

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
March 16, 2023 (held 3/19/23)
At Holy Covenant MCC

I: Meeting called to order: 12:34 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests: Holly Blonde

II: Opening Prayer – Rev. Martha Daniels

III: Check-In:

- Barbara – Work is good. Zeus the dog is good. Have a close neighbor in hospice. Everything else is okay.
- Joanie – Blessed with a newer car a Toyota Camry. The Kia stopped working. She has two new grandchildren twins a boy and girl. Work is okay.
- Martha – Thanks Barbara for her help with her flat tire in Arlington Hts, Il when she was at court. She took me to my Dr. Appointment the next day then took me to pick up my car. The rim had to be replaced so they ordered it and had the other three tires replace. Martha thanks Barbara for her help.
- Roxann – Received a promotion at work.

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

Remove roof repair discussion in the Agenda. Motion was made to approve the Agenda with corrections by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara. All in favor.

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

Motion by Martha to approve the February Board Minutes, 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

VI: Reports

A. Clerks Report – 22 adults, 4 children.

B. Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird

a. Tithing – February 2023 assessment = Adjusted income (excluding Designated) = \$2,043 x .020 = about \$41, which has NOT been paid to UFMCC.

Our assessments are retroactive to Jan 1, 2023 with UFMCC reducing our percentage of 3.5% to 2.%. We must do two special offerings at Easter & in September and keep up with payments to UFMCC. Motion to pay \$89 to UFMCC by Joanie and 2nd by Roxann.

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b. Income – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 3/13/23 is only about \$431, plus two Sunday's estimated total \$600 = \$1,031 Available Thus, we are (\$1,4) short of paying Martha's salary for April 2023, \$2500, Less \$113 unpaid Feb bills less \$539 March Utilities Less \$379 March Insurance leaves (-\$2,500) total shortfall for total bills . This is excluding UFMCC Q3 and Q4 Pension and Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec. Jan 2023 assessments, which total \$735 which are also unpaid to UFMCC.

Bills March 2023 for Board approval:

a) Electric	\$ 75 Est
b) Gas	\$ 300 Est
c) Gas catch up payment	\$ 112
d) AT&T	\$ 52
e) wErie WC	\$ 58 Monthly
f) Northfield Insurance	\$ 321
g) CCLI	\$ 175
<u>Total Bills</u>	<u>\$1,093</u>

A donor paid the CCLI bill, so that changed the cash flow report better by \$175.

NOTE: We also borrowed \$1400 from the Designated Funds on 3/5/23 to pay the down payment for the new Liability insurance as approved at the February 2023 Board meeting.

We also need to ratify the verbal approval by the Board for an additional \$1000 we borrowed from the Designated Funds on 2/26/23 to allow us to pay the March Pastor's Salary. Dated 3/1/23.

New total owed by the Operating Fund to the Designated Fund is \$4,200.

New Checking Balance in the Designated Fund on 3/13/23 is \$6,362, which includes a \$1000 deposit on 2/10/23 from Age Options for our 2023 Grant.

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

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

We setup a payment plan for the combined Dec/Jan Nicor bills. We paid \$213 immediately and will add \$112 a month to the regular bill for four months starting with the February bill.

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

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3. Overdue Utility bills
4. Regular Utility bills

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

Motion to ratify verbal approval for an additional \$1,000 to borrow from Designated fund to pay the Pastor. Motion by Roxann, 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

C. Pastor's Report

Worship

I have begun the Lenten series on the image of God, drawing from the week's readings to share art images of the diversity of the divine—water, phoenix, vision, etc.

We will be baptizing Felix Michael Ikonnikov on March 26th. His mother, Jill, and older brother, Asher, were baptized here in December of 2021.

I officiated at the memorial service of Tom (TT) Pleasants on Sunday, February 19, at 4 pm. You may have known him as a facilitator of AA, before he became too ill. The family made a donation of \$100.

Pastoral Care

The community prayers continue. I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail. I project a resolution sometime this summer. I continue to be available for congregational support as needed.

Social Action Ministry

Our order of Bombas socks arrived. We gave socks to Cheryl Bartik for the veterans and to Kathy Fritsch for the Waukegan High School homeless pantry along with the rest of the underwear.

There seems to be some interest in the congregation in reviving this ministry, which faded during the Covid shutdown. I plan to sign up for Share Food, Share Love in April.

Administration

I am generally in the church office one or two days a week, most often Wednesdays and Thursdays. I am hoping to take a Sunday off in April or May, depending on the availability of pulpit supply.

Community Outreach

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

LaGrange Ministerium met on March 15. The community Good Friday service will be at 2nd Baptist Church of LaGrange, at 7 pm on April 7.

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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 October 6).

The next large group meeting will be March 28 at 11 am, via Zoom, on the topic of challenges for LGBTQ+ caregivers. The small group meeting will be on April 21 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Revitalization Team

We are working on setting up a meeting.

Education and Formation

I am looking for another book or movie for our study group. Ideas welcome!

UFMCC

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

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. Nick Brito will meet with the Board and Mary Ann Latsaras to pick out roofing color and siding color and to discuss getting the permit which will be done by Nick.

B. Fundraisers

- a. **Spring Dance** – Date for the dance is June 10th. Roxann will be the lead for the dance and will get the liquor license and the liquor liability insurance. We will have some food costs and hopefully the auction will pay for what monies have to be paid out.
- b. **Garage Sale** – The garage sale is May 20th. Roxann and her mom Cheryl will run the sale. We need items for the garage sale and will announce & put in newsletter.

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C. UFMCC News

None

D. Social Media Coordinator

a. Website - Have changed the website for March, continued Constant Contact every week and update Facebook as needed. Events have been updated in the calendar. Our domain name has to be renewed by 4/28 along with our domain privacy. The cost for domain renewal is \$21.99 and privacy is \$24.99. Will approve at the March meeting.

b. Advertising in Riverside – Brookfield Landmark – The cost to advertise is \$195 and the money is not available currently. Motion by Barbara not to advertise and 2nd by Roxann, There were 3-yes and 1 – no. Motion carries.

E. PrideFests

We will put in announcements and newsletter for help or others to be coordinators of the Pridefests coming up. There is NapierPride, Aurora Pride and Plainfield Pride.

F. Planning For The Future

a. Options – There was discussion and the need to talk to the congregation about money as we are running out of money to pay the bills. The Board will bring the options to the congregation membership to vote.

There was general discussion on if we can merge with other churches or with A Church 4 Me to partner.

Martha was asked about what she could do in the future to earn money. Discussion about being a part-time pastor etc. Martha's contract goes to the end of June 2023.

b. Plan - There was discussion about doing a Go Fund Me to help pay Martha for the month and for our bills. We need to raise \$5,000 for the month. \$2,500 for Martha's paycheck rest for our bills. We will also send out an email blast about what we need moneywise.

We will meet via Zoom on March 23rd to talk more and to when to have a congregational discussion.

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VIII New Business

A. PCI APPLY

We do not receive credit card information electronically. We use PayPal, Zelle, etc. they are the ones that store that info, we don't. PCI is about secure storage of the credit info. We don't have it, so we don't have to worry about it.

IX: Executive Session - None

Closing prayer by Barbara Adams Latsaras.

Motion to adjourn at 4:18 pm moved by Roxann and 2nd by Joanie.

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Addendum to Rev. Martha Daniels March Pastor's Report

UFMCC By-Laws

Article V, Government, Organization, and Officers; Section B, Local Churches; Paragraph 5; Closure:

CLOSURE: When a church disbands or ceases to operate, the net assets of the church will revert to the use of the General Conference of the UFMCC. The Governing Board will decide the disposition of said property.

(No process given)

And Paragraph 6:

6. RESERVATION OF POWERS: Any specific matters of congregational approval not covered herein are left to local church option

Holy Covenant By-Laws

H. Special Congregational Meetings – In addition to the annual Congregational Meeting, special Congregational Meetings may be held. Special Congregational Meetings are governed by the same rules as those pertaining to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

1. Calling a Special Congregational Meeting – A Special Congregational Meeting may be called either by (a) majority vote of the Board, (b) the Pastor, or (c) a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members and submitted to the Clerk.

2. The nature and purpose of the Special Congregational Meeting shall be stated in the petition and in notices and be written into the agenda.

Options as I see them (we can discuss pros and cons at meeting):

- Sale of building and move to rental property (lots of sub-options here, about pastor's contract, rental of new space, sale of some items, etc.), with new/renewed ministries
- Maintain as is, with knowledge of limited time

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- Sale of building and move to rental property (lots of sub-options here, about pastor's contract, rental of new space, sale of some items, etc.), with new/renewed ministries
- Maintain as is, with knowledge of limited time
- Affiliated church (like us and AChurch4Me? MCC)
- Emerging Church (growing, but not at minimum threshold for affiliation)
- Spiritual Community (group of individuals meeting for prayers and communion, not large enough to be established as church or support pastoral leader)

Easier to move from one of these to another than to start fresh

Once MCC is notified of closure, they will begin process of assessing property of church

See MCC checklist below

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Church Name:	
Pastor:	
MCC Staff Representative:	
Church Tasks	(Date) Completed
Notification to UFMCC that Church is closing	
Special Congregational Meeting Invitation sent to UFMCC	
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes (includes that quorum was established, the motion presented, & voting results sent to UFMCC)	
Names and contact info for current Board of Directors	
Local church Bylaws on file with UFMCC	
Articles of Incorporation on file with UFMCC	
Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on file with UFMCC	
Assessment evaluation (consult with Marina)	
Board of Pensions evaluation (Affiliated churches only) (consult with Tammy Erwin)	
Property and assets discussion with UFMCC staff and/or Governing Board	
3-6 months of Bank Statements on file with UFMCC (for IRS reporting requirements)	
Final worship service plans (inform Moderator & Moderator Assistant so message can be sent)	
UFMCC Staff	
Inform Senior Leadership Team that church has shared the intention to vote on closure	
Inform Governing Board representatives that the church has shared the intention to vote on closure and make them aware of any potential asset or liability issues	
Check with Marina and Tammy E. on Assessments & BoP obligations	

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Ideas on what to put into the letter to the congregation.

1. Talk about shortfall for a few months.
2. Ministries we are involved in.
3. How much needs to be raised in dollar amounts to pay Rev. Martha
4. Fall off of attendance and giving since COVID.
5. How we have cut costs by eliminating or downgrading services
6. Bills that are outstanding and need to be paid.
7. Include utilities, insurance, assessment. Discuss how UFMCC has lowered our assessment to 2%
8. What we are doing for the congregation
9. What we do to make it better at our church
10. AA & other benefits of the building

This is one of the hardest things this Board has had to discuss. The choice of what we do is in your hands. We have tried to sell assets like our bells and the 10 graves in Lemont with no success.