

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
January 19, 2023
Via Zoom

I: Meeting called to order: 7:08 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests:

II: Opening Prayer – Barbara Adams Latsaras

III: Check-In:

- Barbara – Nothing is going on.
- Joanie – Everything is good including car and work. Visited her daughter in PA at the beginning of the year.
- Martha – Doctor visit earlier today.
- Roxann – Colin has tested positive for Strep Throat. Working from Minnesota.

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

Motion was made to approve the Agenda with the inclusion into New Business about having to purchase a new computer by Roxann and 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

V: Approval of December 2022 Board Minutes – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

Motion by Roxann to approve the Board Minutes, 2nd by Barbara. All in favor.

VI: Reports

A. Clerks Report – 22 adults, 3 children. One member Robert “Wiz” Hathaway passed on November 15th.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Joanie Baird

a. Tithing – December 2022 assessment = Adjusted income (excluding Designated and Donor payments of church bills) \$3,609 x .035 = about \$126 which has NOT been paid. 2018 Assessment repayment is suspended for now.

b. Income – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 1/18/23 is about \$2,151 plus two Sunday's estimated total \$600 = \$2,751 available less Martha's salary for Feb 2023 (\$2500) leaves only \$251 after paying salary less \$382 unpaid December bills leaves shortfall of -\$131 less \$656 January estimates bills leaves -\$787 shortfall for regular bills.

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Bills January 2023 for Board approval:

a) Electric	\$ 75 Est
b) Gas	\$ 300 Est
c) AT&T	\$ 52
d) Erie Workmens Comp	\$ 52 Monthly
e) Nov/Dec Water Bill	\$ 229
Total Bills	\$ 708

There will be a one time down payment of \$1,408 for our new building insurance company Northfield.

Flood repair Designated Fund balance is still \$8 as of 11/17/22.

December 2022 HVAC Designated Fund Balance is about \$935.

We borrowed a total of \$1800 from the Designated Fund in May, based on expected income from various Facebook and GoFundMe fundraisers. (These will be repaid to Designated when the funds are available.)

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

Motion by Roxann to pay January bills as money is available and the Board agrees. Barbara 2nd and all in favor.

C. Pastor's Report

Worship

The Longest Night service was recorded and uploaded to YouTube. I have received positive feedback for it.

Christmas Eve service went well. We used music from other MCCs, and several members commented on how much they liked that. Christmas Day service was pre-recorded and available on YouTube. New Year's Day service was hybrid.

I have begun a sermon series based on our mission statement, on the themes of inclusion, spiritual, social justice and community action. Over the course of the series, I am asking the congregation to think of ways Holy Covenant could live

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more fully into that value. On the fifth Sunday (February 5), I plan an interactive sermon to gather the ideas from the congregation. They will be recorded on newsprint and left up around the sanctuary with some way for people to indicate the concepts that speak to them.

On the first Sunday of Lent, again interactively, we'll choose one or two concepts in each area for focus on for the year. These will, again, be the focus of my messages during Lent.

Rev. Michael Cooper (MCC Illiana, Portage, IN) will be with Holy Covenant on January 22 to present me with the Rev. John Hose award; we will co-consecrate and serve Communion together.

The worship team met January 10, to begin planning for Lent

Pastoral Care

The community prayers continue. I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail; this seems to be drawing closer to a resolution. I continue to be available for congregational support as needed.

Social Action Ministry

We supported a couple of members through the benevolence fund. Our order of Bombas socks is due in February.

Administration

I am generally in the church office two days a week, most often Tuesdays and

Community Outreach

SAGE continues to meet by Zoom; and now in person also (hybrid) on Fridays at 1 pm.

LaGrange Ministerium met yesterday, however, I was unable to attend. I will report to the Board once I have their report, especially on plans for Good Friday (April 7).

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 via Zoom (next meeting October 6).

The next large group meeting will be January 24, at 11 am, via Zoom. I will be offering a presentation on LGBTQ+ people who are imprisoned, especially seniors. The small group meeting will be on February 1 at 7 pm via Zoom.

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Revitalization Team

Rev. Dexter Brecht has moved to a position with MCC in the Congregational Support program, and the Revitalization program is on hiatus for now. Andrew, Roxann and I are setting up a meeting for discussion and planning next week

Education and Formation

Our next book study will be January 29, and will focus on Braiding Sweetgrass, a beautiful reflection on the ways Native American physical health and love of the natural world are blended into a deep theology..

UFMCC

I have been attending Tea Time with the Elders on the third Tuesday of the month at 4 pm CT. It's a time of prayer and discussion and theological work. It's also fun to get to know the Elders better (there are always at least two present facilitating) as well as other clergy from around the denomination.

Louisville Institute Grant

I continue with the readings and study, as well as setting up and conducting interviews with individuals in other denominations who work with people on the inside, and learning from MCC clergy who have worked in this ministry.

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

VII Continued Items

A. Building and Grounds

a. Roof Repairs

The roof for the church and garage has been approved by Erie to be fully replaced. We are waiting on seeing if the siding will be approved. Nick from C&N said he can start the replacement when the weather gets better. Have to get a permit from the town.

B. Fundraisers

a. Drag Queen Bingo – Remove from agenda

b. PJ Klems – Tabled until February

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C. UFMCC News

On January 22nd, Rev. Michael Cooper will be at HC to present to Rev. Martha Daniels the Rev. John Hose award and they will co-consecrate and serve communion together.

D. Social Media Coordinator

Have changed the website for January, continued Constant Contact every week and update Facebook as needed. Events have been updated in the calendar. Our domain name had to be renewed, as was our Nettek for the year.

E. Revitalization Program

See the Pastor notes above.

F. Planning For The Future

Martha did a 6-month tentative schedule for 2023. Barbara to put into the church Website calendar.

VIII New Business

A. Approval of Building Insurance

We have accepted the quote from Northfield insurance through Kurland Insurance. As of January 18th, our building will be insured with Northfield. Our Workmen's Comp insurance will still be through Erie.

B. New Computer Purchase

Our 10+ year old computer is failing us so two congregants have donated a new Dell OptiPlex 5000 (5090) with an Intel Core 10th generation processor with 8GB of memory. It should arrive by 1/20 and will be installed on 1/22.

IX: Executive Session - None

Closing prayer by Rev. Martha Daniels.

Motion to adjourn at 9:03 pm moved by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara.