

# THE MOODY CHURCH

## ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018–AUGUST 31, 2019



*A trusted place where anyone can connect  
with God and others.*

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# A LETTER FROM PASTOR BERTSCHE

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Have you ever been confused by Isaiah 40:31? “But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” The confusion comes from waiting on the Lord and yet experiencing weariness. Doesn’t this passage promise that waiting upon the Lord will be easy?! Unfortunately, it doesn’t. Waiting on the Lord is active, not passive. We must seek the Lord for wisdom and direction day by day and work hard at what He has given us to do, even while we wait for Him to reveal His will. This passage is a promise that God will provide the strength that we need to do what He has called us to do. What a wonderful promise it is.

When I look back over this past year, I am refreshed by the many ways we have seen the Lord provide for our church family. Many of these ways are recounted in this Annual Report. We have now been without a Senior Pastor for over three and a half years, and yet the Lord has not simply sustained us, but has blessed us with many reasons to rejoice during this time. The record attendance we experienced during last year’s Christmas season and the two wonderful services on Easter Sunday are just a couple of examples. God is good.

This month, October 2019, marks my 25th anniversary as a pastor at The Moody Church. I am amazed at how quickly the time has gone by, but also by all the Lord has done during that time. Many people have come and gone and thousands of people have been part of our church for a season before being called by the Lord to go elsewhere.

But through it all, our Heavenly Father has graciously guided us, provided for us, and kept us faithful to the gospel and to the exaltation of His Son Jesus Christ. Isn’t that encouraging? Who knows which of us will be here in 25 years, if the Lord tarries? But we do know that the Lord will still be faithful, so we need to keep praying that we will be as well—including faithfulness to the great responsibility of handing down the uncompromised gospel to the next generation.

When you read this Annual Report, read it with the perspective of God’s great faithfulness. Every event, every volunteer, every dollar given, every life changed is ultimately

the work of God on our behalf and for His Church and His glory. None of this could happen without His grace. And it also would not have happened if God’s people had not responded to the Holy Spirit’s leading and walked in joyful obedience. That’s one of the many reasons I love being a part of our church family—being surrounded by men and women (and young people) who love Jesus and want to grow in Him.

You can read more about what we have planned in the *Building Blocks for the Future* section of this Annual Report. As we have seen from our ongoing study in the life of Joseph, our Heavenly Father is sovereign. Therefore, we can rest in His power and love, knowing that He has a good plan for us. Let’s pursue Him together with passion!

For His glory,



Bill Bertsche

Executive Pastor



# A LETTER FROM OUR ELDERS

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“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’” (Lamentations 3:22–24)

The past year has been a challenging one for us as a body. As is so beautifully expressed by the prophet Jeremiah, our challenges bring us to realize once again that our faithful God is our portion and that therefore we have hope. Let’s ask that God prepare our hearts to learn from the challenges He is sending so that we are better prepared for future service to Him.

We thank God for Executive Pastor Bill Bertsche, whom God has used to guide us through the transition between Senior Pastors. Bill has carried a heavy load with fortitude and humility. We also thank God for our entire pastoral and administrative staff and their faithful service as they have carried extra responsibilities.

As we look back over the past year there are many things that should encourage us. Among these is the congregation’s faithful giving of their time, talent, and financial resources to the work of Christ here. Many have given sacrificially. We know that God will honor their faith as they look to Him to meet their needs. Their financial gifts have enabled us to finish the year in a strong financial position. Hundreds of volunteers have also given their time working tirelessly, many behind the scenes, to serve this body. A portion of the fruit of all these efforts can be readily seen, but much will only be revealed in eternity.

We thank God for the faithfulness of the Search Committee in seeking the Lord as they continue to search for a new Senior Pastor. Their task is not to find the most qualified candidate for the position, but rather to find the one man God has anointed to help lead The Moody Church. We are encouraged that God has led us to engage the Vanderbloemen Search Group. They have committed to prayerfully devote the ample resources God has given them to our search until God’s man is identified and confirmed. We need to keep in mind that God is preparing us for a new season of ministry under a new Senior Pastor and we need to be ready. God is also preparing our new Senior Pastor for the opportunities and challenges we will face together when he is in place. Finally, God may likely lead this man from a current assignment at another church. God needs to prepare that church for a season of searching for their new leader.

As we thank God for those things that He has done, let us not forget to thank Him for His protection. Some of our ministries operate in the most dangerous corners of Chicago and the world where, in total reliance on the power of God, we daily challenge the plans of our spiritual adversary. Yet we have seen the Lord’s protection time after time.

Individually and collectively we need to consistently pray for God’s protection and equipping in many areas. Among the most critical are:

- That the Holy Spirit will grant us wisdom, discernment, energy, and enthusiasm as we carry out the work He has called us to do.
- That God will empower and direct Pastor Bill and the pastoral staff as they continue to help lead us during this transition period.
- That God will direct the efforts of the Elders, the Search Committee, and the search firm during this critical period as we assemble the list of potential candidates and conduct interviews.
- That this local body will benefit fully from what God is teaching us, and that the Elders, the Search Committee, the Leadership Council, and the Membership will be unified in recognizing the man God has prepared.

We are excited about what God has in store for us in the year ahead.

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

## **THE MOODY CHURCH ELDERS**

*Joseph Carré, Tony Durns, Steve Giere, Berv Peterson, Reg Rawden, Tom Sawyer, Greg Thornton, Phil Zahn*

## **ASSOCIATE ELDERS**

*Bill Bertsche, Michael Pitts*

## **LIFE ELDER**

*Don Dix, Julius Wilson*

# BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE FUTURE

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“Where is The Moody Church going?” is a question that has come up more than once during this interim season. It’s actually a good question to ask at any time. Thankfully, the church building is too big to move so it’s staying put! But where are we headed as a congregation? What do we sense the Lord is leading us to do over the next few months and years? While these are good questions, they aren’t easy to answer when you are between Senior Pastors. It would be unwise for us to chart a five- or ten-year plan when we anticipate welcoming a new Pastor in the near future. And yet, to quote Pastor Ed Stetzer, “The Moody Church is not on pause, we are on mission.”

The mission that we are on is, broadly speaking, the one that Jesus gave His Church: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19–20). Reaching the lost with the gospel and teaching believers are essential to what any faithful church does. By God’s grace, our church has emphasized both. Our preaching and teaching ministries—including our Communities and Equipping classes, as well as our Local and Global Outreach efforts—remain strong. I am thankful for the many people in our church who insist on that!

More specifically, we have pursued those essentials through our Warmth & Witness emphasis, our special preaching series like *Explore God*, our outreach efforts at Christmas and Easter, and by ministering to hundreds of children through our summer camps, as well as the evangelism efforts of our people. So much has gone on that can’t adequately be celebrated in such a short letter. Can you imagine how many times God’s Word is taught in our church building during the year? If you combine all the Communities, TMC Kids, Precept classes, the Equipping Ministry, our worship services, etc., I think the total number would amaze us. Praise the Lord! We have also brought our Sunday night service back to the Sanctuary with some notable changes to the service format. Some of you love those changes

and some may not—but in a church that celebrates its God-given diversity as we do, that’s okay. It’s all part of the mission to grow God’s people and reach those who are far from Him with the gospel. These are just a few examples of the building blocks God is using to prepare our people for the next season of our church ministry.

So, what’s happening in the upcoming year? We will be focusing on equipping God’s people to share the love and faith they have in Jesus with people in their lives. Kevin Harney’s book, *Organic Outreach*, is a great tool to do just that, and that’s why it will be the focus of our Small Groups campaign this winter. We are also renovating our Media Center to become a place to help people (both visitors and regular attendees) better connect in our church so they can grow in their faith. In addition, we are strengthening our hospitality through initiatives championed by Pastor Eric Targe. You can read about some of these exciting projects on the next pages.

I am excited about what the Lord is doing through our church and what He will do in the upcoming year. My sense is that the Lord will bring our new Senior Pastor before our next Annual Meeting, and I am looking forward to meeting him and his family and working with him to go wherever God leads our church!

For His glory,



Bill Bertsche

Executive Pastor

# BUILDING BLOCKS

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## HOSPITALITY TO THE STRANGER

If you're a member of The Moody Church, this place feels like part of your extended family. But it's easy to forget that at some point, every single one of us was new. It's become our home because—while we were strangers—this church body made us feel welcomed and wanted.

Scripture frequently references loving the stranger. Hebrews 13:1–2 says, “Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

We're called by Jesus to be a hospitable people, and we want our church to reflect that value of being welcoming to others. In fact, in Matthew 25:31–40, Jesus reminds us that we are to welcome all people as though they were Jesus in the flesh. That implies that we should be proactive in engaging the stranger; we should be anticipating their arrival and their needs before they get to our doorstep.

Over the past few years, we've been working on improving our culture of hospitality towards new visitors and strangers. Our emphasis on recruiting and training volunteers and refurbishing our interior and exterior facility has paid huge dividends towards the welcoming atmosphere that people feel when they walk through our doors today.

This hospitality was on display throughout 2018–2019 as our church had some of the highest attendances ever at our holiday celebrations, conferences, and other special events. We regularly hear stories from visitors who are so thankful that our church took the time and energy to make them feel welcome.



As we build on this progress, we're launching several new hospitality initiatives that will continue to improve our welcoming environment. We're developing a new Hospitality Team focused on raising up volunteers who can take the lead on meeting and greeting visitors throughout our facility—look for the new blue badges and t-shirts in the hallways signifying this team. You'll also notice more photos of our church family throughout the building as we aim to express the vibrant diversity of our church body. The Media Center space is also being renovated to provide a new home for our expanding Connection Center ministry. We anticipate that this redesigned space will provide a more effective experience for both visitors and regular attenders as they take the next steps towards growing in their faith and going deeper into community.



*Media Center Demo*

## SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE

For years, our Sunday night service in Clarkview provided another opportunity for people to connect with God and others. We asked ourselves: what could we do to better serve our own church community and to reach more people beyond our walls? This led us on a journey to reimagine how God was leading us to steward this service.

After considerable prayer and reflection, this fall we relaunched our Sunday night service in the Sanctuary with a new format and style, including some upgrades to our lighting and audio technology. If you haven't experienced the change, it's well worth it! In addition to the new venue, we hired Ayanda “TK” Khumalo as an Assistant Worship Director to give leadership to the service's music team. Another new direction was to add

# BUILDING BLOCKS



*TK Khumalo  
Assistant Worship Director*

TMC Kids childcare on the second floor in anticipation of new families who may want to attend the service. As our society tends to program more and more non-church activities on Sunday morning, the availability of an evening church service with childcare may help us reach a new demographic that otherwise would not be able to attend.



We want our services to reflect our God-given diversity in order to reach more people for Jesus. Please continue to pray for this service and its ministry to the many people who currently attend and will attend in the future. We're already seeing nearly 50% growth in attendance on a weekly basis (praise God!), and we hope this trend will continue as more and more people pray for and invite others to attend. Help us spread the word! Our vision is that this service will effectively support our church's mission to make new disciples from across Chicago. We hope to see you there soon!

