

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**August 17, 2023**  
**Meeting Held at HC 8/20/23**

**I:** Meeting called to order: 12:30 pm

Present: Joanie Baird, Martha Daniels, Barbara Adams Latsaras,  
Roxann Victory

Regrets:

Guests:

**II: Opening Prayer** Barbara Adams Latsaras

**III: Check-In:**

- Barbara – Everything is okay. Knee is doing good a few more PT appts.
- Joanie – Car is fixed at Gerber. She has to pick up on Monday. Work co-worker has asked for her help. Grandson is playing football in 8th grade.
- Martha – She is looking for her dress for Ben's wedding. Has a bridal shower for Kristen on 9/24/23 which is the same day as our reclaiming service.
- Roxann – Work is calmer Has an ear issue and will see the Dr soon.

**IV: Approval of the August 2023 Agenda** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Roxann with the additions of Thrive with Pride and 2024 budget added and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara. All in favor.

**V: Approval of July 2023 Board Minutes** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

Motion by Roxann to approve the June Board Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joanie. All in favor.

**VI: Reports**

**A. Clerks Report** – 22 adults, 4 children.

**B. Treasurer's Report** – Joanie Baird

**a. Tithing** – June 2023 assessment = Adjusted income = \$1,964 x .02 = about \$39.

**b. Income** – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 8/13/23 is about \$13,008, plus two Sunday's estimated total \$600 = \$13,666 Total - \$3,450 restricted to salary - less \$480 restricted for Cost Overruns less \$3000 Reserve = \$6,736 Available less \$3,131 unpaid July bills leaves \$3,658 unrestricted balance on September 1, 2023, after paying Martha.

In July 2023 we had Net Operating revenue of \$1,964 and expenses of \$7,228 so we had a Net Loss of about (\$5,264) for July 2023. NOTE: This is after using \$3250 of the \$10,000 from New Spirit to pay for the downspouts and gutters, per BOD decision in July 2023:

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**August 17, 2023**  
**Meeting Held at HC 8/20/23**

Unusual and/or large bills incurred in July 2023: None

**Bills August 2023 for Board approval:**

a) Electric	\$ 72 Est
b) Gas	\$ 75 Est
c) AT&T	\$ 52
d) Erie WC	\$ 58 Monthly
e) Northfield Insurance	\$ 321
<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$ 631</b>

Total owed by the Operating Fund to the Designated Fund is \$4,200., less \$3,000 paid by Board decision from the \$10 K gift from New Spirit Church = \$1,200 as of July 19, 2023/ New Checking Balance in the Designated Fund on 7/13/23 is \$5,581, less Age Options Zoom \$16 less Age Options support \$78 = \$5757 on 8/13/23.

There is about \$91 balance in the Bid Repair - Painting Fund (Rainbow Restoration).

HVAC Designated Fund Balance is about \$983.

The Board set a priority for how bills should be paid ongoing. The importance of bills is as follows:

1. Pastor's Salary
2. Church insurance
3. Overdue Utility bills
4. Regular Utility bills

**C. Draft Budget** Continued discussion on 2024 budget which Roxann moved to table to Executive Session, Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup>, All in Favor.

Motion by Roxann to pay August bills as listed and corrected, Martha 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**C. Pastor's Report**

**Worship**

The Worship Team met Wednesday, August 16.

We had two worship highlights recently.

- Rev. Al Banks (Davis Memorial AME Church, La Grange) preached on July 30. This was a wonderful service, Rev. Al was moved by our service, there was a real connection with the congregation—I will definitely be inviting him back again.
- The interfaith community worship service, "All Together Under the Sun" was held Sunday, August 6, at Gordon Park in LaGrange, at 10:30 am. The weather was

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**August 17, 2023**  
**Meeting Held at HC 8/20/23**

very rainy (we were under a tent) and as a result, attendance was poor. The service itself was good, however, with reflections by Rev. Sabrina Hughey of Davis AME, Rev. Jonathan Krogh of First Presbyterian of LaGrange, and Rev. Meredith Onion of First Congregational of Western Springs. The praise band from First Presbyterian provided the music; Rev. Jonathan and I consecrated Communion.

- A service of reclaiming after the vandalism will be held Sunday, September 24. The Worship Team is working on this. Harold Gibson, a B'Hai member of the clergy group, and a pipe carrier (spiritual leader) for the Anishna'abe tribe in the area, will participate in the service, smudging our space to cleanse it. I am planning to invite A Church 4 Me to attend this service as well.
- Rev. Doreen Sturba Dezur will be preaching for us on Sunday, August 27.

**Pastoral Care**

The community prayers continue.

I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail.

I continue to be available for congregational support as needed. I've spoken with some of our members whom we haven't seen a while, or who come occasionally. Some have mentioned they watch our YouTube video.

Holly Blonde has been reaching out to people we haven't seen in a while, just keeping them up to date and ensuring they know they are welcome to return anytime.

