

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
January 21, 2021
Via Zoom

- I:** Meeting called to order: 7:11 pm via ZOOM
Present: Joanie Baird, Martha Daniels, Barbara Adams Latsaras,
Roxann Victory
Regrets:
Guests: Mary Ann Latsaras
- II:** **Opening Prayer** – Roxann Victory
- III:** **Check-In:** Barbara is happy as a clam. Watched the inauguration all day.
Joanie has a potential job offer from temp job. She is doing okay.
Roxann and Colin are good.
Martha is okay and has to go to her office at HC to clean it up next week. Mother's diagnosis is good.
Mary Ann – Mary Ann is okay and is finishing up downstairs.
- IV:** **Approval of the Agenda** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras
- Motion to approve the agenda by Joanie, 2nd by Roxann, all in favor.
- V:** **Approval of December 2020 Board Minutes** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras
- Motion to approve the December minutes by Roxann, 2nd by Joanie, all favor
- VI :** **Reports**
- A. Clerks Report** – 21 adults, 2 children
- B. Treasurer's Report** – Joanie Baird
- Tithing** – November 2020 assessment $\$1,621 \times .035 = \57.00 which has been paid. The 2018 repayment is suspended for now. All prior assessments have been paid.
- IRS UPDATE** – Was paid and was received by IRS. Received the green postcard from USPS back that it was received.
- PPP Loan** – Have not seen anything yet on PNC website – PNC has given some direction on what they are doing for forgiveness but have not opened their portal yet.
- Income** - In Dec 2020 we had total income of \$5319, of which \$3818 was operating. This caused a net loss of about (-\$476) before adding in the salary subsidy allocation from the Krieger Bequest \$1500 = net gain of \$1024.

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Our current cash balance as of 1/20/20 is about \$17,243, plus two Sundays estimated total \$500, less Dec expenses \$3525 means 1/31/21 Operating Fund checking account balance estimated to be \$14,218, after paying Martha's salary for Feb.

The Checking Account balance is enough to cover our January Expenses. However, indirectly we *repaid* \$1672 of the Krieger \$10,000 reserve even after deducting the \$1500 we allocated for Martha's salary. However, we will probably have to allocate some of it to cover any deficit for Jan.

Bills

High current bills for **December 2020**:

- Erie Insurance \$292
- Fire Extinguisher inspection \$254

Need to Approve for January 2021

- a) Electric \$63 Due 2/3/21
- b) Gas \$160 January estimate. Due around 1/30/21
- c) Water \$114 November/December due around 2/1/21
- d) AT&T \$63 January actual due 2/3/21
- e) Erie \$336 Increased \$44.00 per month for 2021
- Total Bills \$736
- f) Flood repair Designated Fund balance is now \$71 left as of 12/31 due to some returns of products.

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

C. Pastor's Report

Board meeting by remote App

- a. Board meeting will be remote for February using ZOOM

Worship

We continue to worship via Zoom to Facebook Live from the sanctuary. Our Advent/Christmas worship was based on the idea of music—Jim Ulisse and Holly Blonde provided solos of music in the public domain, and I provided a solo for Christmas Eve. That Christmas Eve service was pre-recorded, with the Board reading prayers and Scripture and announcements. The video was then released on Christmas Eve afternoon.

Rev. Elder Cecila Eggleston provided a pre-recorded message to all MCCs for the Sunday after Christmas, to give pastors a break. I pre-recorded our service

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for that day and posted it on Facebook at 10 am on the 27th.

The Worship Team met on January 19 and began planning Lent and Easter worship. Ash Wednesday, February 17, placing of ashes in the afternoon at 3 pm and in the evening at 6 pm, masked and distanced outside. We will also have Lent in a Bag kits available for those who would like them.

Lent in a Bag will contain small items symbolic of various themes of the Lent season (a shell, sand, a human figure, small rock, candle, and seeds), and reflections to go with each. The message each Sunday will focus on one of those themes. The Worship Team will be assembling the bags in early February.

Palm Sunday (March 28) worship will be a dramatic reading of the Palm/Passion story, divided up among readers. The readings will be sent out in February to those willing to read so that they can record their portion of the reading; these recordings will then be edited into one worship video.

For Good Friday (April 2), we are considering a guided meditation, if the Brookfield/LaGrange Ministerium is not able to put together our usual Good Friday service. The Ministerium is meeting next week, and we will be discussing the Good Friday service, so we should know next week. Rev. Daniels has asked Mary Ann if she would like to lead the guided meditation on Good Friday. She responded yes, she would. They will discuss between them.

The Worship Team is still considering Easter and how we might celebrate it—as with so many church activities right now, much is uncertain.

Pastoral Care

I have continued to respond to various prayer requests, either privately or via the community prayers on Sunday, by email, Messenger, text, or phone call. I have provided pastoral support to some struggling members. I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail via prayers, court support, visits, letters, and phone calls. The delay in jury trials in the Cook County court system (due to COVID-19) is delaying their case as well.

Social Action Ministry

We continue to support Share Food, Share Love Food Pantry through donations of goods and the time of church volunteers. Barb Adams-Latsaras continues to distribute the Bombas socks. Several gift cards and monetary donations were made to congregation and community members at Christmas.

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Education/Formation

I have received several suggestions for possible studies and discussions, which I am still reviewing.

Community Outreach

Holy Covenant's Thrive with Pride Café is meeting regularly on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm via Zoom. Meetings include a social time, resource sharing and information, with occasional special guests. Larger meetings are led by Kate Spelman of AgeOptions and include a presentation on a topic of interest (financial issues, legal questions, housing, health, etc.). These are recorded and are part of the smaller groups' sessions.

We have received the Memorandum of Understanding for 2021. There are two changes to the MOU from 2020—one is that because we have already conducted the listening sessions, that has been removed from the work plan.

The other is the addition of a request for the liaison (myself) to attend bimonthly leaders' meetings. I would like for us to approve that tonight.

I continue to connect with the Brookfield/LaGrange Ministerium. We had a meeting in December and will be meeting next week.

UFMCC

The Connection newsletter is now monthly. Rev. Carolyn Mobley, our Network Leader, has been in touch, for encouragement and support as needed.

Elections to the post of Elder and membership in the Council of Elders will be taking place next week, via the Internet. The Council of Elders provides spiritual guidance and advice to the Governing Board. Holly Blonde (delegate) and I are registered to vote at the Virtual General Conference.

Revitalization Team

The Revitalization Team met in January. We discussed possibilities for the future, both while we are still online and when we can return to in-person worship. Some suggestions include a watch party for the worship video later in the day on Sunday, reviving my Twitter posts on Sunday, and designated greeters for the Facebook feed, especially with the watch party. Roxann is considering creating TikToks for the church as well.

I continue my monthly calls with Rev. Dexter Brecht (Imago Dei MCC, Media, PA) and Rev. Joy Simpson (Joy MCC, Dayton, OH).

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Other

I submitted my report to the Louisville Institute on December 30, 2020. I will be meeting with Rev. Cathy Alexander (Vocational Leadership Coordinator, MCC), Rev. Wanda Floyd (Emerging Churches and MCC Communities), Rev. Kharma Amos (Resource Development, MCC) and Rebecca Wilson (Church Development and Support Coordinator, MCC) on Friday, January 22, to discuss the possibility of revival of MCC's Prison Ministries.

I have begun a short-term (12 week) support group for chaplains to support my work in prison ministry

VII Continued Items

A. Building and Grounds Mary Ann Latsaras

1. Wind Damage on Outside Sign

Still waiting on quotes for repair to the sign

2. Progress on Fellowship Hall Rehab

Outside stairs and deck are not completed. That will have to wait until Spring to complete.

Have a little bit of touching up to do downstairs. Have been decorating and need to complete the tile backstop in the kitchen on the walls and the tile in the bathrooms. Mary Ann will do a walk through on her pre-flood list and will then move upstairs to start that work. There is some sanding to be done then clean-up from the sanding. Will do some touch-up on the wainscoting upstairs, doors, windowsills and after that is complete will do the labyrinth and lay the carpeting on the stairs.

B. Fundraisers

Roxann and Rev. Martha met and have some fundraising capabilities with Anderson Books. It can be online or in-store purchase. Looking to do it March 14-20th or March 21st through March 27th if previous week is taken by another fundraiser.

Also looking at Betterworld.org for online auctions, Socialevents123.com for online trivia, Bingo etc.

Mary Ann has some fundraising ideas and will talk with Roxann about it later.

C. UFMCC News – See Pastor's notes

D. Social Media Coordinator

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Have changed the website for January. Have added a new calendar to the website which will have the links to any Zoom meetings.

E. Revitalization Program

Rev, Martha continues her monthly calls with Rev. Dexter Brecht (Imago Dei MCC, Media, PA) and Rev. Joy Simpson (Joy MCC, Dayton, OH).

F. Planning for the Future

Review COVID-19 numbers

- a. In person worship criteria – Will be reassessing at the February 2021 board meeting.

Planning for February through April

- b. We will still live stream probably through April.

VIII New Business

Renovation Recognition

Mary Ann wants to create an area upstairs to recognize those who helped and how we renovated the church. She would like to put up pictures, the rocks that were left at our door etc. Mary Ann will make up a drawing and send it to the Board to review.

IX: Executive Session

A. None

Move to end the meeting at 10:21 pm by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara. All in favor.

Closing prayer by Barbara Adams Latsaras