## SUMMER CAMPS

Think back—what were some of your favorite summer memories from childhood? You may have summer camps high on that list. Because—of course!—what could be better than experiencing life to the full in the great outdoors or goofing off with friends and counselors at church programs?



*Soccer Camp*

Ministry to children and youth forms the backbone of our broader church ministry. The verse printed on the entrance to TMC Kids exemplifies our goal: “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done” (Psalm 78:4). Our summer camp ministry served 555 kids this year, many of whom were new to our programs. And the incredible blessing is that many of these kids heard about Jesus for the first time. We thank the many volunteers who sacrificed their time and resources to make each of these events possible—we couldn't do it without you! By God's grace, our children's and youth ministries are laying a foundation for the future by partnering with parents to raise kids that know, love, and serve Jesus.



*Basketball Camp*

# 2018–2019 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## OCTOBER–DECEMBER

**CHICAGO MARATHON:** *You run, we cheer!* Each year our faithful volunteers gather early in the morning to encourage the 40,000+ runners who pass right in front of the church. The cheering section is a deeply appreciated and practical way for us to display warmth and compassion to our beloved city. We regularly receive notes from the participants expressing their appreciation for our enthusiastic efforts to encourage them during the Marathon. It leaves a lasting impression about the warmth of our church.

**OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO:** Last year more than a thousand people visited our church over this two-day event to marvel at our Sanctuary's architecture. Since The Moody Church is recognized as a site of architectural and historical significance, we're invited each October to open our doors and welcome visitors from around the city (many from the 60610 and 60614 zip codes) who otherwise would never think to visit our church. Our volunteers provided guided tours of the Sanctuary, shared about who we are as The Moody Church, and extended invitations for guests to come back for worship services and other events.

**FALL FEST:** Our annual fall children's event is a significant outreach to our community. Families can experience a fun day of games, candy, and costumes, and also hear about Jesus. We hosted over 600 kids in 2018 and are so grateful for the volunteers who helped make another Fall Fest a success!



139 Friends Night

**139 FRIENDS NIGHT:** Over the past year we've engaged 24 new families affected by disability through our 139 Friends Nights! We have strategized about how to better reach young families affected by disability in the next year by shifting from

Friday evenings to Saturday afternoons. We have heard from many young families about the friends they now want to bring to these events.

**ANGEL TREE/HELP-PORTRAIT:** Last December, over 400 gifts were purchased by our church family benefiting roughly 150 children. Each child received gifts in the name of a parent who is incarcerated. Approximately 250 children and adults were treated to a meal, face painting, balloon designs, an illusionist, and a puppet show depicting the Christmas story. Over 100 volunteers served and connected with the families attending. Help-Portrait provided professional hair styling, makeup, and portraits for families in attendance. Each family went home with their portrait, while a copy, along with a letter from the family, was sent to the incarcerated parent.



**THE GOSPEL AND OUR CITIES CONFERENCE:** We partnered with Tim Keller and City-to-City North America to host this conference, which drew attendees from all over the world. A powerful lineup of Christian leaders taught us about the ever-growing need for collaborative, multi-cultural church planting in our urban areas. We were encouraged and better equipped to minister the gospel effectively in Chicago.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT/CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Our fall sermon series challenged the congregation to *Be the Church* by praying, loving, serving, and inviting our neighbors. The response from our congregation was significant: we saw some of the highest attendance ever at our special Christmas services—over 6,000 people walked through our doors during these two Christ-centered events!

# 2018–2019 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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## JANUARY–MARCH

**EXPLORE GOD:** During this seven-week sermon series, our church joined hundreds of other churches across the city to help those far from God address the most common questions about the Christian faith. In addition, our church hosted small groups throughout the city which allowed us to meet with unbelievers on a regular basis for more in-depth spiritual conversations.



**CROSSROADS:** In February we hosted *Singleness and Holy Sexuality*, which brought approximately 50 college-aged women to our church to wrestle with what the Bible has to say about feminine sexuality. This event was extremely well received, grew the Crossroads University Ministry, and helped many women get connected with much-needed mentorship.

**ARCTIC BLAST:** 40 third- through fifth-grade children attended this overnight event at Camp Timber-Lee. The theme for the weekend was *Remain*, based on Psalm 90:2. Our children took advantage of many outdoor activities and participated in upbeat worship and Bible study. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our volunteer team to build relationships with these children for a more extended period of time.

**MISSIONS WEEK:** Our theme, *Breaking New Ground*, featured MBI President Mark Jobe, who emphasized how God works to break through darkness with the gospel, using ordinary people to accomplish His work. Will we obey God's call to go outside our comfort zone for the sake of Christ? 15 missionaries were present for the week, and many spoke in our Communities as well as sharing updates and prayer needs at

Missionary Prayer Fellowship, the Missionary Appreciation Dinner, and the Global Outreach Luncheon, which was the culmination of the week.

## APRIL–JUNE



**HOLY WEEK:** At our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, hundreds of people were invited to the church to hear the message of Jesus. On Easter Sunday, we implemented a two-service format for the first time. Pastor Stetzer's message made it clear that although the gospel is foolish to some, the resurrection of Jesus satisfies the deepest longings of both the heart and the mind. The truth of Easter changes everything!

**REDEMPTION PROJECT:** Each Easter season, the Redemption Project allows The Moody Church to partner with another ministry to serve those in need. This year's project continued our relationship with Call of Hope, which began in 2014 with outreach to Muslims. This year we raised over \$64,000 to equip farmer evangelists in Nigeria with motorcycles, helping them more easily reach outlying villages to share the gospel. The results have been incredible: relationships have been formed between Christians and Muslims in Africa, and new doors are being opened to the gospel. Thank you for your generosity!

**PURSUE YOUR DESTINY MEN'S CONFERENCE:** Our men's conference featured Pastors Erwin Lutzer, Mark Jobe, and James Ford, teaching a diverse group of men from all over the city how to seek and pursue significance God's way.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY CONCERT:** The concert celebrated the freedoms of this great land and honored the men and women who fought to protect them. The music and message



Summer Blast



Lake Michigan Baptism

emphasized the unity, forgiveness, and hope made possible for our often-divided nation because of God’s grace and the freedom we can have through Jesus. Funds received in the concert offering went to provide scholarships for children in our Summer Camp ministry.

## JULY-AUGUST

**SUMMER BLAST:** We saw 500 children attend this boisterous annual weeklong event. We again hosted many families who do not attend The Moody Church. Throughout the week, the children focused on the theme that God is good! This was reiterated through Bible lessons, crafts, songs, games, skits, and other fun activities. Many children heard about the love of Christ for the first time, and four of them made new professions of faith in Jesus. We are so thankful for the team of 240 volunteers who gave of their time and energy to serve with passion for this ministry.

**SUMMER CAMPS:** This year we had four summer camps: Kids Jam Camp (June 3–7), Soccer Camp (July 9–13), Lake Ann Camp (July 15–21), and Basketball Camp (July 23–27). Many new students joined us this year, and we were so encouraged by the many “God-sighting” stories we heard throughout the summer!

**CELEBRATION SUNDAY:** At our annual church picnic and MoodyFest, many from our congregation gathered to celebrate the goodness of God over this past year. The highlight of the day was our annual Lake Michigan baptism where nearly 30 people publicly proclaimed their commitment to Christ.

**MOODY EN ESPAÑOL RETREAT:** *The Pilgrim’s Progress* was the theme of this year’s Moody en Español Retreat, held at Wonderland Camp and Conference Center in Camp Lake, Wisconsin. Over 100 adults and children participated in Bible studies and workshops, and many participated in the first “3K of the Pilgrim” race.



Moody en Español Retreat

# MOODY BY THE NUMBERS

## MEMBERSHIP

2,128

Members

87

New Members

84

Associate Members

14

Babies Dedicated



## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

1,600

Sunday Morning

145

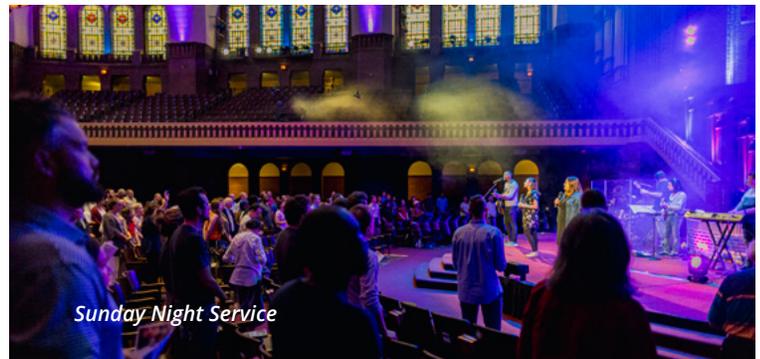
Sunday Night

49

Wednesday Night  
Prayer Meeting

1,113

Weekly Service  
Streaming



## SPECIAL ATTENDANCE

1,400

Guests in Visitors Center

3,549

Easter Sunday

600

Fall Festival

500

Summer Blast VBS

555

Summer Camps



## GENERAL FUND

\$6,185,319

Total Giving

2,213

Giving Households

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

\$26,784

Christmas Concert Offering  
for Kids Alive, Dominican Republic



\$64,028

Redemption Project for  
Motorcycle Project

### SMALL GROUPS

43

Groups

250

Participants

### EQUIPPING

14

Classes

250

Participants

### COMMUNITIES

16

Communities

650

Participants

### GLOBAL MISSIONS

46

Households Sent

146

Total Supported

27

Countries Served

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Facebook 11,236  
YouTube 1,710  
Podcast 204

**WEBSITE** Unique Homepage Visits 132,801

## A YEAR OF GRATITUDE

By God’s grace, Moody Church Media had an amazing year of growth and ministry. We continue to provide over three decades of teaching online—entirely for free. Our app engages more people with resources on their mobile devices. And we continue to partner with new radio networks airing the sound truths of God’s Word through *Running To Win*, *Moody Church Hour*, and *Songs In The Night*.

This past year, we expanded further into podcasting and video content! Every Monday morning, Pastor Lutzer has presented a short weekly teaching on the Christian life called *5 Minutes With Pastor Lutzer*. It is our hope that believers have been ushered into worship as they studied “The Attributes of God”—His eternity, wisdom, mercy, and more.

All the content we produce has one goal: to bring glory to God through the transformation of lives. Here are some of those stories:

*The media ministry changed my life, I met Jesus and opened my heart to him because of Erwin Lutzer’s ministry. Thank you so much for all you do! -Svetlana*

*Pastor Lutzer’s teaching helped correct some of my false beliefs. I am thankful for these teachings that realigned my doctrine and steered me to a faithful bible church. I am grateful to Running To Win. -Allen*

## A YEAR OF PROMISE

In 2017, Trans World Radio offered us a unique opportunity to partner with them, expanding our ministry in Spanish to Central and South America. The powerful testimonies from our Spanish-speaking listeners demonstrated a great need to reach more people with God’s Word.

We are excited to announce that we are broadcasting *Running To Win* in Arabic throughout the Middle East as of October 28, 2019!

These gospel-centered teachings could reach millions of Arabic-speaking people in the Middle East. Through God’s faithfulness, we will be able to reach places that are hostile to the gospel of Christ like Iraq, Syria, and Jordan.

Please pray with us that *Running to Win* will provide nourishment for the spiritually hungry and hope for those who are suffering. We are amazed by God’s provision!



*In the studio recording 5 Minutes With Pastor Lutzer*

## RUNNING TO WIN AIRS IN 17+ COUNTRIES INCLUDING:

Argentina  
Bahamas  
Cuba

Haiti  
Mexico  
Peru

Romania  
South Africa  
Venezuela

**3,300,000+**

sermons & programs streamed or downloaded



**1,100+**

domestic radio outlets



**27,000+**

life-changing resources distributed





## OVERVIEW

By The Hand Club For Kids emphasizes a holistic approach to child development, taking kids by the hand and walking with them from kindergarten all the way through college. To serve where the need is greatest, our five sites are strategically located in four of Chicago's most dangerous, under-resourced neighborhoods with the lowest-academic performing schools. Our vision is to help kids in critical need of intervention to have new and abundant life. Our theme this year, *The Solution*, recognizes that as our kids experience abundant life, they will help others experience it, too.

We appreciate The Moody Church for helping make our ministry possible. Through your financial support, By The Hand was blessed to love and serve 1,523 kids during the 2018–2019 year. We were able to provide 96,742 nutritious meals, 970 eye and 1,138 dental exams, professional emotional counseling, personalized academic support, and technology-enabled instruction. This is mission-critical because kids from poor, minority neighborhoods who can't read are eight times more likely to drop out of high school. We also opened a citywide enrichment center, providing our high school students with learning opportunities, worship gatherings and discipleship mentoring. And you offered spiritual guidance, mentoring, and life-enriching experiences such as camp, sports, and the arts.

All of this was possible because of God's blessings and the faithful, generous support of so many. Thank you!

## ONE STORY

Tamera moved ten times in nine years. For her and her mom and sisters, things were always changing. But when she joined By The Hand, she finally experienced a sense of stability. Miss Brook, a volunteer at By The Hand, became a close friend and trusted mentor. "She was always there for my family and me. And she introduced me to Jesus Christ!" Tamera recalls.

As a rising senior, and inspired by her grandfather's service, Tamera enlisted in the Army. As Brooke drove Tamera to Iowa for boot camp, the laughter and encouragement helped settle Tamera's nerves.

"I definitely wasn't ready for it." But every night before the lights went out, Tamera read her life verse, the one she had chosen at By The Hand: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

"When I graduated from basic training, I never experienced anything like that in my life. I felt overwhelming happiness. I wouldn't have made it without By The Hand Club. They were with me every step of the way. They believed in me and invested in me. And now I want to pass that along to others."

Tamera is currently in the Army Reserve, attending Taylor University on a full scholarship, and wants to pursue her dream of being a military police officer upon graduation. Tamera is *The Solution*, thanks to people like you who make it possible.



Tamera at Taylor University



# naomi's house

God continues to do great things in the lives of the women at Naomi's House (NH). We wait for miracles, we pray for breakthroughs, and we expect healing. In His timing, God provides and displays His faithfulness. Just as in the miracles we read about throughout the Gospels, the touch of Jesus on someone's life is life-altering. Women who typically live "on the outside" of our communities are welcomed by Christ into His family and become guests at the most honorable table. It is not an understatement to say that we witness the miraculous healing of Jesus on an almost daily basis at NH.

*One woman said, "I have never been so loved and forgiven by anybody without them wanting something in return. It was very uncomfortable at first. I tried everything possible to push everyone away but [NH] refuses to give up on me like everyone else has. I am extremely grateful and blessed to have met such wonderful and loving people."*

This is what NH is all about: we believe every woman who has been sexually exploited deserves a new start. Our comprehensive program gives her the tools to start a new life, including educational opportunities, job training and employment, budgeting, trauma-informed therapy, Bible study, mentoring, and more. And when a survivor of sex trafficking is freed from her past and ushered into a relationship with Jesus, we are all better because of it! The Church, our communities, and our personal lives all benefit from a woman who discovers the life God intends for her and walks in that freedom (Galatians 5:1).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- We served 10 women this year in our Residential Program.
- We provided over 200 hours of trauma-informed therapy, group therapy, and life-skills training to equip our women with expertise they've never had before.
- A total of six women have graduated from Naomi's House, and all six are currently utilizing our Graduate Services.
- We launched Phase 3, a program that allows graduates to stay at NH for an additional six months, giving them both independence and support while they transition back into the community.

- Two women were baptized at a local church. One woman said, *"I used to think there wasn't a God because of how horrible my childhood and life was and all the bad things I witnessed. But now I realize He had an army of His strongest angels surrounding me because I made it out alive."*
- Four women have started college, and seven have gotten jobs in the community.
- We had 57 volunteers minister to our women in the past year. And over 50 churches and volunteer advocates have provided group service projects, NH showers, or awareness events.

## ONE STORY

"Thank you for giving me my daughter back," said a mom who watched her daughter graduate from Naomi's House. This graduate entered NH shy and meek, unsure of herself and a bit of a skeptic. Although she was liked by everyone from day one, she didn't really like herself. But over time, that slowly and beautifully changed. Her wit, the sparkle in her eye, the confidence in her walk: all are signs of healing and overcoming. As we were wrapping up the celebration, our graduate sat with her mom and tween-age daughter, laughing and sharing stories of what the last 12 months had been like. They were dreaming about what's next and celebrating that they were a family again. A family was repaired, and THREE generations of women were impacted because of God's redemptive heart and the power of the gospel.

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

By January 2020, we want to launch an additional program at NH called Phase 4. This next phase will allow us to go deeper with even more women, providing a plan to equip them with independence while also providing resources that eliminate their vulnerabilities to relapse. Phase 4 includes an apartment, a vehicle, continued therapy, and case management

# GO GLOBAL OUTREACH

It's easy to coast when things are going well. But Scripture never calls us to be comfortable in our routines; it calls us to explore new opportunities for the expansion of the Kingdom as we seek to "proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). That concept—finding new outlets and territories for the gospel—defined 2019 for the Global Outreach Committee as we began a process of discerning God's leading for our missions program and thoughtfully evaluating where God was leading us to fulfill our theme, *Breaking New Ground*.

Moody Bible Institute President Mark Jobe encouraged our congregation during Missions Week to break new ground through church planting in global missions. He emphasized how God works to break through darkness with the gospel, using ordinary people to accomplish His work. Will we obey God's call to go outside our comfort zone for the sake of Christ?

After wrestling with God's call on our missions program, the Global Outreach Committee (GOC) approved a new missions strategy in the Spring. As the mission field evolves, we will adjust to remain faithful to the Great Commission and to wisely steward the resources entrusted to us. The GOC determined that, in addition to supporting our existing Moody Church missionaries and pipeline, we would begin to identify new local, indigenous missions opportunities to partner with around the world. We call this new category of support Key Global Initiatives (KGI). We believe that not only will these KGIs increase the overall effectiveness of our missions outreach, but they will also do so more cost-effectively. The GO Committee pursued this initiative over the summer by entering into three new global partnerships, with more being researched and discussed.

One of our new KGIs is with Pastor Plator Collaku in Albania. Pastor Plator is an indigenous church planter who has been working in towns with little gospel presence. He works with youth, running outreach programs, orphanages, and camps, as well as overseeing the construction and ministries of new churches. He shares about some of the churches' progress:

*Our churches...continue to grow. More youth are attending and we are fortunate to have a group that shows their joy in God and love for others. I continue to be blessed by your prayers and financial support. You are part of everything that is happening here, Moody Church. I serve here by God's call and grace and I'm grateful that He has included you in this ministry.*



Pastor Plator supports our broader GOC strategy by complementing the work of other Moody Church missionaries serving in the region.

Our missionaries continue to serve Christ around the world, breaking into the darkness with the light of the gospel. We oversee 67 households (46 active families) serving our King in many ways, from church planting to business as missions, and from international student ministry to Bible translation. Barbara Lange, for example, was deployed to Uganda last fall to equip local church leaders and help strengthen the African church.

David Zuperku and his family obeyed the Lord's call to "break new ground" in their lives by moving to Monterey, California to serve at Shoreline Church, where David took on the role of Executive Pastor of Operations and Outreach. He's currently settling into his new role and is already making an impact for the Kingdom; we'll miss him! By God's grace, the Lord brought a new pastor to serve in David's place: Pastor Bill Van Tuinen joined the staff on September 2 of 2019.

Under Pastor Van Tuinen's leadership, the GOC will continue to prayerfully examine and establish new KGI partnerships with pastors and ministries around the world to join in what God is already doing. He also looks forward to overseeing the Missionary Prep Program and investing in our missionary candidates as the Lord leads.

# TRUSTEES' REPORT

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The Trustees are responsible for maintaining the church building. It seems a simple task on the surface, but there's a deeper mission behind the scenes of what we do. Beyond maintenance, our goal is to seek the Lord's direction on how to effectively use the church property for the enhancement and expansion of the Kingdom. Every decision before us is filtered through the lens of helping the people of God grow in the knowledge and exercise of their faith.

This past year the Trustees spent time overseeing a number of projects associated with completing the *TLC on TMC* initiative, as well as number of smaller repair and maintenance projects in and around our buildings.

## CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

The renovation projects on the 3rd and 4th floor are complete, and are being put to good use by our weekly events and programming. Work is currently underway to repurpose the space around what was the Media Center in order to utilize the space as the new Connection Center. This initiative will help both our congregation and our visitors take the next steps in their relationship with God. Plans have also been submitted for the installation of a canopy over the 1635 N LaSalle Street entrance. This project is currently in the permitting phase with the city of Chicago, with an anticipated installation in the Spring of 2020.

## SECURITY SYSTEM

Enhancing our security throughout the church continues to be a high priority for the Trustees. We continuously review and make best practice enhancements to our technology, our policies, and our procedures.

Once again, we praise God for His faithfulness in providing the funds and resources to undertake these initiatives.

This coming year, the Trustees will be prayerfully considering how to effectively utilize the Church's properties as we look to expand our outreach to the city.

We are continually looking for ways to make the ministries of The Moody Church more effective in sharing the joy of changed lives. Finally, we covet your prayers as the Trustees aspire for our church to be the place where anyone can connect with God and others.



## THE MOODY CHURCH TRUSTEES

*Earl Bowers, Daniel Favero, Kim Lahti, Berv Peterson,  
Tom Sawyer*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

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## **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

In Fiscal 2019 contributions fell short of budget by 5.0% at \$6,185,319 or \$322,130 below budget. The contribution shortfall was largely offset by expenses being below budget across most areas: pastoral ministries was favorable to budget by \$29,061, office administration by \$37,827, missions by \$81,537, and facilities by \$95,633. Overall, total expenses were below budget by \$236,399, but nevertheless exceeded operating income by \$74,025. This deficit was covered primarily by existing reserves. We give thanks and glory to God for His continuing provision to The Moody Church and its ministries.

## **MEDIA MINISTRY**

The Media Ministry income, which includes product sales, general donations, direct mail responses, and offering envelope contributions, was \$3,006,010. Revenue was unfavorable to budget by \$20,490. Expenses in Media were less than budget, allowing Media to break even.

## **ESTATE GIVING**

Donations from estates totaled \$423,535. Funds were allocated to specific ministries as designated. For undesignated estates, 10% was allocated to Missions Projects and the balance to the Capital Fund. Stewardship materials to assist those interested in providing for The Moody Church ministries through their estates are available from Pastor Bill Van Tuinen in the church office.

## **FISCAL 2019**

The General Fund budgeted contributions for next year are \$6,215,410, which is a 4.5% decrease from this year's budget, but 0.5% above this year's actual.

All of this planning and budgeting would not be possible without strong support from Michael Pitts, Managing Director of Operations; Kent Schmidt, Director of Finance and Administration; and Financial Assistants Neelu Joseph and Jean Jacobsen. This great team is committed to conservative accounting for controlling the church's finances on a daily basis.

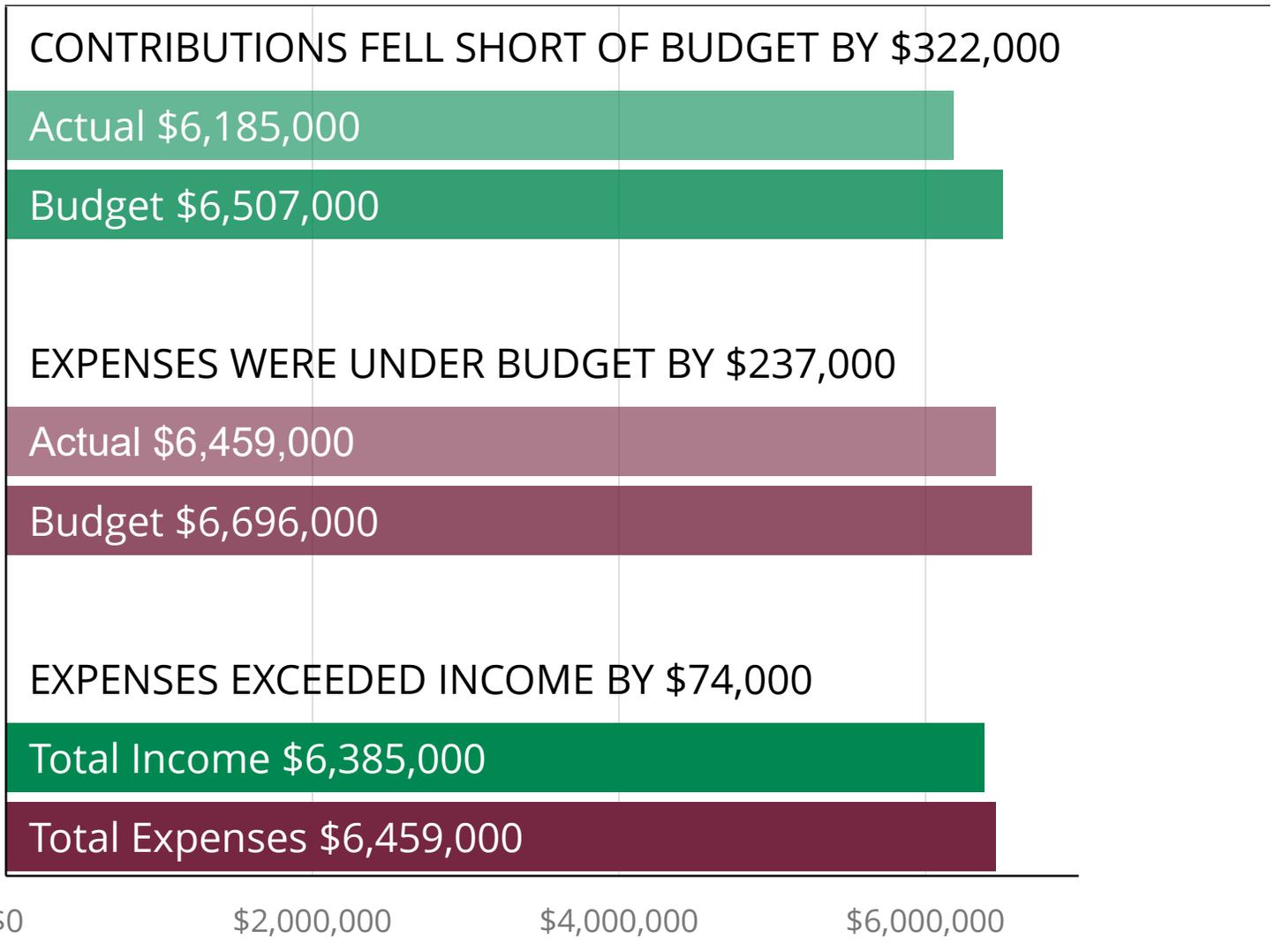
The Finance Committee appreciates your prayers.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

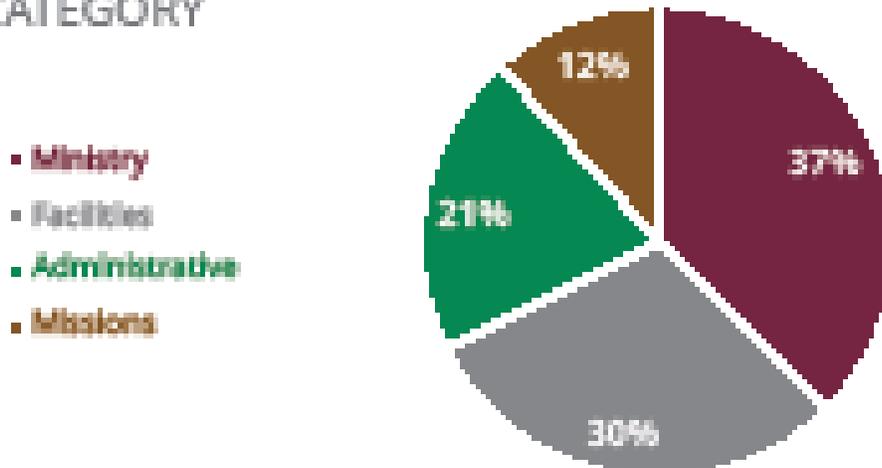
*Jamail Carter, Jonathan Hauser, Ryan June, R. David Morris, David Newton, Michael Pitts, Kent Schmidt, Micah Schumate*

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2019



## EXPENSE BY CATEGORY



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2019

<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</b>		<b>FUND BALANCES</b>	
	<u>8/31/19</u>		<u>8/31/19</u>
<b>Assets</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	
Cash & Cash Equivalents, at cost (Note 5)	\$ 3,389,452	General Fund	\$ -
Other Current Assets	137,753	General Fund Reserve	670,715
Promissory Notes for Pastoral Housing	65,000	Capital	727,668
Long-Term Investments, at cost (Note 5)	524,771	Capital Reserve	670,715
	<u>\$ 4,116,976</u>	Auditorium Media Capital	(38,491)
			<u>\$ 2,030,607</u>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>		<b>Restricted Funds</b>	
Accrued Expenses	\$ 48	Camp Capital/Reserve	\$ (252,625)
Fund Balances	4,116,928	Recreation	1,008
	<u>\$ 4,166,976</u>	Mission Projects and RTT	641,664
		Media Reserve & Strategic Initiative	674,093
		Fellowship Fund	299,158
		Capital (Restricted)	26,382
		Naomi's House	118,250
		Naomi's House Capital & Estate	310,306
		Class Funds	103,839
		Elder Designated	29,243
		Other Restricted Funds	135,003
			<u>\$ 2,086,321</u>
			<u>\$ 4,116,928</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements as an integral part of these statements.

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CASH FLOWS

FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2019

	INCOME		EXPENSE		NET FOR FUND		
	Actual	Actual	Actual	%	Variance	%	
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>							
<b>Income</b>							
Contributions	\$ 6,185,319	\$ -	\$ 6,185,319	100.0%	\$ (322,130)	-5.0%	
Investment Income	(503)	-	(503)	0.0%	(503)		
	<u>6,184,816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,184,816</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>(322,633)</u>	<u>-5.0%</u>	
<b>Summarized</b>							
Transfer to Reserve	-	-	-	0.0%	-		
Ministries	89,734	2,364,071	(2,274,337)	-36.8%	26,150	1.1%	
Camp	7,743	49,660	(41,917)	-0.7%	(7,917)	-23.3%	
Missions	11,792	754,853	(743,061)	-12.0%	83,679	10.1%	
Facilities (Note 4)	91,176	1,951,959	(1,860,783)	-30.1%	108,809	5.5%	
Administration	60	1,338,803	(1,338,743)	-21.6%	37,887	2.8%	
	<u>200,505</u>	<u>6,459,346</u>	<u>(6,258,841)</u>	<u>-101.2%</u>	<u>248,608</u>	<u>3.8%</u>	
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<u>\$ 6,385,321</u>	<u>\$ 6,459,346</u>	<u>\$ (74,025)</u>	<u>-1.2%</u>	<u>\$ (74,025)</u>	<u>-1.1%</u>	

## BUDGETED RESTRICTED FUNDS

Recreation	\$ 2,730	\$ 4,392	\$ (1,662)	\$ (1,662)
Naomi's House	584,421	565,787	18,634	18,634
Media Ministry *	<u>3,006,010</u>	<u>3,006,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,000</u>
	<u>\$ 3,593,161</u>	<u>\$ 3,576,189</u>	<u>\$ 16,972</u>	<u>\$ 62,972</u>

\* See Supplemental Financial Information

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2019

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**1.** The Moody Church is a not-for-profit religious organization and is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**2.** In order to ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available, the accounts of The Moody Church are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under these principles, resources are classified into funds according to their nature and purpose and financial transactions have been recorded and reported by fund group.

**3.** These financial statements are presented on a modified cash basis, but all significant liabilities are believed to be recorded or noted. The preparation of financial statements has required management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the amounts of revenues and expenses recognized during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

**4.** The Moody Church owns virtually all facilities used for its ministries. These facilities are not recorded in the financial statements. Noncancelable operating leases for space and equipment are not significant.

**5.** Most funds are maintained in cash equivalents or other short-term investments, for which cost approximates market value. Longer-term investments are also carried at cost and may or may not be held to maturity. Investment objectives emphasize the safety of principal. Futures and forward contracts are not permissible.

**6.** The Moody Church receives and provides substantial non-monetary contributions of services and goods in connection with various ministries. Those contributions have not been quantified and are not recorded in the financial statements.

CELEBRATING  
THE JOY OF  
CHANGED  
LIVES