

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**May 18, 2023 (held on 5/21/23)**  
**In Person**

**I:** Meeting called to order: 12:27 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests:

**II: Opening Prayer** – Joanie Baird

**III: Check-In:**

- Barbara – I'm okay.
- Joanie – Going to PA to visit new grandchildren and daughter.
- Martha – Ben and Kristen are engaged. No date has been set yet.
- Roxann – Good but tired and working a lot.

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

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Roxann and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joanie. All in favor.

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

Motion by Roxann to approve the April Board Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joanie. All in favor.

**VI: Reports**

**A. Clerks Report** – 22 adults, 4 children. Letters should be sent to those missing 30-days and start the cleaning up of the membership.

**B. Treasurer's Report** – Joanie Baird

**a. Tithing** – April 2023 assessment = Adjusted income (excluding Designated and Donation from New Spirit \$5000) = \$8,056 x .02 = about \$161, which has been paid to UFMCC.

**b. Income** – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 4/19/23 is about \$12,232, plus two Sunday's estimated total \$600 = \$12,832 Available - \$3,450 restricted to salary = \$9,382 less \$2500 May Salary less \$941 unpaid May bills leaves \$5,941 balance on June 1, 2023

In April 2023 we had Net Operating revenue of \$13,410 and expenses of \$4,171 so we had Net Gain of about \$9,239 for April 2023.

Unusual and/or large bills incurred in April 2023: Mar - April water bill = \$227

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List of bills needing approval:

**Bills April 2023 for Board approval:**

a) Electric	\$ 81 Est
b) Gas	\$ 150 Est
c) Gas catch up payment	\$ 110
d) AT&T	\$ 52
e) Erie WC	\$ 58 Monthly
f) Northfield Insurance	\$ 321
g) Water/Sewer	\$ 227
<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$ 999</b>

Total owed by the Operating Fund to the Designated Fund is \$4,200. There was general discussion on paying back the designated funds. There was a motion by Roxann to pay \$500 to the designated funds any month giving is \$4,00 or better and it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara

New Checking Balance in the Designated Fund on 5/17/23 is \$3,238, which includes \$290 donated in April for repainting rainbows and net of about \$146 Thrive with Pride expenses.

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.

HVAC Designated Fund Balance is about \$983.

We set up 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 until June 2024.

Advance Fire & Safety was paid \$295 on 4/2. Martha will email them.

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 Roxann to pay May bills in total, Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup> and all in favor.

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**C. Pastor's Report**

**Worship**

For Mother's Day, we had a video of mothers in the congregation and mothers of people in the congregation. We will do the same for Father's Day. I included a prayer in the community prayers for all mothers and all children, recognizing that not everyone has or had a good relationship with their mothers or their children—I will do the same for Father's Day.

The Worship Team is meeting on Wednesday, May 24 via Zoom. We will be finalizing worship for Father's Day, IML, Pentecost, and Pride.

Saturday, May 6, was World Labyrinth Day. The church was open from noon to 3 pm to allow the public to visit, learn about labyrinths, and walk it if they would like. Holy Covenant is included on the World Labyrinth Society's listings of labyrinths open to the public.

We are finishing up planning for the IML service on Sunday, May 28 (Pentecost Sunday and Memorial Day weekend, as well). Jim Ulisse is taking the lead.

Rev, Nilsa will be preaching on June 11(I will not be present) and Rev. Al Banks (active at Davis Memorial AME Church) will be preaching (I will be here) sometime in July or August (date to be finalized).

**Pastoral Care**

The community prayers continue. I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail. I will project a resolution sometime this summer. 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 June.

**Administration**

I am generally in the church office one or two days a week, most often Wednesdays and Thursdays. I am hoping to take couple of Sundays off this summer, 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.

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LaGrange Ministerium met here at Holy Covenant on May 17, to join in a Zoom meeting with members of the US Department of Justice's Community Relations Service. The CRS works with members of the community to increase communication between marginalized faith communities (majority black, LGBTQ+, Moslem, Sikh, etc) and law enforcement, the larger community, schools, etc. The ministerium is hoping to set up a half-day training with them this summer, and include members of Brookfield, LaGrange, etc. police, the school, and others. I am also intrigued by the idea of a rapid response group, which they mentioned—to provide support in the case of a hate incident at a faith community (vandalism, hate mail, protest, etc.). I'll keep you posted on the plans.

Also, the All Together Under the Sun event will be taking place on the first Sunday in August, the 6<sup>th</sup>. Planning for that will begin next month.

**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 May 23 at 11 am, via Zoom, to discuss Parkinson's in the LGBTQ+ community.

**Education and Formation**

I have a couple of books under consideration (The Choices She Made and Demon Copperfield), and also thinking about movies for the summer.

**UFMCC**

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

**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. The grant will technically end in June. I have to turn in a report by September 1.

**Other**

The church received a note in Saturday, May 13, containing a photocopied page of the Bible with a passage highlighted which declares that men should not wear women's clothes and vice versa, and telling us we should read the Bible...A report was made to the Brookfield Police Department, who took a report and the note, to add to the file. I have photographs of the note, and Barb saw it on Sunday. I will go to pick up a copy of the police report later this week. Det. Bandela (who is the one working on the case), sent a couple of officers over to take the report.

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Motion to accept the Clerk, Treasurer & Pastor's report by Barbara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roxann, all in favor.

**VII Continued Items**

**A. Building and Grounds**

**A. Security – Mary Ann Latsaras**

We now have three cameras installed at the church.

**B. Painting – Mary Ann Latsaras**

Painting the front and back stairs is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. Mary Ann will contact AI for the pressure washer. Print a report for those who gave money for the painting to send them a thank you email.

**C. Siding/Roof replacement**

Siding has been approved per Nick Brito. He will contact Mary Ann and give her the date they will begin.

**B. Fundraisers**

**a. Spring Dance –** Dance preparation is underway per Roxann. She has ordered items for the dance to decorate and for the auction. Will get the liquor permit from Brookfield. Dance is June 10<sup>th</sup>. Mary Ann will be the DJ for the dance. Barbara has the PDF and PNG's to put on Facebook and Website.

**b. Garage Sale –** Garage Sale is May 20<sup>th</sup> and we are prepared.

**C. Benevity/Bing**

Discussion on signing up as fundraisers for HC. Board is concerned about giving them our banking information.

**C. UFMCC - None**

**D. Social Media Coordinator**

**a. Website -** Have changed the website for May, continued Constant Contact every week and updated Facebook as needed. Events have been updated in the calendar.

Since the vandalism we have increased our FB following by about 25 people and there have been new signups for our newsletter. Saw an uptick on website use too.

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**F. Planning For The Future/Painting**

**a. Newsletter**

Take "Masks optional" out of the newsletter.

**b. Old Way of Intention**

Considering dipping wafer in juice/wine instead of separate cups.

**c. Passing of Peace** – considering returning to doing that

**VIII New Business**

**A. New Banner**

An area sign company has offered to donate signs to us. Barbara will contact him to see what we can get as we would like a feather sign.

**IX: Executive Session - None**

Closing prayer by Barbara Adams Latsaras.

Motion to adjourn at 2:06 pm moved by Roxann and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara.