

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
December 16, 2021
In-person

I: Meeting called to order: 7:30 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests: Mary Ann Latsaras

II: Opening Prayer – Joanie Baird

III: Check-In:

- Barbara - Gracie Ann is doing okay, her next chemo is 12/23
- Joanie – Sorry she was late had to talk to a co-worker. Going to visit her family over the Christmas temporary shutdown at work 12/21 to 12/31.
- Roxann – is working a lot and doing good.
- Martha – Concert on Sunday with Elmhurst Choral doing Handel's Messiah. She is hopeful it will go on as planned because of Covid. Family member of Caitlin's has Covid so Christmas Eve with the family is up in the air.

IV: Approval of the December Agenda – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

- Motion was made to change the Board Agenda text to December from November. Roxann moved and 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

V: Approval of November 2021 Board Minutes – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

- Motion to approve the November minutes by Roxann, 2nd by Joanie, all in favor.

VI: Reports

A. Clerks Report – 21 adults, 2 children

B. Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird

Tithing – November 2021 assessment \$2,193 x .035 = \$77, which has been paid.

IRS UPDATE – Was paid and was received by IRS. Received the green postcard from USPS back that it was received.

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PPP Loan – We have received forgiveness for the first PPP loan, Forgiveness is pending for the second PPP loan.

Income - In November 2021 we had total Operating revenue of \$2,193 and expenses of \$3,183, so we had a Net Deficit of (\$990) for November 2021..

Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 12/15/21 was about \$5,263, plus pending Giving Tuesday deposit \$703 plus \$5000 deposit pending plus two Sunday's estimated total \$600 = \$11,566 Available, Less \$643 December unpaid bills leaves 12/31/21 Operating Fund checking account balance estimated to be \$8,423 after paying Martha's salary for January (\$2500).

Bills December 2021 which were approved already via email:

a) Electric	\$ 89	Actual
b) Est. Gas	\$163	Actual
c) AT&T	\$ 52	Fiber for internet
d) Erie Insurance	\$ 341	Monthly
<u>Total Bills</u>	<u>\$ 643</u>	

Flood repair Designated Fund balance is about \$8 as of 11/31/21.

Motion to approve the and pay bills as they become due was moved by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara, all in favor.

C. Pastor's Report

Worship

We are continuing to refine our hybrid worship. Many thanks to Roxann Victory and Barbara Adams-Latsaras for their hard work on this! The Worship Team is scheduled to meet December 15 to discuss final plans for the Longest Night service and Christmas Eve.

A baptism (1 adult and 1 child) is planned for December 19 during service. Another baptism is planned for February 6, 2022.

Pastoral Care

I have shared prayers for several individuals. I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail. I continue to be available for support as needed.

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Social Action Ministry

Share Food, Share Love Food has moved to their new space.

BEDS Plus continues to serve clients via hotels vouchers, rapid rehoming and other methods of support, rather than extensive in-person assistance, due to continuing COVID concerns. A list of resources was recently distributed to community partners wishing to help BEDS; we will include some of them in our newsletter. BEDS has not yet returned to the rotating shelter program with local churches.

Administration

I continue to mainly work from home. I am in the church office one or two days a week, usually when I have a meeting or a Zoom call.

Community Outreach

SAGE continues to meet by Zoom.

The Brookfield/LaGrange Ministerium plans to meet December 15.

Thrive with Pride

The large group continues to meet via Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month at 11 am. Our smaller group (the cafe) meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm. The next large group meeting will be December 28 at 11 via Zoom, and the topic will be taking care of personal health in the new year. Our small group will meet January 6 at 7 pm. I met with Kate Spelman earlier this month to discuss the successes and challenges of the past year. Please note, she will be going on maternity leave in early January; Jason Echols will be facilitating the program while Kate is gone.

Revitalization Team

I continue to meet with Rev. Dexter.

UFMCC

I continue to participate in the Thriving in Ministry program. I applied for and received a respite grant, which will allow me to attend a retreat in late October at my favorite retreat center, GilChrist, in Three Rivers, Michigan. The program coordinator and my mentor are urging me to take some personal time in the spring as well. I am considering this.

I attended the Regional Gathering in Milwaukee on Saturday the 20th with Jim U. Rev. Roland Stringfellow and Pastor Hattie Alexander, both of MCC Detroit, shared a presentation on the changes Covid has brought to church life—not only worship

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but administration, education, and so on. They also discussed Covid's personal challenges to church leadership.

Louisville Institute Grant

I received the Louisville Institute grant for which I applied! "Rainbow Bridges: Spiritual Advocacy by MCC for LGBTQ+ People on the Inside" is the title—I will be creating a template for spiritual advocacy for our siblings who are incarcerated, one that can be used by other progressive faith traditions to create their own such ministries or programs. This will require research into the evolving purposes and theology of prison ministry, the structure and policies of existing ministries, training, support and recruitment of clergy and lay leaders to do this work, and resource materials, among other things. My goal is to have a draft in place for General Conference next summer, which I can present at a workshop to get some feedback. I will be considering how best to integrate the work for the grant with my church schedule. I'll probably do as I did last time—take one day a week to work solely on the grant.

The grant includes an honorarium for a supply preacher one Sunday a month. I have spoken with Rev. Nilsa Irizarry, and she is available for several dates in the next few months. I will be locating others for the remaining dates as time goes on. Finally, I will be attending a required consultation from Sunday, January 30 to Wednesday, February 2. Louisville Institute will be making a final decision about whether the consultation will be in-person or virtual as the date nears.

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

VII Continued Items

A. Building and Grounds

1. Roof Repairs

There was discussion with Mary Ann Latsaras regarding the roof repairs and Antwain's company C&N Construction. Mary Ann has met with five different contractors regarding roof and building repairs from storms. She has indicated that we need a new roof, siding, soffit and gutters. Mary Ann has spoken to contractors that she has known for quite a while and has said some contractors are scammers and that some are legitimate.

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Other homes in our neighborhood have had work done to them because of the storms that we have had this past year. What that does is increases property values and does make the insurance rates go up for everyone.

When painting the sanctuary paint was peeling off the wall which indicated that there has been seepage in the walls from a leaking roof.

Mary Ann has asked the Board for their approval to have the contractor Antwain at C & N come in to access the roof, siding, soffit and gutter damage and to give us the cost of the repairs before going to Erie Insurance to place a claim. Erie will send out a claim adjuster that Antwain would work with along with Mary Ann to inspect the building.

C & N the contractor would absorb our deductible and the Board would see all the quotes and paperwork before anything is done. This should be filed with Erie by the end of the year.

Motion to have Antwain at C & N Contractors to do an inspection of the roof/building was made by Roxann and seconded by Barbara. All in favor.

Mary Ann will be the contact for this work and Joanie has indicated that she will be okay with the Board making any decisions about the roof while she is gone.

2. Air Conditioner Repairs

Mary Ann Latsaras will call Bill at One Season Heating (they installed the boiler) to get the quote on the repair of the AC. There was discussion about using some of the money that was donated on Giving Tuesday (approximately \$8K) for the AC system replacement. It was decided by the Board to take \$4K and put it towards the general fund, and \$4K plus other monies that come in from Giving Tuesday into the AC fund.

Motion by Roxann that we put \$4,000 from the Giving Tuesday donations into the operating account and put the balance \$4,000 into the HVAC designated account and any other monies that are received from the Giving Tuesday into the HVAC account. Barbara 2nd the motion and all in favor.

3. Snow Removal

For quite a few weeks we have been asking in our weekly newsletter for people to volunteer to shovel the snow during the winter. Barbara found a company Villa Maintenance owned by Jesus Villalobos (villacontracting708@gmail.com) who quoted us on snow removal. His costs are as follows:

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- Snow fall 2" to 5" \$40
- Snow fall over 5" would be \$50
- Snow clearing would include the front and sidewalks, stairs and the walk to the back door. He will also drop salt on all the walks at a cost of \$10 for the salt unless we provide it.
- Parking lot would be \$20 extra

He indicated that he would come once per snow fall when it slows down or after it stops and it would be between 2 to 5 hours after it slows down or completely stops. He requested to be paid via Cash, Check, Venmo or Zelle. We agreed on a check that is cut on Sunday and sent to him.

He will reach out to Barbara Adams Latsaras to let her know that snow removal has been completed.

Motion to hire Jesus Villalobos to do snow removal was made by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara. All in favor.

B. Fundraisers

A. Drag Queen Bingo – Tabled until January.

B. Gift Wrapping – No monies were made doing the gift wrapping at Anderson's Bookstore in Downers Grove. Those that participated were Martha Daniels, Barbara Adams Latsaras, Joanie Baird, Holly Blonde and Andrew Hillum. It will be discussed to possibly do it next year at their Naperville store. Some people did not like the wrapping paper that was offered at the DG store so no wrapping was done.

C: Spring Fundraiser

Mary Ann gave her idea of a fundraiser for the Spring garage sale. She suggested that we have a plant sale and grow the plants on our own in the garage. We have a lot of seeds that we can use by planting them in egg cartons and she can create a greenhouse in the garage around March so we can plant the seed and put grow lights on them. The Board asked Mary Ann to come to the next meeting with a budget for her idea in January for approval.

C. UFMCC News - North Central Network Gathering /Milwaukee Anniversary Celebration

General discussion about how the other churches are doing during Covid and it seems they are in the same boat as we are. Loss of money and congregants. Martha did see and talk with other Pastors in our area.

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D. Social Media Coordinator

Have changed the website for December, continued Constant Contact every week and update Facebook as needed. Events updated in the calendar and ran the Giving Tuesday on November 30th which was promoted on Facebook, Website, Instagram and Twitter. We raised over \$8,000 and still are waiting for other monies to come into the church. Barbara and Jim Ulisse did have their own Giving Tuesday's running on their Facebook pages and did raise some money for the church. It will take 30-45 days to receive the money.

Barbara had an ad run in the Landmark using the Age Options funds for \$110. We also advertised that we will have in-person Christmas Eve service.

Our website hosting will end in 2025.

E. Revitalization Program

See the Pastor notes above.

F. Planning for the Future

Hybrid services is still occurring but with the increase with COVID cases we are keeping up with the State of Illinois mandates and if it should change we may need to go back to not having services in the church and only online.

With the new labyrinth being painted upstairs, approval has been given to put felt pads on the bottoms of the chairs so the painting will not be scratched up with chair movement.

VIII New Business

A. AA Meeting on Friday Nights

AA has asked if they can add Friday nights for their in-person meetings. A motion to approve AA meetings to return to Friday nights was made by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara. All in favor.

IX: Executive Session

None

Closing prayer by Barbara Adams Latsaras

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 pm moved by Barbara and 2nd by Roxann, All in favor.