

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
May 21, 2020
Via Skype

I: Abbreviated Meeting called to order: 7:38 pm via SKYPE
Present: Joanie Baird, Martha Daniels, Barbara Adams Latsaras,
Roxann Victory
Regrets: Sue Calahan
Guests: Mary Ann Latsaras

II: **Opening Prayer** – Barbara Adams Latsaras

III: **Check-In:** No check-ins from anyone all is good.

IV: **Approval of the Agenda** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

- Motion to approve the agenda by Joanie, 2nd by Martha, all in favor.

V: **Approval of April 2020 Board Minutes** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

- Motion to approve the April minutes by Joanie, 2nd by Martha, all in favor

VI: **Treasurer's Report** – Joanie Baird

Income

- In April 2020 we had a loss about (\$140).

Bills

- Our current cash balance as of 5/21/20 is about \$2366, plus two Sundays estimated total \$700 means 5/31/20 balance estimated to be \$3,116. Therefore, we probably will have enough to cover Martha in full on May 31. The March 2020 assessment was \$2248 x .035 = \$79, which has NOT been paid. The 2018 repayment is suspended for now. (We also still owe the Feb 2020 Assessment \$63.)

High current bills for Apr 2020:

Combined Mar Erie Insurance \$292 - 128 Church Mutual refund \$128 = \$164 net
Gas Nicor \$96
Com Ed \$58
Water/Sewer \$132 (2 months)

The Apr 2020 assessment was \$2913 x .035 = \$102, which has NOT been paid. The 2018 repayment is suspended for now. (We also still owe the Mar 2020 Assessment \$79 plus Feb 2020 Assessment \$63.)

- These have been deferred by UFMCC:

Feb Assessment
UFMCC \$63

Mar Assessment
UFMCC \$79

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Apr Assessment
UFMCC \$102

- **PPS Loan**
Received \$6100 on 5/1/20
Transferred \$2344 to Operating for May salary
Balance on 5/21 is \$3756.

IRS update

- Our response to the IRS letter demanding \$993 was sent to the IRS Certified and upon checking the USPS website the response was received by the IRS. No one to contact at the IRS office because of Covid-19.

VII Pastor's Report

Board meeting by remote App

- Board meeting will be remote for May using SKYPE

Worship

We continue to worship via livestream (Facebook Live) since March 22, 2020. When we reopen (whenever that may be), we can continue to do so, since we will not be able to sing for a while even after we can meet in person, so copyright will not be in question.

Pastoral Care

- I have shared prayers for several individuals. I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail. I've asked them to call me every couple of days, so I know they are OK. Both of them lost their maternal grandmothers to Covid-19.
- I am attending the SAGE zoom meetings and have been able to offer support to them.
- I officiated at Norm Mitchell's funeral on April 25.

Social Action Ministry

Share Food, Share Love continues as before—prepackaged bags with curbside delivery. BEDS is moving slowly back to their earlier practices. We may or may not be able to offer them space in August, as we had planned.

Education/Formation

I am using Rachel Held Evan's book "Inspired" for an online book study. We had our first meeting May 17, with three other attendees, two of whom were not even in Illinois!

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Administration

No real changes here. My main administrative concern has become cleaning up the basement after the sewer backup on May 17, which we will cover separately in this meeting.

Community Outreach

- SAGE continues to meet by Zoom—mostly simply for check-ins and updates.

- The Brookfield/LaGrange Ministerium continues to meet by Zoom every week—sharing resources and hearing updates. Rev. Lisa Telomen, pastor of First United Methodist in LaGrange, has been appointed to First United Methodist in Geneva, and will be moving there in late June. She will be greatly missed. Her successor is also affirming and supportive (Rev Lisa says), so I am looking forward to meeting her

UFMCC

We received several messages of support and encouragement from clergy and lay members. Our “Point Elder,” Rev. Elder Nancy Maxwell, has been in touch and offered support, as have Rev Elder Hector Gutierrez and Rev Elder Pat Bumgartner. Rev Elder Nancy shared the news with the Council of Elders, so we have support and prayers from the. Rebecca Wilson, assistant to Rev Elder Hector and coordinator for local church support, spoke with me extensively on Wednesday. Her former position was with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in Detroit and was there during the floods a few years ago. She gave us some advice, which, again, I’ve included in my report on the basement.

VIII Building and Grounds (other than Fellowship Hall) (Sue Calahan & Mary Ann Latsaras

a. Niche Painting

The Board has approved Mary Ann’s request to paint the niche behind the altar and to paint a permanent labyrinth on the church floor.

b. Issues with the Building

Mary Ann discussed what she found in Fellowship Hall when she was cleaning the bathrooms, floors and walls. She cleaned all the cabinets in the kitchen and threw away all old, opened and outdated food items. She disinfected the cabinet tops and sides. She shared photos of the work whereas she mentioned that a small job turned into a giant project. Her task list was made bigger and bigger by walking around and looking at all the rooms. She has painted the niche (needs a little

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touch-up) and has started matching the corners and centers for the labyrinth.

Mary Ann has washed all the blinds and cleaned the windows. She also talked about getting the chimney fixed for \$550.

c. Lawn Mowing

Barbara has been paying for the grass to be cut in Sue's absence.

IX Fellowship Hall & Boiler

a. Insurance

The estimate for the boiler is \$8300 to replace by Four Seasons who put in the boiler over a year ago. They came out to inspect the boiler after the flood. We had a virtual inspection from Erie insurance boiler inspector on 5/20. We will receive the report next week and will find out if they will repair or replace the boiler.

b. Clean-up plan, needs, progress

The wall board has to be cut from the bottom up which was done. There was over 12" of drywall cut off from the bottom. We removed all the baseboards and they them out.

Kathy Fritsch, Jim Ulisse and Tony came to the church and helped clean the kitchen and sanitize the cabinets. The products inside of the cabinets had to be washed with bleach as they were in the flood.

Floors were washed even though we are ripping up the tile to throw up. It will be more sanitary to clean the floors first before ripping up.

Some of the needs will be new doors, new floor, new cabinets, possibly a new freezer, new dishwasher, new desk for Martha, new office chairs, new boiler, painting the whole basement, new carpeting going from the upstairs to downstairs as water flooded one stair up and the firemen walked up and down the stairs with flood water on their boots.

c. Future plans: repairs and replacements

1. Backflow check valve for plumbing
2. Basement walls sealed
3. Roost for water leaks - motion to purchase on Church debit card was moved by Rox and 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

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d. Financing

If the boiler is not covered under insurance, then we may have to start a Go Fund Me page to raise funds to pay for replacement.

X Planning/contingencies for future – reopening building, resuming in person worship, etc. Rev. Martha Daniels

In case you have not seen the attached chart, it is the IL government's plan for gradual reopening.

Looking it over and thinking about the numbers of people at church and AA, I think we should wait until Phase Four.

We generally have about 15 people at worship--sometimes up to 20 or so. The noontime AA group (which is the one I saw most often) generally had 15-20 people, sometimes even more than that. I do not know about the other groups--Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night--but I think they range from 5 or 6 people on up. That is a lot of traffic in and out of the building! Given that we also have folks with lowered immunity, I think it would be wise of us to wait.

Once we do start having worship at church again, I would like to do a couple of other things. One is to have "travel" communion--these are individual packets with a wafer and a little cup of juice; you peel off the top and there's the wafer, then you peel off another foil and there's the juice. Per the guidance from the MCC webinar last week, I would give them to the congregation, dropping them into their hands. Is it the way I like to have Communion? No, but I think it is the safest right now.

Other considerations: we should leave the offering basket at the back for people to drop their tithes in as they leave (or enter) --to prevent passing it from hand to hand, and to keep social distancing.

No coffee hour until social distancing is not needed. The space downstairs is too small for more than about five or six people to keep that 6 feet of separation.

Singing--the jury is still out on this. Certainly not when we first go back, and until we are certain about the safety of singing, I think singing is not a good idea. Like talking, it spreads droplets, but because of the breathing and extra vocal cord vibration, the droplets go further and are more plentiful. This one really hurts, too--you all know how I love music and singing!

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Closing Prayer – Joanie Baird with Motion to adjourn by Barbara, 2nd by Joanie. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm