

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes November 2018

- I: Meeting called to order: 7:08 pm
Present: Martha Daniels, Barbara Adams Latsaras, Joanie Baird, Sue Calahan, Roxann Victory
Regrets:
Guests:
- II: Opening Prayer – Rev. Martha Daniels
- III: Check in: Barbara, Sue and Roxann are okay. Joanie is still working.
- IV: Approval of the Agenda – Barbara Adams Latsaras
- Nettalk was added to the agenda under continued items
 - Motion to approve the revised agenda by Sue Calahan, seconded by Roxann Victory all in favor.
- V: Approval of October 2018 Board Minutes - Barbara Adams Latsaras
- Motion to approve the minutes by Martha, seconded by Joanie, all in favor.
- VI: Selection of Board Offices
- Treasurer – Joanie Baird
 - Clerk – Barbara Adams Latsaras
 - Vice-moderator – Sue Callahan
 - Member-at-large – Roxann Victory
- VII: Reports
- A. Clerk's Report (verbal) – Barbara Adams Latsaras
- We now have 24 members
- B. Treasurer
- Pension to UFMCC has been paid for the past two months
 - All bills have been paid for November
 - Liability insurance paid until end of year
 - Phone bill paid
 - We are cautiously optimistic about our finances.
- VIII: Continued Items
- A. Buildings and Grounds
- Railing going upstairs has to be reinforced
 - Will be power washing the building in the spring.
- B. Fundraising
- Discussion on what to invest in as a credit card acceptance. Will use PayPal and pay for the machine to accept credit cards

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C. UFMCC News

- UFMCC sent out an email today asking for money.
- 10% assessment fee was approved and will start Jan 2019

D. Social Media Coordinator

- Nothing new to report

E. Pastor's Notes

The Worship Team met on November 7. We are planning for Advent and Christmas, as well as the Trans Day of Remembrance service on Nov. 19 and a healing service on December 30. Joanie is taking the lead on the TDoR service, and Jim U is leading on the healing service. I have asked Rev-elect Nilsa Irizarry to preach in January on one of the Sundays I will be gone. Once I have heard from her, I will check with Rev. Mary Ann Dier Zimmerman and Rev. Doreen Sterba DeZur to see if either is available.

Social Action

I wasn't able to volunteer at Share Food Share Love this month, unfortunately. SAM will be meeting on Sunday. We are planning a Black and Pink holiday card party—writing cards to people who are incarcerated. B&P sends the cards, we write messages and mail them. Holly and I are trying to set up a meeting with Mary and Sandy to discuss Pilsen. SAM will also begin planning our Christmas project on Sunday.

Pastoral Care

As always, phone calls/texts/emails. I also find myself giving pastoral care to both members and non-members as I move about in the community—people who have been ostracized or alienated or simply left feeling empty by their churches/faith communities, not always because of their gender identity or orientation, but frequently for some other reason. I offer a pastoral presence and an invitation to join us. This sometimes surprises me, but it is always welcome. It is also something I cannot easily or readily share in a report or with the congregation—even mentioning where or when such an encounter happened could breach confidentiality.

UFMCC

The 10% assessment was approved. The denomination has sent out an appeal for donations, saying they will have difficulty meeting salaries and other expenses through the end of the year without help. Of course, most churches are in the same position. The Facebook group for clergy supporting or interested in supporting people in prison (“on the inside”) continues. We're at about 10 so far, but around the world, which makes it very interesting.

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Pastoral Notes (continued)

Community

“Expanding Our Circle” is continuing the planning for the movie series. I am looking for someone to take this on in January, as it doesn’t require the pastor’s attention—the only requirement is someone who supports diversity, can meet on Saturday afternoons once a month, and is willing to help with the logistics of the movies/discussion groups (the limits of which the person can set themselves).

I missed the October meeting of the ministerium, due to the ordination interview in Detroit; however, I plan to be at the next one on November 28th. The ministerium—clergy group in English—is incredibly valuable for the connections and mutual support. Community Thanksgiving service will be November 18 at 7 pm at First Congregational of LaGrange.

Indivisible Brookfield will be meeting November 29th at 7 pm at Slagers in Brookfield if anyone would like to join me.

Other

Pints with the Pastor is continuing; no one came on Monday. It seems to be hit or miss. Sometimes I have two or even four people; other times I am alone. I do usually see Alex from Share Food Share Love there, so I do reinforce that relationship, as well as people from Indivisible.

Spiritual advocacy continues. As with most felony cases, it is quite complicated, and there are many pretrial motions to go through. The next hearing date is in early December.

Grant and the Impact on Holy Covenant

I’ve talked with the Board and the congregation about the reduction in my hours. That doesn’t just mean fewer hours at the church, it means some work I can’t do, too. Over the next month, I’m planning to get commitments from various people to do those tasks I highlighted. Jim U and Holly have said they are willing to help with finding music for worship, especially as we move towards planning further ahead, so they have themes to work with. Roxann and Sue are willing to help with finding more videos for worship, too. Two items I will be looking for volunteers for are Share Food Share Love on Tuesday nights and SAGE once a month. Neither is huge, but they do take time and energy. I might also add that they are opportunities for members to be part of expanding Holy Covenant’s reach in the community—it is not entirely the pastor’s responsibility. Those and the Expanding Our Circle group are the main tasks that still need someone to take them on.

What I will especially need from the Board is support around the days I set aside for the grant work. I don’t know, at this point, if it will be the same day each week (every Thursday, say) or if it will depend on what is happening each week. I can say it will not be a whole week (Monday through Friday) each month. But it will add up to 10 hours/week or 40/month. That’s what the grant is paying for. Holy Covenant will also get at least 30 hours (probably more, just like now HC gets more than 40...). But if I have set aside certain days for the grant work, I cannot, except in cases of emergency, do Holy Covenant work on those days. I

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will set up a monthly schedule for the congregation and post it (or put it on the church wall calendar)—HC days, grant days. This may need to be reinforced with members of the congregation if I don't respond to emails or phone calls because it's a grant day (I will come up with a better name!).

F. Revitalization

- We will be meeting in the near future to discuss.
- Thinking of bring a friend to church day – win prizes

G. NetTalk

- Nettetalk is up and working. Will check to see if ATT has dropped the phone off the bills. We are saving a lot of money a year by using NetTalk

VIII: New Business

A. Review of Congregational Meeting Minutes 2018 (to be approved at CBM 2019)

- Barbara motioned to accept the minutes, Roxann 2nd her. All approved.

B. Impact of Rev. Martha's Louisville Institute Grant

C. Pastor's Contract

Barbara and Martha will be working on her new contract that starts Jan 1, 2019.

Out of regular Board meeting at 8:52

IX: Executive Session if needed (closed) started at 8:53 pm

A. Pastoral Review – General discussion about the pastor's survey answers from the congregation.

B. Executive Meeting adjourned – 9:20 pm

Closing prayer: Sue Calahan