Pints with the Pastor continues to be regularly attended, with usually at least three people and sometimes as many as eight.

**Social Action Ministry**

Barbara Adams Latsaras is our lead on this right now, with her active participation at Share Food Share Love.

**Administration**

I am generally in the church office one or two days a week, most often Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Community Outreach**

SAGE—now West Suburban Senior Services or WSSS-- continues to meet by Zoom; and now in person also (hybrid) on Fridays at 1 pm.

LaGrange Ministerium met yesterday, Wednesday, August 16. I was not able to attend, but will report on whatever is passed on to the group via email.

**Thrive with Pride**

The large group continues to meet via Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11 am. Our smaller group (the cafe) meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm via Zoom (next meeting June 1).

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**August 17, 2023**  
**Meeting Held at HC 8/20/23**

The next large group meeting will be August 22 at 11 am, via Zoom, to discuss LGBTQ+ representation in movies—how it supported (r didn't) our coming out, how LGBTQ+ were portrayed (stereotypes), and more. The next café (small group) will be Thursday, September 7, at 7 pm

**Education and Formation**

For our fall education event, we will watch “Joseph,” (1995; available on YouTube) for discussion October 22 after church.

**UFMCC**

I have been attending Tea Time with the Elders on the third Tuesday of the month at 4 pm CT.

**Louisville Institute Grant**

I completed the application for the next grant cycle. My plan for this third (and, I think, final) grant is to implement the plan for creating a Spiritual Advocacy ministry within MCC, which could be a model for other denominations. This is supported by Rev. Dexter Brecht (Church Development and Support Coordinator) and Rev. Elder Cecelia Eggleston, the Moderator of MCCs (both of them are writing reference letters for me).

The application was due August 1, the awards announcements will be made November 1, and the grant period begins January 1, 2024, and runs through June 2025. If I do receive a grant, Louisville Institute has a mandatory gathering in Louisville February 6-8 (Tuesday – Thursday) (all expenses paid by them).

Motion to accept the Clerk, Treasurer & Pastor's report by Barbara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roxann, all in favor.

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**August 17, 2023**  
**Meeting Held at HC 8/20/23**

**VII Continued Items**

**A. Building and Grounds**

**A. Siding/Roof Replacement – Mary Ann Latsaras/Barbara Adams Latsaras**

We received the \$55K check from Erie to pay C & N Roofing for the siding and the roof. We will be depositing the check until the work that we have noticed to be completed including the name of the church, address on back garage and the siding replaced under the east side of the church, and the destruction of the flower beds all along the church. Mary Ann will contact Nick with an email with a copy to the Board about the issues.

**B. Fundraisers**

- a. **Garage Sale** – A date was set for the fall garage sale tentative as 9/30 with rain weekend 10/7. We will ask for volunteers to help and coordinate the garage sale. It will be put in the weekly newsletter.

**C. UFMCC – See Martha’s Notes**

**D. Social Media Coordinator**

- a. **Website** - Have changed the website for August, continued Constant Contact every week and updated Facebook as needed. Events have been updated in the calendar. Constant Contact was updated with our new debit card from First National Bank of Brookfield. Our account was updated to show 30% off for prepayment.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Letter To Absent Congregants**

The Board reviewed the letter and made changes as needed. Martha will make corrections and email to Barbara to send out. We will snail mail first, then follow up with an email few days later.

**B. ERIE CLAIM INFORMATION**

There is a class action lawsuit that we received in an email and a letter to the church. It for the year 2020 which would be for the boiler and the flood in Fellowship Hall. This claim has to be filed by September 18<sup>th</sup>. Roxann has taken over the responsibility of checking on the claim and mailing it out.

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**August 17, 2023**  
**Meeting Held at HC 8/20/23**

**C. Thrive with Pride MOU**

Martha has received the contract for Thrive with Pride that she has to sign and return to Thrive. They will then send us one of two payments to use for Thrive with Pride events and advertising.

**D. Congregational Meeting**

The meeting for the year is set for November 12, 2023 after services. Joanie is up for re-election and there is an unfilled position available. The date that was set was October 20, 2023 for the Board packets to be in to the Board with the ministry reports due by the same date and for those reports and applications for Board member to go out by October 27, 2023 via email to members only.

There was a motion by Barbara at 2:40 pm to move to Executive Session. This was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joanie and all in favor.

**IX: Executive Session – Started at 2:40**

General discussion with Martha and the Board about the budget including a pay raise for Martha. Her pay was cut by 20% during COVID to save money. Joanie moved to increase Martha's pay to add \$130 a month starting in January 2024 for six months. Roxann 2<sup>nd</sup>, and all were in favor. Martha abstained.

Joanie will work on the 2024 budget to change the figures and send to the Board as she adds the slight pay increase.

Roxann moves to come out of Executive Session at 2:53 pm, Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Closing prayer by Roxann Victory

Motion to adjourn at 3:03 pm moved by Roxann and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara.