

## Annual Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2025

Opened in prayer by – Andrew Catrinta

Andrew asked the members to scan the QR code to review 2024 annual meeting minutes Jaime Rivera, motions to approve the 2024 annual meeting minutes, Heidi Alcazar seconds. Motion carries.

Ballots are given to present members for voting for the MBC Officers.

### **Phantom Ranch Report** – Olen Johnson

In behalf of our staff, I bring you greetings. Excited to see a group of young adults to for a prayer retreat. Majority were young men, at camp praying at camp together.

This is our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The property was purchased for \$2000 from 12 acres to 200 acres at present time. Praise God for His faithless.

Work day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, for cleaning and repairs at camp. Memorial weekend is Midwest Bible Church weekend at the camp and I encourage all of you to register. On Memorial Sundays after church, we plan to have vans to pick up whoever is available to go at the camp for the afternoon and return back by 7 pm.

Currently during the year, one week during the year we have Urban Care ministry, through Inner-city Impact ministries that services underprivileged children and family camp on Labor Day weekend. Summer time is the busiest time and we see hundreds of kids come through the summer camp.

We have plans to add more camp activities in the future. The fall, winter and spring retreats are going well and we have groups that have been doing retreats yearly at camp as long as 35 years. Every weekend this year are all booked with weekend retreats from groups to 100 plus.

Financially we've been doing well and in 2019 the board set a goal to have a rainy-day fund of \$300,000, and this year we just reached this goal. In 2024 we gave out \$90,000 scholarship grants.

We have a strong relationship with the Angel Tree and they provide scholarship to children that their parents are incarcerated. The president of the ministry came and gave us a positive high recognition.

The board decided that with any extra money accumulated to update our facilities, and possibly add more cabins in the future.

Thank you for MBC and whoever supports and prays for the camp.

Andrew Catrinta - I'm thankful for Olen and I'm grateful to work with him. David Martinez prayed for Olen and the ministry of Phantom Ranch.

### **Midwestern Christian Academy Report** – Lee Saunders

*Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Ecclesiastes 11:1*

Midwestern Christian Academy came into existence in 1956 as the result of a vision given by God to the membership of Midwest Bible Church. Christian schools in the United States, the majority of those currently in existence being started after MCA came into existence, are meant to educate children and youth by including Biblical truth in every subject area, and in so doing, provide discipleship ministry, which is one of the Biblically-directed functions of a Christian church, that provides support for ministry and undergirds the church's theological and doctrinal foundation.

Christian school ministry has reversed a long-time trend in American churches of seeing the children and youth who are raised within a church community leave it behind by the time they are 25 years of age. It is not a guarantee. But while 70% of the children and youth who are raised in the church leave it shortly after graduating from high school, over 80% of those who attend a Christian school for at least 5 years will not only remain regular in worship attendance, but will take a leadership role in the church. That's what we are supposed to do.

I started teaching in a Christian school in the fall of 1983. I'd like to share a few brief examples of the impact of Christian school education on the lives of students I've taught, and known, over the 42 years since I started working in Christian schools.

There was Grace York.

- Drill team and cheerleader
- Was a Christian but wasn't solid or certain in her faith
- Has relied on her faith to carry her through several family tragedies, including having lost their home in Texas to a fire, and then having the rebuilt home subjected to flooding on three different occasions.
- Two school friends became Christians in their adult life as a result of her friendship, one now sends her kids to the Christian school JoAnn and I once taught at.
- Is an elementary teacher in St. James, Missouri and mother of two adopted children.

### Reese Randle

- Student of mine every year in either Bible or History from grade 7 through 12. Also on my 7th grade boys basketball team.
- Family was Catholic but attended our Christian school. Made a profession of faith in 9th grade and told his family he would respect their wishes that he go to Catholic church while he lived under their roof, but when he went away to college, was baptized and joined a Baptist church near UT
- I didn't see Reese after graduation from high school, until I was visiting my , cardiologist, who was a professor at the UTHSC for a routine visit. Reese opened the door, announced that he was Dr Dougherty's cardiology resident, and would be conducting my preliminary examination.

### Shelley Strimple

- Shelley was a cheerleader, drill team dancer, who I had in 11th and 12th grade at Broadway Baptist School.
- She wasn't too sure about her faith in high school, but she joined a Christian student group during college, and made a profession of faith before she graduated.
- Teachers don't like being called to jury duty during summer break, but I got a summons in July one summer. Two blessings happened as a result. One, I got to see Shelley again, this time in her role as district attorney of Fort Bend County, Texas, and two, I was dismissed from Jury duty because I was a former teacher of the district attorney.

### Kevin Barefield

- Kevin was in my 12th grade government and economics class the first year I taught.
- He was a sullen, quiet kid who had a hostile attitude toward God, with a testimony of parents who "forced" him to go to church. He was quite worldly.
- One decade later, after returning to that same school to teach, I was also looking to help out serving a church as a part-time youth leader. I walked into the interview with the pastor, and it was Kevin. His Christian school experience led him to conviction and repentance, and then back to the pulpit of the same church his parents had "forced" him to attend.

### Kevin Whitaker

- Kevin was in my seventh grade Bible class. When he was in ninth grade, he went on a mission trip I sponsored to Savannah, Georgia, where he experienced a "calling" to

mission service. He went on every mission trip I sponsored after that, encouraging other students to do the same.

- It's difficult to tell how many of his classmates he inspired and influenced. We didn't know it at the time, but that was the ministry to which God had called and prepared him.
- Kevin was murdered, along with his mother, during his sophomore year in college. In the book his Dad, who survived the shooting, wrote about the events, he mentioned Kevin's commitment to the Lord, and this special call to missions that he fulfilled.

There are many students across the years whom I had in class, or served in their school as administrator, who have similar testimonies. For every single student, their days in those classrooms was a divine appointment, an intentional act of God to bring about some aspect of his will in their lives, making an impact in ways that they could not imagine. It happens every single day, right upstairs in this building, and right across the parking lot.

MCA is contributing to the future of the church in Chicago, and wherever its students wind up in their life. We need this ministry, it is worthy of our support and our prayer, and our stewardship of it as a church. Every day, we cast our bread upon the waters, and it returns to us in ways we sometimes do not see or cannot imagine, in other parts of Christ's kingdom, his church.

Luis Pagan - prayed for Mr. Saunders and MCA –

### **Financial Report** - Pam Frenden

Budget meeting was in December 2024 and we do not have the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial report ready for today. For the current year the tithing did not meet our budget.

#### **2024 Tithes & Offerings**

General \$409368 – under budget but did not come at a loss

Deacons \$4438

Building Rental \$160

Century club \$960

#### **2024 Expenses**

Building Expenses \$90,368 – to maintain the building and heating maintenance and insurance. The insurance is split with the school

General Expense \$32,727 – majority is the utilities about \$20,000

Missions \$32,625 – has remained the same. With the overages we were able

Pastoral and Administrative – Pastoral and payroll. Our health insurance is \$32,000 to cover 2 people.

Church Ministry \$ 31,382 – Men's ministry, Next Level, media, Awana, children's ministry and church ministry in general. Any events and promotional goes into this category.

#### **December 2024 Balance Sheet**

Balance Sheet \$611,060  
BOA operating \$107,514  
Boa deacon \$18,014  
Wintrust Bank \$103,103  
Loan given to MCA \$380,000  
Deacon Fund reserve was \$17,322  
**2025 Budget approved \$443,577**

Bert prayed for Pam and ministry of Midwest Bible Church

Saul Ayala – we counted the votes and it was a yes for the majority of the candidates.

Thank you for all who accepted the nomination and for serving one another, and to care for each other's burden.

Andrew – Welcome to Mike Kijowski as the newest elder elected to the elder board.

Lisa Osborn motion to adjourn the meeting, Cathy Sywulka seconds.

Marco David - please read the report of how to pass the baton to the next generation in the annual report. Grateful for Mike joining our church.

Ovi Poenar prayed for Mike and Terri Kijowki and Midwest Bible Church.

Submitted  
Daniela Poenar