospel. His Spirit calls us to know Him, be like Him, and to grow our community of faith.

MDPC is a vibrant seven day a week church, where people are connected in a myriad of ways with Jesus Christ at the center.

Strategic Plan

At the January 2017 Staff & Elder Retreat, the Session approved the 12 MDPC Advantage Goals, designed to enhance our current mission statement as we strive to broaden our reach for Christ in our community and beyond. The reference to “Advantage Goals” is derived from an approach to organizational health as described by Patrick Lencioni in his book, The Advantage. For more information on this strategic plan, visit

<http://www.mdpc.org/about-us/mission-and-beliefs>

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

General Information			
Mailing Address	1112 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024		
Phone	713-782-1710		
Fax	713-780-3914		
PNC Email	pnc@mdpc.org		
PNC Web Address	www.pnc.mdpc.org		
Church Web Address	www.mdpc.org		
Facebook	www.facebook.com/memorialdrivepresbyterianchurch		
Instagram	www.instagram.com/memorialdrivepc/		
Twitter	https://twitter.com/MemorialDrivePC		
Active Membership			
Age Distribution			
<u>Age (yrs)</u>	<u>Total Members</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
25 & Under	690	326	364
26-45	606	252	354
46-55	656	280	376
56-65	686	302	384
<u>Over 65</u>	<u>1018</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>608</u>
Total	3656	1570	2086
Racial Ethnic		Total Members	
Asian		14	
African American		5	
African		2	
Hispanic		141	
<u>White</u>		<u>3494</u>	
Total		3656	
Average Worship Attendance		1155	
Christian Education			
Birth to 3		135	
Age 4 & Kindergarten		79	
Grades 1 to 5		244	
Grades 6 to 8		245	
Grades 9 to 12		268	
Young Adults		74	
Over 25		1169	
<u>Teachers</u>		<u>117</u>	
Total		2331	

Data taken from the ECO 2016 Statistical Report