



McLean Bible Church

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

What a privilege it is to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus together and to start the New Year in our Bible Reading Plan through the books of Genesis and Matthew. It was also a special privilege to participate with you in our 21 Days of Prayer and to join with you in person in our extended night of prayer on January 20.

As we look back to the end of 2022 and look ahead with prayerful optimism for all that God will do in 2023, there are a few areas where we want to provide you with an update:

2022 DONATION LETTERS

If you gave financially to MBC in 2022, you should have recently received a mailed end-of-year giving letter from our finance department and elders. This short note included a few encouraging updates from our elders, so please join us in thanking the Lord for his incredible provision for MBC. As our church follows His leading and gives generously, we are able to move forward together in our mission of making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations, beginning in greater Washington, DC!

FINANCIAL REPORT

We are thankful that our monthly giving for December 2022, again through your Spirit-led generosity, was over \$4 million. This resulted in yet another year at MBC where our general giving has essentially covered all of our operating expenses. In addition, our members overwhelmingly approved the proposed 2023 Budget and the use of all available surplus funds, most of which have been generated through very conservative expense management in recent years. Finally, we approved and welcomed 57 new members to our church family, resulting in a total of more than 320 new members in 2022. That's an increase of more than 10% in just our formal membership alone!

ATTENDANCE

We continue to experience sustained growth at all our locations year over year. On Christmas Eve, more than 7,500 people joined with us, and more than 4,000 additional households joined us online. While our membership is growing at a healthy rate (see above), our actual total attendance across all locations continues to shift back from online to in person, and in person attendance is now growing quickly at all locations and approaching levels that have not been seen at MBC in quite some time!

LEGAL ISSUES AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE

A now very small group of people inside and outside of MBC continues to file lawsuits and appeals against the church. The appeal of the first lawsuit - which argues that our elder election from almost two years ago should be "redone" with people who have not been at MBC in years (and without any of our new members able to participate) - has been set for oral argument in mid-February. In addition, a new lawsuit that alleges that MBC secretly joined the Southern Baptist Convention as part of a plan put in motion by Lon Solomon and Dale Sutherland back in 2015 to plant more churches - is set for a hearing on dismissal in mid-March. Please continue to pray for wisdom, for reconciliation, and for protection for our church family as we navigate these ongoing challenges.

CONCLUSION

One of the most encouraging ways that God has been at work at MBC is that all of the challenges over the last couple of years have actually had a unifying impact across our church. We've come together with a clear intent to move past conflict and move forward together in the Kingdom mission that has been entrusted to us. In light of the opportunities and resources that God has entrusted to us here at MBC, let's redouble our efforts in 2023 to genuinely care for one another and to move out in obedience in the Great Commission!

In all of these things and so much more, we are honored to serve shoulder to shoulder with you, and we pray God's manifold blessings upon you and your families.

**SERVING THE KING, AND FOR HIS GLORY,
MBC ELDERS**