

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes

February 27, 2020

- I: Meeting called to order: 7:20 pm
Present: Joanie Baird, Martha Daniels, Barbara Adams Latsaras
Regrets: Sue Calahan
Guests:
- II: Opening Prayer – Roxann Victory
- III: Check-In:
Martha – Nothing much
Roxann – Colin is doing better
Joanie – Job interviews next mont
Barbara – Nothing new, getting another washer & dryer
- IV: Approval of the Agenda – Barbara Adams-Latsaras
- Motion to approve the agenda by Joanie, 2nd by Rox, all in favor.
- V: Approval of January Board Minutes – Barbara Adams-Latsaras
- Motion to approve the December minutes by Rox, 2nd by Rox, all in favor
- VI: Reports
- A. Clerk's Report (verbal)
- a. There are 21 members and 2 children
- B. Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird
- In January 2020 we had a loss about \$431.00
 - All of January monthly bills have been paid.
 - Our current cash balance as of 2/26/20 is \$2574, plus one Sundays estimated total \$500 means 3/1/20 balance estimated to be \$3,074. Therefore, **we will have enough to cover Martha in full on Mar 1. (The check has been written, dated 3/1/20.)**
 - We still owe estimated Feb Com Ed bill \$92 and the Nicor bill \$160, but these are not due until Mar.
 - See the Cash Requirements report for details.
- Tithes update**
- The Jan 2020 assessment was \$2581 - \$100 Grant money = \$2481 x .035 = \$87, which has been paid.
 - The 2018 repayment is suspended for now.
- IRS update**
- Received a letter stating they are still looking at our information.
 - IRS for Ian \$495 (accrued in Dec, paid in Jan)
 - IL Dept of Revenue \$98 (accrued in Dec, paid in Jan)
- Bills**
- Net Talk Annual Phone bill \$60
 - Church Mutual final payment \$254

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- Poinsettias \$120 (offset by misc income \$150)
- Q4 2019 Pension \$84
- Site Ground Annual Domain Name hcmcc.org renewed \$42

Insurance

- Board moved from Church Mutual to Erie Insurance for all church insurance needs
- Erie Insurance Jan-Feb was paid in Feb.

Budget

- Discussion on budget and showing needed weekly income. Decided on a graph put into the Sunday newsletter showing what is needed, what was given and the difference.

C. Pastor's Notes

- a. Motion to split Pastor's compensation between salary and housing allowance. Moved by Joanie, 2nd by Rox. All in favor.

Worship

- Roxann and I are planning on an event for worship leaders (readers, announcements, etc.) on Sunday, March 29 after church. We'll provide a lunch and appreciation.
- I am planning on a Lenten series, "Mountaintops," focusing on a different Biblical mountain each week.
- We will have a guest speaker in late April—I haven't chosen a date yet, but probably April 25.

Pastoral Care

- I was unable to meet with the clergy group for lunch. Preparations continue for the Good Friday service on April 10 at 7 pm.
- I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail via prayers, court support, visits, letters, and phone calls.

Social Action Ministry

- We have been approved for another donation box of Bombas socks (one thousand pairs). We will receive more information in late March about the assortment and delivery information.

Education/Formation

- I am planning on a one-time study event for Lent, due to other activities on Sunday afternoon—on April 5. It will probably be a book or movie discussion.

Administration

- Just a reminder—the church office is not secure. Please be sure financial and other confidential papers are not left on the desk

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Community Outreach

- I was unable to meet with the clergy group for lunch. Preparations continue for the Good Friday service on April 10 at 7 pm.
- Diversity movies will continue in March, April, and May (first Friday of the month) at LTH South. I have a few flyers to share with HCMCC.

MCC

- Rev. Kharma Amos, head of MCC's Office of Congregational Development, is writing a grant application to the Lilly Foundation for work on a Thriving as a Congregation project. She convened a focus group of MCC clergy via Skype to discuss the specific needs of local congregations. I and Holy Covenant were included in the discussion. I can say that based on the discussion with that group, many congregations are facing the same questions we are—how do we see membership in this time of declining membership (i.e., rather than physical presence in worship every week, membership is also involvement via giving, attendance at other events, online connections—Facebook Live, YouTube, etc.), and how do we encourage giving, and what might our role (as a primarily LGBT denomination) look like in an increasingly accepting culture?

Revitalization Team

- Mary Ann Latsaras and I met a couple of times and discussed our vision for the artwork in the sanctuary. Our idea is for a fresco of a sky scene in the alcove behind the altar. In addition, we would like to see a permanent labyrinth on the floor. Mary Ann is willing and able to create both, and will get us information on costs, but she doesn't expect it to be much. The labyrinth would be painted on the floor and sealed. Thus it would always be available to us for a variety of purposes—during Lent, for individual prayer or meditation, for retreats, and so on.
- Doyle Chappell took Flying Cross back to his studio for repair. He'll contact us when it is done (he'd been travelling to complete some commissions).
- One of our topics for discussion has been social events. We are discussing a couple of possibilities. The first is a movie night at the Movie Box theater. They have a 70-person venue we could rent to show a movie (together with A Church 4 Me? and possibly MCC Iliana as well. This would probably be an LGBT-theme movie or documentary, such as The Upstairs Inferno (which has an MCC connection). Alternatively, we might be able to connect to their midnight Rocky Horror shows.
- Secondly, Chicago Sky (WNBA) will be celebrating Pride at their game on Friday, June 6. I've been in touch with someone from their group sales office about tickets. We could get a discount, but it would depend on us having 10-15 people purchase the tickets. I need to let Malia know Friday if we think we'll have 10-15 people committed to attending.
- We are also looking into more artwork in the sanctuary, with Mary Ann Latsaras and Amanda Bradley (Doyle Chappell's daughter). Possibilities include a fresco in the alcove behind the altar and a labyrinth on the floor.

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AgeOptions

- We've received the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between HCMCC and Age Options. An MOU is a standard sort of non-binding contract often used between non-profits in a formal partnership—it spells out who is doing what and who is responsible for what, and so on—all the logistical details. The work plan is also complete. We will need a motion and discussion and a vote to approve it. There will also be an educational event on Thursday, March 19 at 2 pm, discussing outreach to LGBT seniors.

Other

- I don't have plans to travel for the next couple of months.
- I continue to work on the grant—drafting the report and finishing up the reading.

Motion to accept the reports by Rox, 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

VII: Continued Items

A. Buildings and Grounds – Tabled until March

b. Snow removal

- Kathy F and Bob A. have volunteered to shovel the snow when needed
- Handicapped sign to be repaired in the Spring
- Two parking stops were donated by Barbara for the church to use. They will be installed in the Spring when the ground unfreezes.

B. Fundraisers

a. Drag Queen Bingo

March 22nd - Barbara will be the lead

April 5th - Roxann

May 24th - Martha

June 14th - Sue

July 12th

b. Zanies – Will donate 150 tickets for us to sell at our cost. The shows are at 8pm on Wednesday and Thursdays'. There is two drinks minimum and it is at the Zanies in Rosemont. The Zanies logo has to appear in our flyers and tickets, and they need approval. Roxann will follow up further with them but a preliminary date is June 11th.

c. Spring Dance – Roxann will be the lead and it slated for May 16th.

d. Garage Sale is slated for May 30th with a rain date of June 13th.

e. Art & Craft Sale is penciled in for May 2nd.

f.

C. UFMCC News

- In Pastor's notes

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D. Social Media Coordinator

- Still posting on all social media platforms. Calendars and website have been updated.

E. Revitalization Program

- See Pastor's notes

H. Event Form

- Form was made fillable and will be revised with a few changes and added to the website

VIII: New Business

- A. Ecobee Wi-fi Thermostat – Board needs costs for installation before approving to purchase. Barbara to contact Shaun Dodson to see what the costs will be and report back to the Board for approval.
- B. Beds wants us to sponsor one week July 27th through August 2nd. AA will have to be told no meeting for the week. August 2nd is the community service so the church will not be needed. Rox moved, 2nd by Joanie. All in favor of Beds.

IX: Executive Session if needed (Closed) None

Closing Prayer – Martha

Motion to adjourn by Barbara, 2nd by Rox. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm