

# Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church

## Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda November 11, 2018

### **Call to Order:**

**Opening Prayer:** Sue Calahan

### **Certification of Quorum:**

### **Approval of 2017 Minutes:**

### **Board Reports:**

- a) Moderator's Report (Rev. Martha Daniels):
- b) Clerk's Report (Barbara Adams-Latsaras):
- d) Treasurer's Report (Joanie Baird):
  - ii) Presentation of the 2018 Budget
  - iii) Budget Approval

### **Interim Lay Delegate's Report** (Holly Blonde):

### **Ministry and Program Reports:**

- 1) Buildings and Grounds Report (Sue Calahan):
- 2) Social Media Report (Barbara Adams Latsaras):
- 3) Social Action Ministry Report (Rev Martha/Holly Blonde):
- 4) Pastoral Care Ministry Report (Rev Martha)

### **Elections:**

- A) Election of Board Members:
- B) Motion to Destroy Ballots:

### **Adjournment:**

**Closing Prayer** by Rev. Martha Daniels

**Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church  
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting  
November 19th, 2017**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 p.m. by Rev. Martha Daniels.

**Opening Prayer** by Tom Menard

**Certification of Quorum:**

The Clerk, Steve Marz established that a quorum was present with 13 Members in attendance out of 35 total Members.

**Minutes:**

Motion to adopt the Minutes from the November 20th, 2016 Congregational Meeting by Tom Menard, seconded by Jim Baer. Unanimously approved.

**By-Law Amendments:**

Motion to adjust the proposed By-Law amendments for spelling and formatting changes by Tom Menard, seconded by Joanie Baird. Unanimously approved.

Motion to adopt the By-Law changes by Bruce Myers, seconded by Carol Siepka. Unanimously approved.

**Board Reports:**

a) Moderator's Report (Rev. Martha Daniels):

b) Vice Moderator's Report (Tom Menard):

c) Clerk's Report (Steve Marz):

Steve Marz informed the congregation that we have 35 Members.

d) Treasurer's Report (Bruce Myers):

i) Financial Report

Motion to approve the Board Reports by Steve Marz, seconded by Barbara Adams Latsaras. Unanimously approved.

ii) Presentation of the 2018 Budget

iii) Budget Approval

Motion to accept the 2018 Budget by Tom Menard, seconded by Joanie Baird. Unanimously approved.

**Interim Lay Delegate's Report** (Holly Blonde):

Motion to accept the Interim Lay Delegate's Report by Steve Marz, seconded by Holly Blonde. Unanimously approved.

**Ministry and Program Reports:**

1) Buildings and Grounds Report (Tom Menard):

2) Social Media Report (Barbara Adams Latsaras):

3) Social Action Ministry Report (Rev. Martha Daniels):

4) Pastoral Care Ministry Report (Rev. Martha Daniels):

Motion to approve the Ministry and Program Reports by Steve Marz, seconded by Holly Blonde.  
Unanimously approved.

**Elections:**

A) Lay Delegate:

As there were no applications for the position of Lay Delegate, the Lay Delegate will be appointed by the Board at a future date.

B) Election of Board Members:

Joanie Baird was elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term.

C) Motion to Destroy Ballots:

Motion to destroy the election ballot papers by Steve Marz, seconded by Holly Blonde.  
Unanimously approved.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. by Barbara Adams Latsaras, seconded by Jim Baer.  
Unanimously approved.

**Closing Prayer** by Rev. Martha Daniels

## **Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church 2018 Social Media Annual Report**

### **Website**

The church website has been active since April 17, 2017 and I have been maintaining the site since it was built.

Over the year the website was maintained and improved upon and the following was added:

- Videos of the Pastor's sermons
- Photo Gallery
- Event Information page

### **Facebook**

Our Facebook page has moved on to be a business page. I applied to FB for us to be a charitable organization and it was approved which allows us to put a Donate button on our page.

During the year, events were posted for dances, Drag Queen Bingo, Rummage and Garage sales, meditation, and many other events going on at the church.

Within the last two months, I have started to Facebook Live our sermons which has been bringing in viewers to watch the sermons.

### **Twitter**

Our Twitter account is very active and posts prayers, events, information, sermons and other items of interest. With Twitter moving to 280 characters, we will be able to say more about what is going on at Holy Covenant. We have 146 followers, tweeted 416 times, and following 214 people.

### **Instagram**

We started an Instagram account which tends to lean toward the younger crowd. Items that are posted on Facebook show up on Instagram since FB owns Instagram.

Barbara Adams Latsaras  
November 11, 2018

# Pastor's Report to the Congregation Holy Covenant MCC Annual Congregational Meeting 2018

I've had another busy and productive year at Holy Covenant!

## Worship

The Worship Team and I have revised our meeting schedule. We now meet quarterly in person to plan themes. I send out the readings between the meetings for the team to review and send me suggestions for secular readings and music. The monthly evening meetings had become difficult for several members to make due to work, the number of other church commitments, health, and so on.

Special worship services this year have included healing services on the fifth Sundays (thanks to Jim Ulisse and Holly Blonde for taking the lead on these), served as substitute chaplain for midweek service twice at Plymouth Place, and the community services of Good Friday, All Together Under the Sun, and Thanksgiving (planned for November 18). A Trans\* Day of Remembrance service is also being planned for later this month.

And of course, I have been leading worship, providing a message each week and presiding at Communion, ensuring we have our own special services such as Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve, guest speakers on a regular basis, and coverage when I am gone.

## Pastoral Care

I have engaged in visitation and calls to members as I have been notified of illness or when they have been in the hospital and requested a visit, including bringing Communion. I continue to provide pastoral support to two individuals in prison, including a court presence, visits, phone calls, letters, and sending books (this is now on my own time, but is a ministry of the church).

I also facilitate the other ministries of the Pastoral Care team, including the prayer list on Sundays and responding to prayer requests from our website.

## Social Action Ministry

I support Andrew Hillum and Holly Blonde, the co-facilitators of SAM. They will provide a fuller report. In brief: SAM continues to work with Share Food, Share Love Food Pantry; BEDS elected to work with another site this year for overnight shelter; we are supporting an LGBTQ individual on the inside (in prison) through prayer and offering his craft items at the dance; and we held a rummage sale to offer clothes to

the community. We are hoping to build a closer relationship with the Pilsen volunteers.

### Community Connections

I attend our local Brookfield/LaGrange Clergy Group meetings, and participate in our events (joint summer worship, Thanksgiving worship, Good Friday worship). I am also part of “Widening the Circle,” a group seeking to support diversity in LaGrange/Brookfield. I participate in Indivisible and League of Women Voters community groups.

### Continuing Education

MCC requires every clergy person to complete 9 hours of continuing education every year in order to renew their license for the following year. This is common for many professions (physicians, hairdressers, teachers, etc.). I chose to fulfill mine this year with a weekend seminar on “Opening the Divine Creator Within You,” which incorporated meditation, yoga, and writing to help creators (writers, painters, quilters, photographers, dancers, etc.) remove blocks to their creativity and help the creative “juices” flow. It was a wonderful weekend with a gifted facilitator and mutually supportive group that really created community.

### MCC Connections

I resigned as facilitator of the Bisexual/Pansexual Working Group (Office of Emerging Ministries)—I simply did not have the time to do the work as effectively as I felt it should be done.

I am a member of the Revitalization program, and that work continues with Andrew Hillum and Roxann Victory.

I participate in our North Central US regional network, attending periodic clergy meetings and events. Holy Covenant was co-host of the regional gathering in September, which was held at achurch4me in Rogers Park.

I have been part of two clergy ordination interview panels, one in September, one in October. I am glad to say both panels approved the candidates!

### Administrative!

This is—everything else! Supervising the administrative assistant, checking voicemail, keeping the calendar, supporting the Board, working with the clerk on the Board agenda, connecting with the AA groups about dances and other events, and so on.

### Other

I have applied for a pastoral study grant from the Louisville Institute, which is attached to Louisville Seminary, and partially supported by the Lilly Foundation. The grant is intended to allow pastors the freedom (time and funding) to study a question of concern to churches in North America. The title is “Until We Are All Free: Spiritual

Advocacy with LGBTQ Prisoners.” My intent is to work with LGBTQ people on the inside to create educational materials to use to teach progressive worship communities (of many faith traditions) about the needs of LGBTQ people on the inside. Many progressive faith communities work with (or are majority) LGBTQ; others work with people on the inside. None work with or advocate for LGBTQ people on the inside. So I would like to start filling that gap. MCC used to do some of that work; we don’t anymore, although I am seeing interest in it again.

If I am awarded the full grant, I would be working on it about 10 hours a week, or 1/4 time.

As I am writing this, we don’t know if I have been awarded the grant. We should know by the time of the congregational meeting—the award letters are to go out in early November.

My thanks to the Board for all their hard work this past year—Barb, Joanie and Sue—we made it!

Rev. Martha Daniels