

**Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
November 15th, 2020**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:47 am by Rev. Martha Daniels.

Opening Prayer by Roxann Victory

Certification of Quorum:

The Clerk, Barbara Adams Latsaras established that a quorum was present with 8 Members in attendance out of 21 total Members.

Minutes:

Motion to adopt the Minutes from the December 15th, 2019 Congregational Meeting by Roxann Victory, seconded by Barbara Adams Latsaras. Unanimously approved.

Board Reports:

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

- Rev. Martha gave a synopsis of her report to the congregation and talked of community outreach, pastoral care to those who request it and her pastoral care of two inmates in Cook County Jail that she does on her own time and expenses yet represents Holy Covenant. Since March she has been doing it via phone calls and Zoom.
- We have been worshipping via Facebook since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March.
- Rev. Daniels officiated at two funerals this year.
- AA continues to meet but outside on our deck
- Meditation with Mary Ann has shifted to Zoom
- Share Food, Share Love is still active with a few members who go and help
- Rev. Daniels is still a member of the Revitalization program & continues to attend any meetings with UFMCC, SAGE and Thrive with Pride Café's
- She facilitates a FaceBook group for MCC clergy
- We had a flood of major proportions on May 17, 2020. We had a foot of water in Fellowship Hall which ruined our new boiler. The boiler was replaced by insurance and we were given money to help with flood repair by Erie Insurance. In Sue Calahan's absence, she asked Mary Ann Latsaras to take over Buildings and Grounds and to facilitate the renovation which is about two weeks away from completion.
- The finalization of her grant is due by the end of December 2020.

b) Clerk's Report (Barbara Adams):

Barbara Adams Latsaras informed the congregation that we have 21 Members.

c) Treasurer's Report (Joanie Baird):

i) Financial Report

Joanie presented the financial picture for the church for the last year.

- Giving was \$8,000 less than 2019
- Pastor's salary was reinstated to full-time on 9.2020 and will last until June 30, 2021 which is the end of her contract.
- We received a bequest of about \$50,000 in which money was designated for the Pastor's salary, renovation, emergency fund and designated accounts were paid back. No bequest would have had us \$16,000 in the hole as of 10/31/20/

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- No fundraising was done for the year because of COVID restrictions. That made our income \$3,500 less for 2020
- Designated fund has about \$1,900 for our new air conditioner.
- UFMCC assessments was reduced in 2020 from 7% to 3.5%.
- We applied for and were approved for a \$6,000 PPP loan through PNC Bank that was funded by the US Government because of the pandemic. We can apply for the loan to be turned into a Grant and not paid back. As of today's date, PNC has not opened up the portal to apply for it.
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ii) Presentation of the 2021 Budget (Joanie Baird)

iii) Budget Approval

- Joanie talked about the differences between the two budgets.
- The average giving per month dropped to \$1,200 a month. This will project a \$15,000 deficit for 2021.
- A question was asked of Joanie as to how long we can be solvent as a church with the giving that we are now receiving. Joanie answered that it will depend on the pandemic, but we will be okay for 2021 but beyond that is it uncertain.
- There was a question about how to get more members and Rev. Martha indicated that is a discussion for the future
- Joanie indicated that the budget is bare bones for 2021 and will be surprised if we get anything more during the year from fundraising,

Motion to accept the 2021 Budget by Barbara Adams Latsaras, seconded by Joanie Baird. Unanimously approved.

Interim Lay Delegate's Report (Holly Blonde):

- MCC has a weekly newsletter that will be dropped down to once a month in January 2021
- The Moderator, Rev. Cecelia Eggleston, has a prayer time once a week at night
- There is guided meditation by various MCC's with our included
- We had a virtual get together for the North Central MCC's and was joined by Rev. Eggleston. We did get to see many MCC'ers that we have not seen in quite a while and hear Rev. Eggleston talk about the future of the church.
- The denomination has done webinars and weekly gatherings via Zoom.

Ministry and Program Reports:

Buildings and Grounds Report (Mary Ann Latsaras):

- In April 2020, Rev. Daniels asked Mary Ann to step up and be the Building & Grounds manager as Sue Calahan was stuck in Florida because of COVID.
- Mary Ann made a punch list of everything that had to be done to the church inside and outside.
- We were hit by the flood in May 2020. The smoke alarms went off and that is how we knew we were flooded. The boiler caught fire and the wiring created smoke. Rev. Daniels and Barbara Adams Latsaras were called by the alarm company and the Fire Department about 11:30 pm to come to the church. Joanie Baird and Mary Ann Latsaras came to the church and clean-up to get rid of the water was done until after 3:00 am by everyone.

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Buildings and Grounds Report (continued):

- Many volunteers came in and helped to clean-up the building and disinfect it. The work done by these people saved the church \$5,00 to \$10,000 dollars in clean-up.
- Mary Ann did flood mitigation by rerouting gutters away from the church and sealed areas around the outside of the building. We also had a check-valve installed and approved by the town of Brookfield.
- Weeding was done outside of the building and mulch was laid. Bulbs were planted in the fall so in the Spring there will be many flowers.
- Mary Ann acted as the Contractor for the flood work and hired Markus for carpentry, Bill to replace the boiler, and Mike Bartik as our electrician to replace the outlets. Painting of the walls, doors and windows was done by volunteers.

2) Social Media Report (Barbara Adams Latsaras):

- Website changes done as needed throughout the year
- Posting on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook
- Sends out a weekly Constant Contact newsletter to let the congregation and friends know what is happening at the church. There will be no more paper issues when church starts up again sometime in 2021.

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

- Received 1,000 socks from Bombas and have started handing them out to worthy causes. Gave 75 pairs to the Marris American Legion in Worth for their baskets to needy and homeless vets.
- Share Food, Share Love Food Pantry is still attended by people from the church
- There were no Pride marches in Aurora and Berwyn in 2020 because of the pandemic
- Revitalization project has not met because of the pandemic.
- The Flying Cross fell and Doyle Chappell could not repair it. A picture of it will be made and placed in the sanctuary at a later time

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

- Have communicated within the church, in newsletters, website that Rev. Martha is available for home or hospital visits and for giving communion. Rev. Martha presided over two funerals this year, Norm Mitchell and Bob Griefnow.

Motion to approve the Ministry and Program Reports by Jim Ulisse and seconded by Holly Blonde. Unanimously approved.

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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:

The meeting was held via ZOOM and Rev. Martha put out a poll for everyone to vote for the Board members.

Barbara Adams Latsaras & Roxann Victory were elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term.

C) Motion to Destroy the Ballots:

There was no motion to destroy the ballots as the voting was done via ZOOM and the polling was deleted when the meeting ended.

A question about Christmas services was asked and Rev. Martha said she will contact the worship team to discuss.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55pm by Jim Ulisse, seconded by Mary Ann Latsaras. Unanimously approved.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Martha Daniels