



CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF CHANGED LIVES



THE MOODY CHURCH

**INTRODUCTION FOR
SENIOR PASTOR
CANDIDATES**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Letter to Candidates	1
2. A Brief History and Overview of The Moody Church	2
3. Purpose and Vision	3
4. Doctrinal Statement	4–7
5. Organization of the Church	8–10
6. Community Life at The Moody Church	11
7. The Job Description of the Senior Pastor	12–13



Dear Senior Pastor Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in the Senior Pastor position at The Moody Church. Enclosed is an information packet which contains an overview of our church—its history, purpose, vision, doctrine, and organization. While it is by no means comprehensive, we hope it will be a useful resource as the Lord leads you to explore this opportunity.

2014 was a special year in the history of The Moody Church as we celebrated 150 years of God’s faithfulness to our ministry. To commemorate this important milestone, the church emphasized the key pillars which have worked together to change lives and instill a deeper commitment to God and each other:

- **Word of God**—The Word is the foundation upon which the church was built. The Moody Church proclaims the same gospel today as it did 150 years ago. The Word of God unifies all of our ministries and points us toward the one message that gives hope to this troubled world.
- **Ministry to Children**—The Moody Church has a long legacy of ministry to children. Dwight L. Moody’s work with street children in some of Chicago’s worst neighborhoods was the origin of the church as children and their parents came to know the Lord. This focus on children continues today both inside and outside our church walls.
- **Outreach to the World**—Since its beginning, The Moody Church has been committed to proclaiming the gospel. Today, we have over 80 missionaries serving worldwide, a short-term missions program, local and global ministry partners, and equipping classes preparing members to live out their faith wherever God has placed them. Each of our outreach ministries is unique, but all are unified by the one gospel message.
- **Worship of God**—The Moody Church is, at its core, a community of worshipers. Although we worship God in many ways throughout the moments of our daily lives, gathering together as a multi-ethnic, multi-generational family to worship Him is the pinnacle of our weekly church life.

As we enter the next chapter of our church history, we continue to honor our heritage and renew our commitment to a vibrant ministry in Chicago and around the world. We also look forward knowing that there is still much to be accomplished in and through our church.

As we seek the Lord’s guidance to find the person He is calling to lead us into the future, we invite you to prayerfully consider this opportunity. Please visit our website, www.moodychurch.org, to learn about us in more depth.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bervin Peterson".

Bervin Peterson
Chairman, Pastoral Search Committee
Chairman, Elder Oversight Council

A BRIEF HISTORY AND OVERVIEW OF THE MOODY CHURCH

A Church is Born

Dwight Lyman Moody, a traveling shoe salesman from Massachusetts, began a Sunday school mission for underprivileged children in Chicago in 1858.

By 1860, the school had relocated to North Market Hall, a larger facility which could accommodate more than 1,000 children and their parents who also began to attend. It soon became apparent that even this space was insufficient, and so in December 1864, the 1,500-seat Illinois Street Church was dedicated.

On October 8, 1871, just after Moody gave a sermon on Jesus' life, the Great Chicago Fire swept the city. The Illinois Street Church burned to the ground. Moody immediately began to raise money to construct a new church. By 1873 a lot was purchased, and in June 1876 the Chicago Avenue Church was dedicated.

D.L. Moody died in Northfield, Massachusetts in 1899 after becoming ill while on an evangelistic campaign.

The Moody Church in the Twentieth Century

The Moody Church's present home was dedicated on November 8, 1925.

In 1930, Dr. Harry Ironside took the pulpit and led The Moody Church through the Great Depression. During this time of national crisis, the radio ministry grew in importance as Ironside's messages were broadcast to thousands of homes by the Moody Bible Institute's radio station.

In the 1950s and early 60s, The Moody Church faced new challenges due to changing demographics; many members moved to the suburbs, leaving a transient population behind. The Lord called Dr. Alan Redpath to shepherd the church through this time from 1953 to 1962.

After Dr. Redpath's resignation, The Moody Church was without a senior pastor for three years until the arrival of Dr. George Sweeting, who served from 1966 to 1971, followed by Dr. Warren Wiersbe from 1971 to 1978. These were rebuilding years for the church.

In 1980, Dr. Erwin Lutzer became the senior pastor, and is now the longest-serving pastor in the history of the church. In 2005, the first major construction project was undertaken since the building was erected in 1925. The Christian Life Center was dedicated in 2007 and has allowed for the growth in ministries that we experience today.

The Moody Church Today

God has blessed The Moody Church in tremendous ways. We have seen an increase in our adult TMC Communities which minister to people from all walks of life; our TMC Kids ministry continues to thrive; our Media Ministry has expanded across the country and onto a digital platform; and we have hosted a variety of major conferences. More than 80 missionaries are supported by the church. As God wills it, The Moody Church will continue to be a trusted place where anyone can connect with God and others.

PURPOSE AND VISION OF THE MOODY CHURCH

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to evangelize, edify, and equip people to be true worshipers and effective representatives of Jesus Christ so that we all may “stand confident and unashamed before Him at His coming” (1 John 2:28, NIV).

Toward this end we have adopted the motto *Celebrating the joy of changed lives since 1864*. Over the years, the ministries of The Moody Church have impacted our city and the world for the glory of God. Most important, however, are the stories we hear from our people of the ways in which their lives are being blessed and changed today.

“The Lord led me to The Moody Church. I heard my first sermon by Pastor Lutzer, and at that point I decided I needed to know God. A few years later and after much prayer, I decided to embark on a full-time study of the Word at the Moody Theological Seminary.”

“Four years ago, I attended a Precious to Him retreat and since then I never left The Moody Church. From being so lost and broken, by His grace I find hope, faith, and love beyond what I can comprehend.”

Our Vision

Our vision is to be known in Chicago as a caring, culturally diverse community that seeks to transform lives through a clear witness for Christ, quality ministries, and the lifestyle of each believer.

In pursuit of this vision we’re seeking to live out our promise statement: *The Moody Church is a trusted place where anyone can connect with God and others*. The truth of these words is best reflected in the real-life stories of our members.

“By participating in The Moody Church’s International Student and Scholar Ministry, my husband and I not only had the chance to be nurtured and loved as international students, but we were also challenged to serve other international students together. Now we consider The Moody Church our home.”

“I heard The Moody Church had a good children’s ministry. I took my children, got involved, and became an active volunteer for 10 years. The most rewarding thing that happened to me is that I’ve had an opportunity to serve the church, pointing our children to God through Jesus Christ, and building new relationships. This large church now feels much smaller.”

“At first a church like The Moody Church can be very intimidating because of its size, but I quickly found that the soil here is deep and rich, and anyone desiring to grow in their walk with the Lord will grow. Over the past six years here, I have experienced both the pleasure and the pain of growing and maturing as a believer.”

“The biggest impact the Parenting Class has made is for our family to be in the Word every day, pray together, and have meals together. Our son’s biggest excitement of the day is when he gets the Bible read to him!”

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF THE MOODY CHURCH

1. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the sixty-six books of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments (hereinafter referred to as “Bible” or “Scripture”), through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged.

We believe that although God may give individual believers guidance in various ways, we reject the teaching that implies that individuals can receive “words from God” that have the same authority as Scripture. Therefore, the Bible alone is to be believed in all that it teaches; obeyed in all that it requires; and trusted in all that it promises.

2. God

We believe in one God, who directly and immediately created all things, and who is holy and infinitely perfect; in whom all things have their source, support, and end. He exists eternally in a loving tri-unity (trinity) of three equally divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity past to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory. Since He is not limited in knowledge or power by any external forces or the will of His creatures, what He purposes will come to pass. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

(a) God the Father. Although God the Father shares the same essence with God the Son and God the Spirit, He is to be distinguished from the two other members of the Trinity. The Father is not begotten nor is He the One who was crucified. He is frequently spoken of as “the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Thanks to His choice in adopting us, He is also our Father, and we are described as His children. Hence, Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father who art in heaven.” The Father is the one who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing and chose us to be His from before the foundation of the world. The Father loved the world and gave His Son on our behalf. Although the Fatherhood of God finds its clearest expression in the New Testament, this filial relationship was already known to the faithful in Old Testament times. For example, David, Isaiah, and Jeremiah refer to the intimacy of the Father/Son relationship. In Christ, the Father was propitiated; that is, His anger against sin was turned away from us. Thus, both His love for us and His holy anger against sin found expression in and were fully satisfied through the work of Christ on the cross. Thus, we affirm that our God is our Redeemer.

(b) God the Son. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person with two natures. Although Jesus Christ, who is Israel’s promised Messiah, existed from eternity past, He was conceived in human flesh through the Holy Spirit and born of Mary who was a virgin. He lived a sinless life, was crucified and died under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate. We believe that Jesus Christ honored God’s law as expressed in both the Old Testament and New Testament by His personal obedience and substitutionary death on the cross for sinners. He is the one Mediator between God and man, fully God and fully man, being the only One in whose person God and man can be reconciled. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and consummate His redemptive mission. To Him we gladly give our obedience and worship, being deeply grateful for His grace toward us while we were yet sinners.

(c) God the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit exists as a co-equal and co-eternal Person within the Trinity and as such is fully divine. We believe that He glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father in all that He does. He convicts the unconverted of their sin and regenerates all who believe; and in Him all believers are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. By the Holy Spirit the Godhead now indwells all believers. He also illuminates, guides, equips, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service. We believe that the Holy Spirit distributes gifts to the church for the edification of the body of Christ. These gifts of service are intended to display both the diversity and unity of the one body in its mutual edification and ministry. We believe sign gifts (such as speaking in tongues) are not required as proof of the filling or baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. Rather, the Holy Spirit never departs from a believer and is ever present to testify of Christ, bringing about the fruit of the Spirit. His presence in the life of believers is the guarantee that God will bring us safely into heaven where we will enter fully into the inheritance that awaits us.

3. The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image as male and female, thus the gift of two different yet complementary sexes reflects the goodness of God's creation. However, because Adam and Eve voluntarily rebelled, as their descendants we are born under the condemnation of sin and also inherit a sin nature. Therefore, sin has affected the whole of our being, leaving us morally and spiritually "dead in [our] trespasses and sins". Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, renewed, and reconciled to God. Since humanity is the crowning work of God's creation, each human being is created in His image, is sacred, and is worthy of respect and Christian love. This respect must be accorded to all human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

4. Salvation

We believe that salvation involves the redemption of the entire person—body, soul, and spirit—and is offered freely to all who, having been called by God, receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The moment we trust Him as Savior, we pass from death unto life, accepted by the Father according to the measure of Christ's acceptance, and loved even as He is loved. As our representative and substitute, we believe that He shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for our salvation. We rejoice that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life". We believe this salvation is a gift of God's grace, appropriated through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. This faith is a gift of divine grace, and is not simply knowledge of Jesus Christ, but is an act of personal trust accompanied by the miracles of regeneration and justification, leading to sanctification and glorification.

We believe that *regeneration*, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby we become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart brought about by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin and is accompanied by repentance and faith in Christ, resulting in a new nature within us. We believe that *justification* is God's gracious and full acquittal of the sins of all who are regenerated. Christ's righteousness is imputed to the regenerate, and God declares them to be entirely righteous, bringing them into a relationship of peace and favor with Himself. We believe that *sanctification* is the process by which God sets believers apart for His own purposes, that they might progress toward spiritual maturity by the presence and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We believe that *glorification* is the culmination of salvation and will be the final blessed and abiding state

of all who have been redeemed.

5. Angels and Satan

We believe that all angels were created by God but that a part of their number fell into sin under the leadership of Satan, who in his original rebellion against God is the cause of sin in the universe. Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve resulted in their disobedience and fall into sin. Satan and his hosts are declared enemies of God and man, and will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. Satan, though irredeemably evil, is nevertheless subject to God and His eternal plan. The holy angels are preserved from sinning by a divine decree and exist to serve God according to His good pleasure. They also glorify God in their obedience and service to believers, and they will eventually be used by God to judge the wicked.

6. The Church

The church, which had its special beginning on the day of Pentecost, is comprised of all who have been baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, of which He is the head. The true church is manifest in local churches whose membership should be comprised only of believers. The Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of baptism and communion, which tangibly and symbolically express the Gospel. Although these ordinances are not the means of salvation and do not confer special grace, when they are celebrated by the church in genuine faith, they do confirm and nourish the church, the body of Christ. In obedience to Christ's command, we urge every believer upon profession of faith to joyfully follow our Lord's instructions and be baptized "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit". We encourage those who were baptized as infants to follow in believer's baptism as a testimony of their own personal faith in Christ. We desire to follow the pattern of the New Testament in which conversion was followed by baptism by immersion.

7. Christ's Return

We believe that God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring this present era to a close. According to His promise, our Lord Jesus Christ will return imminently, personally, and bodily for His church and also for the establishment of His kingdom on earth. For believers, His coming is their blessed hope and demands constant expectancy, holy living, and sacrificial service. When the future millennial kingdom is established, the national promises given to Abraham will be fulfilled and Israel shall be restored to the glory predicted in the Scriptures, with Christ ruling from Jerusalem. As expressed in Habakkuk 2:14, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." The Church believes and teaches that the premillennial return of Christ to establish His earthly reign is an important doctrine of eschatology. All who teach and preach in the Church are expected to do so consistent with this interpretation of end-time events. However, those with a different understanding of the coming kingdom are permitted to join our membership.

8. Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the Gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning unbelievers to condemnation with eternal conscious punishment and believers to eternal joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will forever celebrate the justice of God and His loving mercy to the praise of His glorious grace. We believe that all believers who die are immediately conscious in the presence of the Lord, although their bodies will be resurrected at the second coming of Christ. Unbelievers who

die are conscious in Hades and will eventually be resurrected to face the Great White Throne judgment and eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

Please note that scripture references have been omitted from the above excerpt, taken from the Constitution of The Moody Church. A complete copy of the Constitution, including information about The Moody Church lifestyle covenant and other matters pertaining to biblical ethics, can be found at www.moodychurch.org/constitution

ORGANIZATION OF THE MOODY CHURCH

The Moody Church was first organized as a church in 1864. The Moody Church is, and has for many years been, incorporated as an Illinois religious corporation, and is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Church is non-denominational. The Constitution of The Moody Church is the primary governing document for the organization. Under the Church's Constitution, the calling of a Senior Pastor requires a recommendation by the Elder Oversight Council and the Leadership Council, and must be approved by the membership. A Senior Pastor serves until his death, incapacity, resignation, or removal by recommendation of the Elder Oversight Council and approved by the Leadership Council.

The Membership, Boards, and Committees

The Membership

The membership of The Moody Church elects Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Trustees, and Annual Officers (from the Deacons). The membership's approval is also required in selecting the Senior Pastor, undertaking major capital projects, incurring significant debt, merging or consolidating with another church, dissolving the church, or selling the church's assets.

The Deaconesses

The Deaconesses assist the Pastors and Elders in the areas of prayer, encouragement, ministry support, and practical service, as well as other responsibilities assigned to them by the Elder Oversight Council. Deaconesses may also serve on standing subcommittees.

The Church Boards

Responsibility for the oversight and direction of Church ministries and other activities is vested in the Elder Oversight Council, the Leadership Council (which consists of Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Pastoral Staff), and the Board of Trustees. Summary descriptions of each board and its responsibilities are below. These responsibilities are described in greater detail in The Moody Church's Constitution, which can be found at www.moodychurch.org/constitution.

The Elder Oversight Council

The Elder Oversight Council (hereinafter the Elders), of which the Senior Pastor is a member, provides spiritual oversight for The Moody Church. This oversight includes discerning God's will and vision for the church. The Elders are responsible to:

- institute and guide any search for a new Senior Pastor
- call, hire, and determine the retention of all other ministry staff
- oversee all the church's pastors and ministries
- authorize anyone who teaches or preaches in any Moody Church ministry
- determine the church's annual budget and minor unbudgeted capital expenditures
- establish committees to assist in the implementation of approved functions, and determine which church board will supervise each committee

- administer church discipline
- decide disputes on issues of biblical and Church doctrine and issues of Constitutional interpretation
- determine any other matters directly related to the spiritual health and direction of the Church

Even in matters which need a broader consensus and so require the approval of the Leadership Council (or even the membership), the initial recommendation generally will come from the Elders. The Elders elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman; the Chairman (or in his absence the Vice-Chairman) leads the Elders' meetings.

The Leadership Council

The Leadership Council (hereinafter Council) consists of all Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Pastors, and is chaired by the Senior Pastor. The Council has the responsibility to oversee all matters which are not specifically tasked to the Elders or to the broader church membership. This includes approving recommendations from the Elders on any matters for which the Constitution requires a broader consensus; in these cases, the Council serves as a microcosm of the church body. Deacons and other members of the Council may serve on standing subcommittees, and certain Deacons are also elected to serve as Annual Officers (Treasurer, Clerk, Director of Ushers, or the assistant for each of these offices).

The Board of Trustees

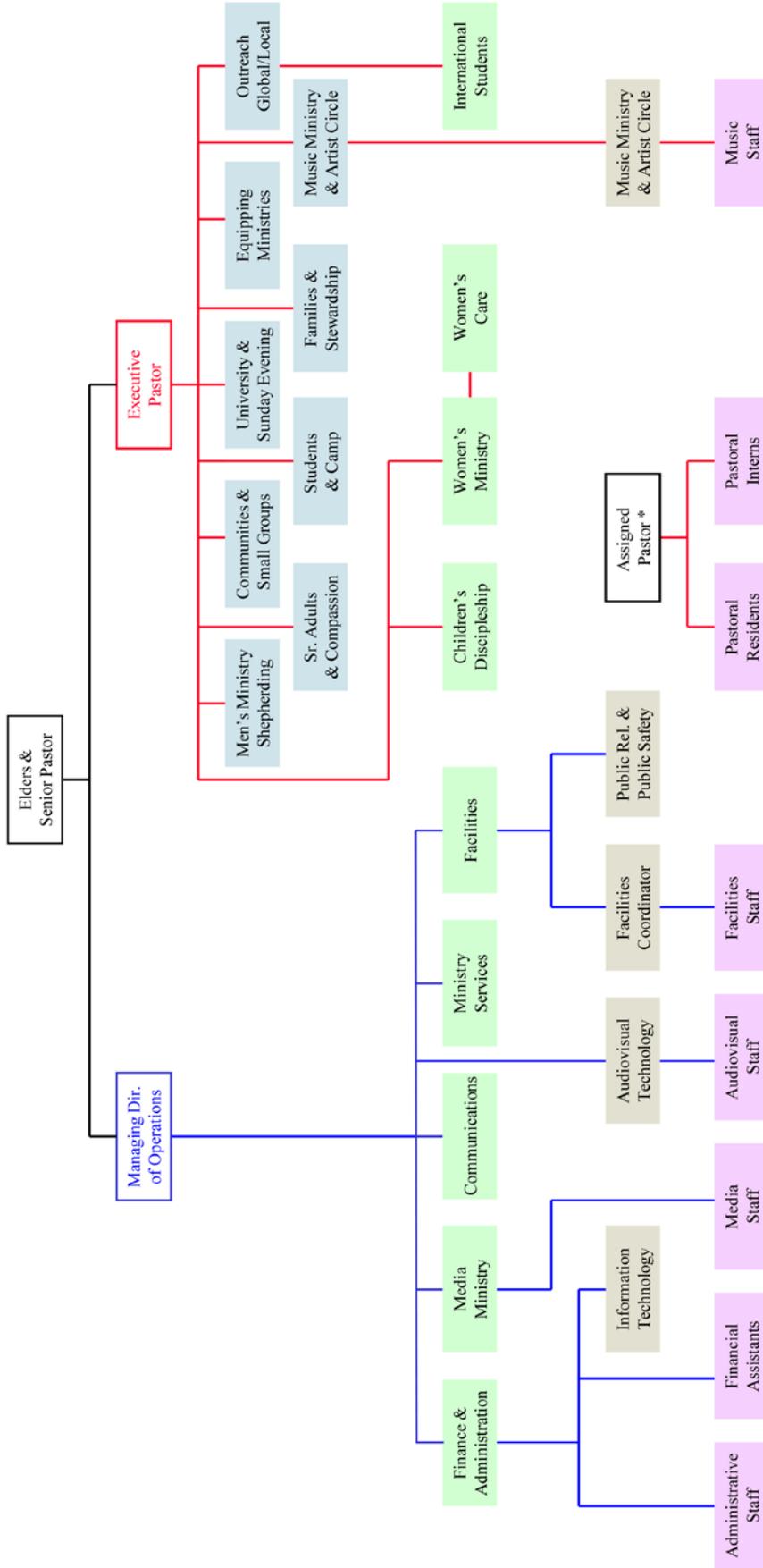
The Board of Trustees is responsible to oversee and manage the church's assets, and to manage any lawsuits, subject to the direction of the Elders.

The Church Staff

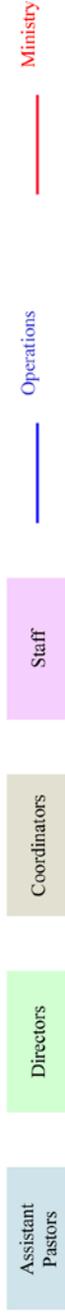
The Senior Pastor currently has two direct reports, each of whom heads a staff group. The Executive Pastor heads the ministry staff, which includes all pastors other than the Senior Pastor. The Managing Director of Operations heads all non-ministry staff. The staff organizational chart attached at the end of this packet provides an overview of both staff groups. In total, The Moody Church has 46 full-time and 28 part-time staff.

The Moody Church Staff Organizational Chart

August 2015



Color Legend



* Pastoral Residents and Interns may be assigned to designated pastors at any given time

COMMUNITY LIFE AT THE MOODY CHURCH

We seek to fulfill the promise that The Moody Church is a trusted place where anyone can connect with God and others by providing ministries and areas for involvement in four categories: Gathering, Connecting, Learning, and Serving.

Gathering—Our weekly gatherings are to worship and to glorify God as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- A. Sunday Morning Gathering
- B. Sunday Evening Gathering
- C. Wednesday Prayer Gathering
- D. Special Holiday Services

Connecting—Connecting with other believers enhances our spiritual growth as we form relationships and establish accountability with each other. The Moody Church offers groups of various sizes and at various times to provide as many people as possible with the opportunity for involvement and community. Our TMC communities help to make our large church feel like a much smaller body by providing places for fellowship, small groups, outreach and service.

- A. TMC Communities
- B. TMC Ministries

Learning—Our spiritual growth occurs in direct proportion to our knowing, understanding, and applying the Bible. The Moody Church offers many opportunities to learn and grow, including classes and seminars on subjects such as parenting, finances, and sharing the gospel with others.

- A. Equipping Courses
- B. Discipleship Classes

Serving—Our growth in Christ is often shown by our desire to serve others using our God-given gifts and abilities.

- A. Serve in Our Church
- B. Serve in Our City
- C. Serve Our World

Please visit our website, www.moodychurch.org, for additional information about our ministries, communities, and other areas for involvement.

THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

Purpose

He will shepherd, teach, and lead the congregation of The Moody Church toward the fulfillment of our God-given, Bible-based purpose: to evangelize, edify, and equip people to be true worshipers and effective representatives of Jesus Christ so that we all may “have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming” (1 John 2:28).

Requirements

He will hold true to the church’s Constitution, including its doctrines and moral teachings.

He will honor the history of the church and prepare the congregation for the future.

He will protect the flock from false teaching and will seek the unity of the congregation.

He will, in concert with the Elder Council, establish the vision, direction, and strategy of the church.

He will have either a Master of Divinity or its equivalent, and will demonstrate that he is conversant in matters of theology and contemporary cultural issues.

He will have a servant style of leadership.

His Walk with God

He must meet the qualifications of an elder, as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:6–9 and as identified in the church’s Constitution.

He will continue to grow in his relationships with Jesus Christ, his wife, and his family.

He will devote himself to prayer and the ministry of the Word. He must have a burden for prayer and lead the congregation in seeking God regularly.

He will be known as a man of integrity, humility, and personal holiness.

He must delight in making other people a success through his personal mentoring and encouragement, and in his witness for Christ in personal relationships outside the church.

His wife must be a mature Christian woman devoted to the Lord, her husband, and her children (if any). She must be completely supportive of her husband’s role as pastor.

Personal Strengths

He must demonstrate a love for God and His Word, and a love for people.

He must demonstrate a God-given call to the ministry.

He must have the ability to preach, teach, and apply the Word of God in challenging, relevant ways.

He must have the ability to relate well with people from many different backgrounds and ethnicities. He must be mindful of our promise statement: “The Moody Church is a trusted place where anyone can connect with God and others.”

He must have strong, proven communication and leadership skills and experience.

He must have the ability to unify and mobilize people in pursuit of a common vision, for the benefit of both the church and the wider community.

He must have the ability to develop and lead a high-caliber ministry team.

Ministry Responsibilities

He will prepare and deliver messages for Sunday morning services (typically 44 weeks per calendar year) and will generally lead (but not necessarily deliver the message for) a similar number of Wednesday prayer meetings. He will lead other church services and functions as appropriate. He will give direction to our worship services in cooperation with the Worship Committee.

He will primarily preach expository sermons drawing out from the biblical text, and bringing to bear in our lives, those truths that God intended to communicate to us.

He will develop goals to ensure the successful implementation of the vision, direction, and strategy of the church. He will, in concert with the Executive Pastor, give direct leadership to the pastoral staff by chairing weekly meetings and establishing personal accountability.

He will transition to become the host of Moody Church Hour (with the expectation that this transition will be completed before the end of the second year of his tenure). In concert with the Managing Director of Media, he will develop other digital and broadcast media as appropriate.

He will be available to the congregation for counseling and ministry needs as appropriate.

He will represent The Moody Church to the wider community through missions challenges, media opportunities, Bible conferences, etc.

As the chief administrative officer of The Moody Church, he will provide direct supervision and goal setting for the Executive Pastor and/or the Managing Director of Operations.

He will perform other duties as assigned by the Elder Council.

Relationships

He will be a member of the Elder Council and the chairman of the Leadership Council.

He will report directly to the Elders and work with them in all matters related to the ongoing ministry of the church, such as budgets, future directions, staff issues, etc.

He will lead meetings of the ministry staff and will chair the church's annual and semiannual congregational meetings.

He will serve as an ex-officio member of all church bodies, including standing subcommittees.

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