

**Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes**  
**November 17, 2022**  
**In person**

**I:** Meeting called to order: 7:28 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests:

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

**III: Check-In:**

- Barbara – I am okay, Mary Ann has to get some scans.
- Joanie – Life is getting better. Oil issue has gone away.
- Martha – Her son is going to Maryland for Thanksgiving. Martha will spend it alone. Ben has a new girlfriend that is nice. It has been a busy week. Martha received an award from MCC for her service visiting with prisoners and her support of them.
- Roxann –Working a lot.

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

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

**V: Approval of October 2022 Board Minutes** – Barbara Adams-Latsaras

Name correction on October minutes for Calahan, Hillum and Alexander. Motion by Roxann to approve the Board Minutes of October with correction on names. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joanie. All in favor.

**VI: Reports**

**A. Clerks Report** – 23 adults, 3 children. Barbara has to create the membership for the Congregational Meeting. Roxann gave Holly Blonde the listing of people from Realm for the Pastoral team to contact people.

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

**a. Tithing** – October 2022 assessment = Adjusted income (excluding Designated and Donor payments of church bills) \$3,285 x .035 = about \$115 which has NOT been paid. 2018 Assessment repayment is suspended for now.

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

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**c. PPP Loan** – We have received forgiveness for the first PPP loan, Forgiveness is pending for the second PPP loan and is no longer showing up on the PNC banking page for us.

**d. Income** – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 11/15/22 is about \$1,069 plus two Sunday's estimated total \$750 = \$1,819 available less Martha's salary for Sept (\$2500) leaves only -\$681 less \$246 unpaid October bills, leaves a shortfall of (-\$927) needed October bills and December salary, less \$919 November bills will leave a TOTAL shortfall of (-\$1,846) on December 1, excluding UFMCC.

**Bills October 2022 for Board approval:**

a) Electric	\$ 73
b) Gas	\$ 125
c) AT&T	\$ 52
d) Erie Insurance	\$ 355 Monthly
e) Water, sewer	\$ 314 Only pay every 2 months
<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$ 919</b>

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

September HVAC Designated Fund Balance is about \$935.

We borrowed a total of \$1800 from the Designated Fund in May, based on expected income from various Facebook and GoFundMe fundraisers. (These will be repaid to Designated when the funds are available.)

There was general discussion about paying church insurance as they will be dropping us in 2023. If we do not pay the insurance and are cancelled it would be harder for us to obtain insurance on the building should something happen. It was decided to continue paying our Erie insurance 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
3. Overdue Utility bills
4. Regular Utility bills

Motion by Roxann to pay November bills as money is available and the Board agrees. Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup> and all in favor.

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**C. Pastor's Report**

**Worship**

The worship team met October 19, to begin planning for Advent. Upcoming worship events include Trans Day of Remembrance service on November 20, the community Thanksgiving service on November 20 (3 pm) with community dinner afterwards. Advent begins on November 27, and then we are in the run-up to Christmas. Our Longest Night service will be on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 pm. The Christmas Eve service will be on Saturday, December 24, at 7 pm. Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year. The Worship Team suggested a pre-recorded service this year, using pre-recorded videos from various church members, put together in one video and scheduled for 10 am on December 25. For January 1st, when I will not be present, I will either pre-record a message or if Rev. Elder Cecelia records a message for the MCC, we will use that.

**Pastoral Care**

The community prayers continue. I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail; this seems to be drawing closer to a resolution. I continue to be available for congregational support as needed. I have begun contacting individuals we haven't seen in a while, with some good results. I have to catch up on noting the contacts in Realm, however! Holly Blonde and I met on October 20 and agreed that she would be the first contact for those who have not attended in a while, and then if there needs for me to meet (the person wants Communion or a visit, for example), I would take care of that. Holly has indicated she is also available as back up for me as needed for visits.

**Social Action Ministry**

I volunteered at Share Food Share Love on Saturday October 15 (Tuesdays are not possible for me, since that's when my choir rehearses). November and December have proved to be too busy for me to do so. I plan to volunteer in November.

**Administration**

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

We have begun preparing for the Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM). The forum will be held on November 13 and the formal business meeting on November 20. So far we have Barbara Adams Latsaras and Roxann Victory running for two of the three vacancies on the Board, and Jim Ulisse running for Lay Delegate.

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**Community Outreach**

SAGE continues to meet by Zoom; and now in person also (hybrid) on Fridays at 1 pm. La Grange Ministerium met yesterday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. We finalized plans for the community worship service and dinner on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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 November 29, at 11 am, via Zoom, the next small group meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm.

In other news, Kate Spelman has moved on from AgeOptions. Jason Echols is facilitating Thrive with Pride while the search for Kate's successor continues.

**Revitalization Team**

I continue to meet with Rev. Dexter. The team is setting up a meeting for discussion and planning.

**Education and Formation**

Our next book study will be January 22, and will focus on Braiding Sweetgrass, a beautiful reflection on the ways Native American physical health and love of the natural world are blended into a deep theology..

**UFMCC**

On November 2, I was notified by Rev Elder Cecelia Eggleston, Moderator of MCC, that I had been awarded the Rev. John Hose award for Clergy. The official announcement came Monday, November 14:

*“Rev. Martha Daniels of Brookfield, Illinois, USA has been awarded the Rev. John Hose Award for Dedicated and Faithful Service by a Clergy Person in MCC.*

*“Rev. Martha is recognized for her outstanding work in prison ministry, for her passion, for successfully obtaining grants for prison ministry, and for coordinating with others who have a heart to share the God's love and acceptance to those in prison.”*

*“Named after Rev. Elder John H. Hose, one of the first MCC clergy who became part of the first Board of Elders, served as Treasurer of MCC, and who contributed a great deal to MCC's Statement of Faith, this award honors outstanding service to MCC as Clergy.”*

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Details on the formal presentation are coming soon. I am honored and very surprised!

**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.

**Other**

An update on the sign incident: one of the churches in LaGrange was asked by their denomination to take the information to the FBI, which was done. The FBI agent assigned to the case recognized the individuals on the video as members of a Proud Boys group. On Monday, November 14, anti Semitic graffiti was spray-painted on several grave markers in a Jewish cemetery in Waukegan. On Wednesday, the 16th, at the clergy lunch, we were told by the pastor of the church who contacted the FBI that she had been notified by the FBI that the three individuals had been arrested. No more details were given.

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

**VII Continued Items**

**A. Building and Grounds**

**a. Roof Repairs**

Question about roofing company. Look over contract to see if we can get out of contract. We will talk with Mary Ann on November 20<sup>th</sup> after the congregational meeting.

**b. Snow Shoveling – Javier**

We will be good using Javier as our snow removal company. He would have to get approval to shovel/salt from Martha Daniels or Barbara if less than 2". Change the website and newsletter to reflect asking for money to pay for shoveling for the winter.

Motion to use Javier to do snow shoveling by Roxann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martha. All in favor.

**B. Fundraisers**

**a. Drag Queen Bingo – Tabled until December**

Garage sale netted about \$260 Need more items for next year.

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**b. PJ Klems – Tabled until December**

**C. Report on Church Dance** – There was not enough people at the dance and there was mostly congregants. We had approximately 18 people. The dance and the auction brought in over \$1,000.

Some items that was auctioned were:

Paw Print & Rainbow blankets - \$65 Paw, \$40 Rainbow

Star Wars - \$75

Song request to Martha not to play - \$20

Sermon request to Martha - \$50

Photo Booth - \$25

Sue's Cupcakes 2-dozen – \$20

50/50 was \$60 and the money was donated back to the church

Etched glasses for Eddie, Martha's prison pen pal \$101

It was questions whether it was the date which was Saturday before Halloween, COVID, or another reason that held people back from attending. The dance was advertised in Meetup groups, Plainfield Pride and other areas. These are things to keep in mind should we have a Spring dance.

**D. Giving Tuesday**

There will be emails sent out on the next two newsletters for Giving Tuesday.

There will also be an email sent out on November 29<sup>th</sup> which is Giving Tuesday with a follow-up Thank you the day later. We have a matching donor up to \$500.

**C. UFMCC – See Pastor's notes**

**D. Social Media Coordinator**

Have changed the website for October, continued Constant Contact every week and update Facebook as needed. Events have been updated in the calendar.

**E. Revitalization Program**

See the Pastor notes above.

**F. Faith Lutheran and Sanctuary Use**

The church has decided to disband and will not need to use our sanctuary. They will direct people to our church and other churches in the area. We pray for them and the hard decision they had to make.

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**G. Church Security**

Martha has spoken to the Brookfield Deputy Police Chief and will setup a training for the Board and Worship leaders by the end of the year.

**VIII New Business - None**

**IX: Executive Session - None**

Closing prayer by Rev. Martha Daniels.

Motion to adjourn at 10:01 pm moved by Barbara and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roxann.