

# Rev. Jason Yarbrough

Ms. Marilyn Dunn Gustafson  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Monterey Peninsula College

August 8, 2019

Dear Ms. Gustafson,

Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself. My name is Jason Yarbrough, and I currently serve as the Pastor of Monterey Bay Christian Center and the Superintendent of Monterey Bay Christian School in Seaside. My wife and I moved here in June, 2016, to become the elected leaders of our church and school. Our adult daughter and 9-month old grandson currently reside with us, and we love being a part of this wonderful, historic community.

I realize that the word *pastor* may not be anyone's first choice to see when reading an application for a Monterey Peninsula College Trustee, and I realize I would have much to learn. However, I believe my lifetime of both pastoral and educational experience would prove beneficial to the board and its constituents.

I am currently enrolled in a Doctorate program in organizational leadership at Northwest University in Kirkland, Washington. I also hold a master's degree in organizational leadership from William Jessup University in Rocklin, California, as well as a master's degree in school administration from Louisiana Baptist University in Shreveport, Louisiana. My undergrad included a major in education and communications.

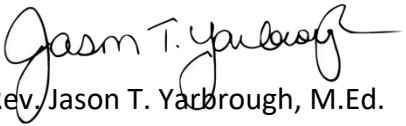
I have been privileged to serve as a teacher, principal and superintendent in four different schools at the K-12 level and have also been a music professor at the college level. Admittedly, this has all been in the private sector, but I believe there are significant similarities that would serve me well if appointed to this position. I have also served as an executive pastor of Real Life Church in Sacramento, CA, at one time overseeing six church campuses and two private schools. This involved developing and managing multi-million dollar budgets, overseeing dozens of staff members, coordinating land and building purchases, and organizing building renovations.

While I have a full schedule as a pastor, school superintendent and denominational leader, not to mention being a husband for the past thirty years to a wonderful wife as well as being a new

grandparent, I am struck by the significance of this position (I first heard it presented at a Sand City Council Meeting) and the opportunity to possibly contribute to the families of my community. I would make meetings and school events a priority, and I have the full support of my spouse in this regard.

Above all, I support the trustees in making the right decision regarding someone to serve in this position and encourage you to choose the best qualified candidate, even if that is someone other than me. Regardless of your decision, please know that the prayers and support of my family as well as Monterey Bay Christian Center are with you and MPC.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason T. Yarbrough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Rev. Jason T. Yarbrough, M.Ed.

# Rev. JASON YARBROUGH

## Public & Community Service

*\*Special Note: Information from this section will be published as part of the applicant's package for public review.*

### Organization

**Name** Love Our Central Coast **Phone** (831) 655-0100

### Address

**Street Address** 2500 Garden Road **City, State, Zip** Monterey, CA 93955

### Details

**Role** Site Project Leader **From** October 2017 **To** Current

### Responsibilities

Our church serves at Fall Campus cleanup/beautification days each year at Del Rey Woods Elementary School through the Love our Central Coast Project. As Pastor, I have led, coordinated, and worked at this event for the last two years.

### Organization

**Name** Seaside High School **Phone** Not answered

### Address

**Street Address** 2200 Noche Buena St **City, State, Zip** Seaside, CA 93955

### Details

**Role** Volunteer **From** August, 2016 **To** CURRENT

### Responsibilities

Our church leadership team has served Coach Avila and the football program each year through volunteers efforts, financial and other donations. We have also held special events (such as activity nights, a Spartan Thanksgiving Feast) and sponsored Campus Clubs (with Coach Avila), allowing myself (and our staff) the opportunity to encourage students in making good life choices.

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#### Organization

**Name** Sand City Council **Phone** (831) 394-3054

#### Address

**Street Address** 1 Pendergrass Way **City, State, Zip** Sand City, CA 93955

#### Details

**Role** Volunteer Pastor **From** 2017 **To** Current

#### Responsibilities

I am privileged, at least once each month, to open council meetings in prayer, speaking blessings and encouragement over city leaders.

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#### Organization

**Name** Not answered **Phone** Not answered

#### Address

**Street Address** Not answered **City, State, Zip** Not answered

#### Details

**Role** Not answered **From** Not answered **To** Not answered

**Responsibilities** Not answered

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**If additional space is required to supply your public and community service background, please upload a separate document. (MS Word or PDF format required)**

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## Supplemental Questions

**(Please limit your responses to 300 words or less.)**

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**1. Please state why you are seeking appointment to the Monterey Peninsula Community College District Board of Trustees.**

As a citizen of our wonderful peninsula community, I believe the way to make a better community is for people to serve the community in their areas of expertise. Personally, because of my own experiences, I believe education is the key to the future. As a long-time private school founder, high-school and college teacher, school principal, and current PK-8th grade school superintendent, I have given much of my life to education. While I am an avid proponent of trade-schools and other skill certification programs, I truly believe that a high-quality, affordable, easily accessible community college system is crucial for any society to thrive. I believe my decades of experience in education along with my graduate degrees in school administration and organizational leadership, coupled with my experience as the pastor of a multi-cultural, multi-generational church, positions me uniquely to be of benefit to our local college. I look forward to serving, learning, and becoming the best trustee I can for the good of our students.

**2. Please describe your willingness and availability to participate in MPC regular board meetings, MPC special board meetings, MPC events outside of scheduled board meetings, and trustee conferences.**

I am very willing to be available as needed should I be appointed to the role of Trustee. While I would be naive to assume there would never be conflicts with the other responsibilities I hold, I pledge to be committed to the trustee role and will make myself available as needed. I am quite accustomed to leading and attending board meetings in my current and previous leadership positions so the requirements of the trustee position hold no apprehension or concern for me.

**3. Please describe your past and current involvement with MPC, if any.**

My previous involvement has admittedly been limited as we have been focused over the past three years on returning our church and school to health. I am glad to say this has been a successful effort to date. On a personal level, my youngest daughter completed a technical program (Pharmacy Tech) at the Marina Campus, and she enjoyed the experience.

Thus far, my own involvement has been to attend graduations (supporting students from our church and other relationships), sporting events and other similar instances. I have kept an eye on MPC from a distance, reading course catalogs, listening to comments and concerns from parishioners and friends, and monitoring news items. From what I have seen, I believe MPC can have a strong future that will positively affect this community and beyond.

**4. Please describe your involvement with any other community or business activities that you believe are relevant to the role of a member of the MPC Board of Trustees.**

As I mentioned previously in this application, my involvement in community events has included volunteering at Del Rey Woods Elementary School for campus clean up days, volunteering at Seaside High School for Campus Clubs and similar events with Coach Avila, and opening Sand City Council meetings in prayer for Mayor Pendergrass and Mayor Carbone. Also, as previously referenced, I have been a school teacher, principal and current superintendent (Monterey Bay Christian School). I have led accreditation efforts and have developed and managed multi-million dollar non-profit and educational budgets.

**5. What is your view of the role and responsibilities of a community college trustee?**

The role of a trustee is not to micro-manage day-to-day operations. This should be left to the executive leader and staff. The role of a trustee (and the board as a whole) is to oversee and support the executive leadership and to ensure that the organization stays true to its vision and mission. Accordingly a trustee should help to develop, establish and maintain policies that successfully support the school, its staff, and its students.

The role of a trustee is also to represent the community as a whole, working to create a culture that is supportive of the organization and to help the organization be responsive to community needs.

**6. Please describe your experience with the Brown Act and parliamentary procedures.**

The Brown Act was instituted to ensure public access to information and discussion at the board meeting of government (public) agencies and organizations. This requires advance public notice of meetings and agendas. While I personally have not yet served on a board subject to the Brown Act, during our time in Fairfield, CA, my wife served as the president of the Fairfield Main Street Association which was definitely subject to the Brown Act.

The Brown Act does provide for closed sessions as necessary and allowable by law, but the results of those closed sessions must usually be made public in accordance with the law.

Specifically referring to parliamentary procedures, I have conducted several boards over the years as well as participated in many membership meetings governed by Robert's Rules of Order. Therefore, I am very familiar with parliamentary procedure.

**7. What skills and experience do you have to help us achieve our Governing Board Goals for 2019?**

My understanding of the current board goals include ensuring student access, success and completion of their chosen programs, pursuing diversity at all levels (including students and staff), to maintain fiscal stewardship and stability, to improve institutional quality (according to the master plan), to advocate as needed and allowed for the educational needs of our community, to increase the professional development of the board as a whole, to work well with the MPCEA and MPCTA, and to find the right superintendent who will lead MPC into the future.

Again, as a former teacher, principal, and superintendent, I understand multiple perspectives having sat in each of those chairs. Also, as a pastor of a multi-cultural, multi-generational church, I have experience communicating with and leading groups of people from all walks of life. I have served on several boards, leading most of them. I have managed multi-million dollar budgets and employees as an executive pastor while maintaining great relationships with everyone. I believe open and honest communication is the key to progress, and that would be my underlying focus as a trustee for MPC.

**8. In your opinion, what are some of MPC's greatest needs and how would you help MPC meet those needs?**

At the risk of sounding presumptuous as a current "outsider", what I hear from people (students especially) is their frustration at the inability to access desired classes and resources. All students (of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and diversities) should have equal access to a community college education, regardless of other factors. Education is a right for everyone. We must ensure a level playing field for every student who desires to enroll at MPC.

**9. How would you engage the community to understand the needs of the institution?**

I believe the responsibility of a trustee, specifically within their representative area, is to interface with everyone possible regarding the needs of MPC and its students. This includes city council members and key community leaders who hold influence. As a pastor in our city, I have many friendships with community leaders that I believe would allow me to do just that over the course of time.

**10. What does diversity mean to you, and why is this important?**

I believe community organizations should be reflective of the diversity within their community. Specifically, regarding a public institution such as MPC, am a firm believer that equal access should be available to everyone without restriction or impediment. The leadership, faculty, staff, and students of MPC should be a true reflection of the diversity we enjoy on the Monterey peninsula. While every person most likely has their own opinions on the social issues of our day, discrimination of any kind has no place in a public institution such as MPC. We are a stronger community when we ensure equal access to all the people within our community.

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## Supplemental Documents

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**Please upload your cover letter addressed to the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Marilyn Dunn Gustafson. (MS Word or PDF format required)**