

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
July 20, 2023
Via Zoom

I: Meeting called to order: 7:17 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests:

II: Opening Prayer Barbara Adams Latsaras

III: Check-In:

- Barbara – Knee is improving. Mar is in Phoenix and it is so hot!
- Joanie – Car has to go in for repairs.
- Martha – Working on new grant application. Rev. Dexter and Rev. Cecilia will be writing a referral for her to send in with her grant letter. Barbara will approve that the Board is okay with Martha pursuing this grant.
- Roxann – On her trip to MI with Colin. She is ordering food and resting.

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

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Barbara and 2nd by Rox. All in favor.

V: Approval of June 2023 Board Minutes – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

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

VI: Reports

A. Clerks Report – 22 adults, 4 children. Rev. Martha has written a letter to go to congregants which has to be approved by the Board. Board members were instructed to read the letter and get back to her with approvals or changes by the August meeting.

B. Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird

a. Tithing – June 2023 assessment = Adjusted income = \$3,559 x .02 = about \$71.

b. Income – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 7/18/23 is about \$15,547 plus two Sunday's estimated total \$600 = \$16,147, total - \$3,450 restricted to salary- less \$480 restricted for Cost Overruns less \$4,00 Reserve = \$9,217 available less \$3,662 unpaid July bills leaves \$5,555 unrestricted balance on August 1, 2023, after paying Martha.

In June 2023 we had Net Operating revenue of \$13,517 (including \$10K gift from the legacy fund of New Spirit Church) and expenses of \$3,630 so we had Net Gain of about only \$9,887 for June 2023. The \$10K that we received was split as follows:

Gutters - \$4,000

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Designated Fund - \$3,000
Reserved Fund - \$3,000

Unusual and/or large bills incurred in June 2023: None

Bills July 2023 for Board approval:

a) Electric	\$ 100 Est
b) Gas	\$ 100 Est
c) AT&T	\$ 52
d) Erie WC	\$ 48 Monthly
e) Northfield Insurance	\$ 321
f) Advance Fire	\$ 420 Yearly
Total Bills	\$1,162

Total owed by the Operating Fund to the Designated Fund is \$4,200., less \$3,000 paid by Board decision from the \$10 K gift from New Spirit Church = \$1,200 as of July 19, 2023/ New Checking Balance in the Designated Fund on 6/12/23 is \$5,581, which includes \$3000 paid off from Operating less about \$94 Thrive with Pride expenses.

There is about \$91 balance in the Bid Repair - Painting Fund (Rainbow Restoration).

HVAC Designated Fund Balance is about \$983.

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

C. Draft Budget Joanie presented a draft budget for 2024. There was general discussion on the budget. Joanie will fine tune the budget for August meeting.

Motion by Joanie to pay July bills in total, Roxann 2nd, all in favor.

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C. Pastor's Report

Worship

The Worship Team met on Tuesday, July 18. Upcoming special worship events are:

- Rev. Al Banks (Davis Memorial AME Church, La Grange) will be preaching on July 30th.
- The interfaith community worship service, "All Together Under the Sun" will be Sunday, August 6, at Gordon Park in LaGrange, at 10:30 am. The service will not be livestreamed.
- A service of reclaiming after the vandalism will be held in September. The Worship Team is working on this. Once we have conferred with a couple people, we will be able to set a date.

I am hoping to have a substitute speaker for Sunday, August 27.

Pastoral Care

The community prayers continue.

I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail. I project a resolution sometime late this summer or early fall. One of them is working on a plea bargain and the other has a trial date of August 21, but nothing is settled yet and much could change quickly. The final resolution will probably be later in the fall.

I continue to be available for congregational support as needed.

Holly Blonde has been reaching out to people we haven't seen in a while, just keeping them up to date and ensuring they know they are welcome to return anytime.

Social Action Ministry

Barbara Adams Latsaras is our lead on this right now, with her active participation at Share Food Share Love. I hope to spend a Saturday there in July.

Administration

I am generally in the church office one or two days a week, most often Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Community Outreach

SAGE—now West Suburban Senior Services or WSSS-- continues to meet by Zoom; and now in person also (hybrid) on Fridays at 1 pm.

LaGrange Ministerium met yesterday, Wednesday, July 19, to plan the All Together Under the Sun event taking place on the first Sunday in August, the 6th. We are to supply a couple of ushers for that.

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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 June 1).

The next large group meeting will be July 25 at 11 am, via Zoom, to discuss community resiliency. The next café (small group) will be Thursday, August 3, at 7 pm.

Education and Formation

I am considering books and movies for the fall and will be making a decision soon, to allow time for those interested to read the book or watch the movie.

UFMCC

I have been attending Tea Time with the Elders on the third Tuesday of the month at 4 pm CT.

Louisville Institute Grant

The period for the grant is over. The financial report and paper are technically due by the end of September. However, I am working on an application for a new grant, and the application deadline is August 1st, so I will be getting those in earlier. I am not sure if that will qualify me to apply for the new grant—I have a call in to someone at the Institute to find out more. My plan for this third (and, I think, final) grant is to implement the plan for creating a Spiritual Advocacy ministry within MCC, which could be a model for other denominations. This is supported by Rev. Dexter Brecht (Church Development and Support Coordinator) and Rev. Elder Cecelia Eggleston, the Moderator of MCCs (both of them are writing reference letters for me).

Other

My son and his fiancée, Ben and Kristin, have set a date of Tuesday, October 10, 2023, for their wedding. It will be very small, but depending on circumstances, I may need to take either the Sunday before or the Sunday after away from the pulpit. They will have a celebration in the spring/summer of 2024 (date not set), which I will probably also need to take some time away for—I will keep the Board informed.

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

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VII Continued Items

A. Building and Grounds

A. Siding/Roof Replacement – Mary Ann Latsaras/Barbara Adams Latsaras

The roof has been replaced on the church and garage and the siding will be replaced after this week weather allowing.

The Board approved via email to replace the gutters at a cost of \$3,300. The Board reserved \$4K for the gutters just in case of overruns.

B. Fundraisers

- a. **Fall Dance** – After much discussion and the low turnout for the Spring Dance, the Board decided to not have a Fall Dance and revisit having dances in 2024.
- b. **Garage Sale** – A date was set for the fall garage sale tentative as 9/30 with rain weekend 10/7.

C. UFMCC - None

D. Social Media Coordinator

- a. **Website** - Have changed the website for July, continued Constant Contact every week and updated Facebook as needed. Events have been updated in the calendar. Constant Contact was updated with our new debit card from First National Bank of Brookfield. Our account was updated to show 30% off for prepayment.

F. Planning For The Future -Remove from Agenda.

VIII. New Business

A. Letter To Absent Congregants

We will look at the letter at the August meeting after everyone has read it and commented on it.

IX: Executive Session - None

Closing prayer by Joanie Baird

Motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm moved by Barbara and 2nd by Roxann.