

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
January 18, 2024
Meeting Held on Zoom

- I:** Meeting called to order: 7:16 pm
Present: Joanie Baird, Martha Daniels, Barbara Adams Latsaras (via Zoom),
Roxann Victory
Regrets:
Guests:
- II: Opening Prayer:** Roxann Victory
- III: Check-In:**
- Joanie – Dinged her mirror driving home yesterday from the church. She had dinner with her friends.
 - Martha – Had last hearing yesterday for one of her people who passed away and his case was dropped. She is now finished with her pastoral duties with the two prisoners as one person received 28 ½ years and is now incarcerated downstate.
 - Roxann – Michael will be coming home for a few days. Nothing else is going on with her.
 - Barbara – Went to give blood today at the Red Cross blood drive but hemoglobin was too low so they could not take it.
- IV: Approval of the January 2024 Agenda** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras
Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Barbara and 2nd by Roxann. All in favor.
- V: Approval of December 2023 Board Minutes** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras
Motion by Joanie to approve the December Board Minutes with changes of month corrections and 2nd by Roxann. All in favor.
- VII: Reports**
- A. Clerks Report (verbal)** – 18 adults, 4 children
- B. Treasurer’s Report – Joanie Baird**
- a. Tithing** – Pension for December 2023 is \$1.75 * 18 members = \$31.50/month.
- b. Income** – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 1/17/24 is about \$12,004 plus two Sunday's estimated total \$600 = \$12,604 Total Less \$3,450 restricted to salary - less \$480 restricted for Cost Overruns less \$3000 Reserve = **\$5,674 Available less \$1,930 unpaid January bills leaves \$3,744 unrestricted balance on January 31, 2024**

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less \$2630 Martha Salary = \$1,114 unrestricted balance on Feb.2, 2024 for other January expenses. (Adding back reserves \$3450 Salary, \$3000 unrestricted and \$480 HVAC contingency = \$8,044 total projected checking account balance on Feb. 2, 2024.)

c. Unusual and/or large bills incurred in December 2023: None

Bills January 2024 for Board approval:

a) Electric	\$ 80 Est
b) Gas	\$ 180 Est
c) AT&T	\$ 52
d) Erie WC	\$ 58 Monthly
e) Water	\$ 190
f) Northfield Bldg Ins	\$1,318 Downpayment
g) Villa Maint Snow	\$ 110
h) Siteground (web)	\$45.99
Total Bills	\$2,028

The Designated Fund loan to

- a. There is about \$91 balance in the Bid Repair - Painting Fund (Rainbow Restoration).
- b. HVAC Designated Fund Balance is about \$983.
- c. Balance in the Sign Repair Fund is still about \$2,528.
- d. Checking Balance in the Designated Fund on 11/30/23 was \$8,498 less Age Options Zoom \$16 less Age Options ad \$138 = \$8,212 plus \$1,200 paid from Operating = \$9,412 on 12/31/12/ Also, \$131 Share Food Share Love and \$25 Pastor Appreciation in and out.

December 2023 assessment = Total income \$2,551 - \$131 Food Pantry x .02 = about \$48
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 Joanie to pay January bills as listed, 2nd by Roxann, all in favor.

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C. Pastor's Report

Worship

The Worship Team met January 14 via Zoom to plan worship for the next few weeks, including Ash Wednesday and Lent. For Lent, we will be following the same pattern that we did in Advent—choosing a symbol from the readings for each Sunday and placing it on the altar.

The Ash Wednesday service will be on February 14, at 7 pm, with both regular and glitter ashes.

Good Friday services will be at Plymouth Place this year, at 7 pm on March 29. Rev. Doreen will be our supply preacher for either February 4 or February 11 (I am planning on a staycation whichever week she is available). She is checking to see when she's free but is confident one of the two will work.

Pastoral Care

We continue to share prayers with the congregation.

The case against the individual in Cook County Jail who passed away has been dismissed. The surviving defendant is now in the assessment unit at Stateville; I am not sure whether I will continue to correspond with him or not.

Social Action Ministry

Barbara Adams Latsaras continues as our liaison with Share Food Share Love.

At the clergy luncheon on Wednesday, January 17, the group discussed ways we might be able to support the immigrants who have been bused to the Chicago area. Grace Lutheran of La Grange has been able to house a large family in their unused parsonage, and their congregation has cared for the family's needs. However, there will be other families in need. Holy Covenant may want to consider taking part in clothes or furniture collection for another family (or families) in the future.

Administration

As mentioned above, I plan to take either January 29 - February 5 or February 5 - 12 as vacation days, I would prefer the second, since there's only Pints with the Pastor scheduled for that week, but it will depend on when Rev. Doreen is available.

Community Outreach

The West Suburban Senior Center LGBTQ+ groups (formerly known as SAGE) continue its hybrid meetings. I have not been able to attend as regularly this month due to the holidays.

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The Brookfield/LaGrange Ministerium met on Wednesday, January 17 at Plymouth Place Retirement Community. As mentioned above, we discussed options for our congregations to support the folks being bused to Chicago and worked on plans for Good Friday.

I continue to work with the US Dept. Of Justice's Community Relations Service. We are tentatively planning a workshop in the spring for the clergy and community groups (police, schools, etc.) to learn about responses to hate/bias crimes. We have a planning meeting scheduled January 25. I am working with Rev. Jonathan Krogh (First Presbyterian of La Grange) and Minister Al Banks (Davis Memorial AME) on this project.

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, also by Zoom. This month's meeting is a focus group to learn about the needs of LGBTQ_ seniors in the Western suburbs of Chicago..

UFMCC

Several people have contacted me, wanting to work with me on the Spiritual Advocacy Ministry. I am working on setting up a meeting in late February.

PASTOR'S CONTRACT

Barbara must update the contract for Rev. Daniels from Jan to June 2024 with amounts and dates.

Roxann made a motion to accept all reports and Barbara 2nd. All in Favor,

VIII Continued Items

1. Building and Grounds

A. Nothing

2. Fundraisers

a. Trivia – Tabled until February

3. UFMCC –See Martha's Notes

4. Social Media Coordinator

a. Website - Have changed the website for January. Barbara has continued sending out emails via Constant Contact every week and updated Facebook as needed. Events have been updated in the calendar.

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b. VIII. New Business

- a. **Goals and plans for 2024** – Tabled until February meeting
- b. **Ratification of approval of Northfield Insurance** company through Kurland as the insurer of the church for 2024 and payment of the first installment. There was general discussion about other insurance companies and the cost to do business with them. Barbara did get a few quotes from them and they were over \$6K and some would not insure the church because of the age and the damage done and the claim for the roof and the building. Roxann moved to keep Northfield and pay a downpayment of \$1,318 and pay them monthly, Joanie 2nd. All in Favor.
- c. **Ad in Riverside Landmark full page with Age Options** – General discussion about contracting a whole page ad or half a page of ads. Roxann moved to do a whole page ad which is good for a year and Barb 2nd. Martha will do the text for the ad which will have Thrive With Pride prominent in the ad. The money will come from Thrive with Pride designated account. We will add a QR code for Holy Covenant and a QR code for Thrive with Pride on the page.
- d. **Chamber of Commerce of Brookfield** – General discussion about joining the Chamber of Commerce which cost \$90 for a year. Barbara moves that we join the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce with Rox 2nd. All in favor. Roxann joined up during the Board meeting using the church debit card.

IX: Executive Session – None

Closing prayer by Rev. Martha Daniels

Motion to adjourn by Roxann at 9:43 pm 2nd by Barbara.