

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
March 18, 2021
Via Zoom

I: Meeting called to order: 7:28 pm via ZOOM

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

Regrets:

Guests: Mary Ann Latsaras

II: Opening Prayer – Barbara Adams Latsaras

III: Check-In:

- Barbara did a wellness visit with Dr. Bryan's 1st football game is tomorrow
- Joanie got her first vaccine shot at United Center. Working, still waiting for temp to turn into a full-time job.
- Roxann is doing good, working a lot, opening Roxy's Art Therapy on Etsy.
- Martha is okay, will get her first vaccine shot
- Mary Ann is okay, doing better from her fall

IV: Approval of the Agenda – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

- Motion to approve the agenda by Roxann, 2nd by Barbara, all in favor.

V: Approval of February 2021 Board Minutes – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

- Motion to approve the February minutes by Joanie, 2nd by Roxann, all favor

VI : Reports

A. Clerks Report – 21 adults, 2 children

B. Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird

Tithing – Feb 2021 assessment $\$1376 \times .035 = \48 which has been paid.
The 2018 repayment is suspended for now.

IRS UPDATE – Was paid and was received by IRS. Received the green postcard from USPS back that it was received.

PPP Loan – We have received approval of the second PPP loan for \$6,510 and it has been deposited in our PNC account and then transferred into the Designated Account.

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Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird (cont)

Income - In February 2021 we had total income of \$1,376. This caused a net loss of about (-\$3,242) before adding in the salary subsidy allocation from the Krieger Bequest \$1500 = net loss of (\$1,742)

Our current cash balance as of 3/17/20 was about \$11,460, plus two Sundays estimated total \$500, less Feb 2021 expenses \$3582, means 3/31/21 Operating Fund checking account balance estimated to be \$8,378, after paying Martha's salary for Apr.

The Checking Account balance is enough to cover our March Expenses. However, indirectly we **transferred \$1,742 in Feb from** the Krieger \$10,000 reserve even after deducting the \$1500 we allocated for Martha's salary, which would leave about \$8000 to cover remaining deficits and salary subsidies thru 6/30/21.

Bills

High current bills for **March 2021:**

- Erie Insurance \$336
- Nicor Gas \$217
- SiteGround Website Hosting \$480 for 2-years

Need to Approve for February 2021

a) Electric	\$ 60	Due 3/28/21
b) Gas	\$200	March estimate. Due around 3/28/21
c) Water/Sewer	\$134	January/February due end of March
d) AT&T	\$ 63	March actual due 3/28/21
e) Erie	<u>\$336</u>	Increased \$44.00 per month for 2021
<u>Total Bills</u>	<u>\$798</u>	

Flood repair Designated Fund balance is now \$71 left as of 3/17 due to some returns of products.

Current Balance in the Krieger Bequest will be about \$11,733 after allocating the Salary subsidy for Apr 1 paycheck \$1500. See attached file.

We have applied for forgiveness for the first PPP loan, and I believe that we have addressed their concerns and questions, but we have not been approved yet

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

C. Pastor's Report

Worship

Lent in a Bag (bags containing small items symbolic of various themes of the Lent season, handed out at the Ash Wednesday service) has been popular. The message each Sunday has focused on one of the themes presented by the items in the bag. I have reinforced those themes by using a photo of the item as my Zoom background for that day (seeds, rocks, sand, etc.) and the cover photo on my Facebook page that week.

Palm Sunday (March 28) worship will include a dramatic reading of the Palm/Passion story, divided up among readers. The readings were sent to readers to record their portion of the reading; these recordings will then be edited into one worship video.

For Good Friday, April 2, Mary Ann Latsaras will offer a short meditation and we will share prayers and some readings.

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.

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.

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Education/Formation

We offered a presentation of the Center for Elder and Disability Law on powers of attorney and other legal documents of interest to LGBTQ+ seniors on March 10, via Zoom.

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.

The Brookfield/LaGrange Ministerium met in person for the first time in a year in Holy Covenant's garden space on March 10 (social distance, masked, outside). We agreed to meet again under the same conditions, possibly at Plymouth Place, in April. We are planning to be able to offer the worship service at the Endless Summerfest in August, as it is outside (without singing, however).

UFMCC

Rev. Carolyn Mobley, our Network Leader, has been in touch, for encouragement and support as needed.

I attended the Elders Blessing on Tuesday, February 23—it was a very moving service. I recommend watching the video (on the MCC website and YouTube channel) when you can.

Revitalization Team

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

Other

I have contacted others in MCC who have an interest in this ministry to begin working together on this, and have commitments from several clergy to work with me, including Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson! This group will be meeting in April via Zoom to discuss the work further.

I have been accumulating continuing education hours. The Prophetic Preaching class will be completed on April 22. I also attended the Souls A'Fire conference on March 13 and 14, which fulfills MCC's continuing education requirement for anti-

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racism education in 2021.

I plan to take the week of April 5 – 11 off as vacation. I'll prerecord worship for that week and set it up to drop on the morning of the 11th.

Finally, with the new PPP loan in hand, we can discuss extending my contract (due to end in June) to the end of the year.

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

VII Continued Items

A. Building and Grounds Mary Ann Latsaras

1. Progress on Fellowship Hall Rehab See Mary Ann's notes at the end of this meeting.

Renovation Recognition

Mary Ann has found shelves to put up. She needs pictures of the renovation for recognition

Discussion about the needs of the church inside and out were had. The Board concluded that the sign was the most important, along with fixing the sinking cement by the top of the stairs.

Order of importance was established:

1. Sign
2. Sidewalk
3. Windows

There was a motion by Barbara to take \$1,000 from the Kreiger fund to put towards the sign. Roxann 2nd the motion. There was 3 yeas and 1 no vote to put \$1,000 into the sign account and for Joanie to transfer the money. There is now a total of \$2,300 for the new sign.

B. Fundraisers

- a) Mary Ann and Roxann met to discuss the Art Therapy & Rock dedications fundraisers and to return to the Board in April with the information.
- b)

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C. UFMCC News – See Pastor’s notes

D. Social Media Coordinator

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

E. Revitalization Program

Martha to get together with the revitalization team for assessment at a later date.

F. Planning for the Future Review COVID-19 numbers

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

Planning for April

- b. We will still live stream probably through April. Martha is getting her first vaccine shot in March. We will watch vaccination rates for Illinois.

VIII New Business

A. Advertising in church publications – SOP Manual

Advertising in the church bulletin is in the SOP and has to be approved by the Pastor. Language has to be developed for it to be MCC Church related or LGBTQ friendly. Martha will draft the language and pricing.

B. Advertising

There is a chance to get a year’s advertising in the Riverside-Brookfield Landmark Community Guide, which is printed, distributed and is online for a full year.

Discussion to use Thrive with Pride monies to advertise in the guide with the Thrive with Pride information used along with their logo for \$175.00. There was a motion by Barbara to advertise in the guide and it was 2nd by Roxann. All in favor. Barbara will connect with Lourdes from the guide to get the ad developed. The ad is business card size. We also have a line item in the guide under churches. The ad will be presented to Kate Spelman for Age Options approval.

Move to move out of the regular Board meeting at 10:12 by Roxann, 2nd by Martha. All in favor.

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IX: Executive Session

Motion to move into Executive session 10:13 by Roxann, 2nd by Martha. All in favor.

There was general discussion on Martha's contract for 2021-2022. Contract expires on June 30, 2021. There was general discussion on term. Joanie to run some scenarios for us for the April Board meeting.

Motion to move out of executive session at 10:23 pm by Barbara, 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

Closing prayer by Joanie Baird

Motion to adjourn at 10:24 pm moved by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara, All in favor.

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**HCMCC COMPLETION OF BEAUTIFICATION RENOVATION PROJECT
EXTERIOR WORK 2021 BUILDING & GROUNDS FUNDING REQUEST &
FUNDRAISING INFORMATION by Mary Ann Latsaras**

Stop at Village Hall to inquire about:

1. FINAL INSPECTION of RENOVATION from
flood of 5/16/2020!!!

2. We want to level and add gravel to our driveway and use a rented Bobcat to do that work. Do we need a permit to use the Bobcat on our property?

ANSWERED: No permit for Bobcat but for doing the work on the driveway = \$100

3. We need to do some fundraising events. What do we need, i.e. permits/licenses to hold:

a. Monthly/Bimonthly Dinners cooked and served in our Fellowship Hall which may include takeout orders?

b. Summer/Fall BBQ's, Cookouts, Hot Dog Days, etc.?

c. Monthly/Bimonthly Garage Sales, etc.?

d. Carnivals, Art Fairs, Music Festivals, or events that may require us to use our whole corner property, which may include setting up tables, booths, small tents and such along the Village Parkways?

e. What about blocking the street on Maple Ave., from our alley, North to Grant St., leaving the alley open for Northbound traffic detour, and leaving Grant St. open for Southbound traffic detour?

f. What about serving alcoholic beverages such as beer, wine, spritzers, etc.?

g. What about selling raffle tickets, lottery, games of chance, auctions, etc.?

ANSWERED: 3a & 3b are ok, no permits if we're already licensed to have our kitchen. The only fee would be for alcoholic beverages.

3c. Something can be arranged.

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HCMCC BOARD MEETING B&G AGENDA: 2021 SUMMER RENOVATION PROJECTS
(cont)

3d. This would be considered a block party permit, no biggie, just need to inform police, get permit from park district & if alcoholic beverages served have a designated area for drinking, gambling, lottery, split the pot, any other games of chance, small permit fee as long as it is within reasonable amounts.

1. Further allowance needed for the sign renovation \$1200-\$1500

- a. Proper lighting configuration and conversion to LED fixtures for cost efficiency, improved lighting and easier maintenance.
- b. Needed repairs to the box to include the Implementation of a nonexistent fixture for any outer cover/protector of the main sign.
- c. Cost to replace lighting fixture on the back of the sign that lights the flag.
- d. Cost of Plexi for signage greater than expectations. Prices are higher than the last replacement cost.

2. Funding needed for five yards of crushed gravel for parking lot \$660

- a. Crushed gravel 5 yds.....\$360
 - b. Bobcat rental 1 dy.....\$300
-
- Total Parking Lot.....\$660

3. Funding needed for landscaping, i.e. soil to perennial garden area near parking lot, which will be named "The 3 B'z Garden BeeZ, BirdZ & ButterflieZ" \$860

- a. Soil 4-5 yards.....\$350
 - b. Timbers for edging.....\$285
 - c. Perennials.....\$325
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- Total Landscaping.....\$860

4. Funding needed to repair sinking sidewalks near stairs to Fellowship Hall between church and garage. Must be raised and leveled, using our labor \$250

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HCMCC BOARD MEETING B&G AGENDA: 2021 SUMMER RENOVATION PROJECTS
(cont)

a. Concrete.....	\$100
b. Gravel.....	\$ 50
c. Jack rental.....	\$100
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Total Sidewalk Repair.....	\$250

REQUEST FOR B & G FUNDING FOR OUTSIDE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

1. Increased funds for sign...	\$1,500
2. Parking Lot.....	\$ 660
3. Landscaping.....	\$ 860
4. Sidewalk Repair.....	\$ 250
5. Painting exterior windows	\$ 180
TOTAL.....	\$3,450

This should complete all building projects leaving the church in near excellent condition, excluding the a/c.