

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
October 21, 2022
In person

I: Meeting called to order: 7:15 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests:

II: Opening Prayer – Joanie Baird

III: Check-In:

- Barbara – Dr. visit for Mar was good. Shoulder is healing. Will take weeks.
- Joanie – Work is getting better. Car is going through oil. Enjoyed Plainfield Pride. Things are good.
- Martha – Had issues with the sign. Choir will be singing in La Grange
- Roxann – Everything is okay. Stressing about the dance. Working a lot.

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

Motion was made to approve the October Board Minutes with addition to Fundraisers by adding Giving Tuesday by Joanie and Martha 2nd. All in favor.

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

Motion to approve the September minutes by Barbara, 2nd by Roxann, all in favor.

VI: Reports

A. Clerks Report – 21 adults, 3 children.

We have an Office Depot Global Account. Barbara sent the sign-in information to the Board.

B. Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird

a. Tithing – September 2022 assessment = Adjusted income (excluding Designated and Donor payments of church bills) \$2,759 x .035 = about \$97 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.

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

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page for us.

d. Income – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 10/16/22 is about \$1,305 plus two Sunday's estimated total \$750 plus \$500 estimated proceeds from the Fall Dance/Auction = \$2555 Available less Martha's salary for Sept (\$2500) leaves only \$55 less \$751 Unpaid October bills, leaves a shortfall of (-\$696). In September 2022 we had total Operating revenue of only \$2,855 and expenses of \$3,413, so we had net deficit of about (-\$585) for September 2022.

Bills October 2022 for Board approval:

a) Electric	\$ 68
b) Gas	\$ 75 Estimated
c) AT&T	\$ 63 Paid by donor
d) Erie Insurance	\$ 355 Monthly
e) Water, sewer	\$ 0 Only pay every 2 months
<u>Total Bills</u>	<u>\$ 498</u>

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

CVLI license for playing video is \$270. After discussion, the Board decided to suspend the license until a later date. Barbara will write to CVLI to let them know.

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.)

Roxann has picked up the AT&T bill for \$63, Microsoft for \$9.00 and ACS (Realm) for \$31

Proposed Budget for 2023

There was basic discussion about adding and subtracting items from the budget. Joanie is to revise the budget and email to the Board the new one which the Board will vote on approval. It will then be presented to the congregation on Nov. 20th.

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

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C. Pastor's Report

Worship

The worship team met last night, October 19, to begin planning for Advent. Upcoming worship events include welcoming new members on October 23, an All Saints observance on November 6, 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—I plan a casual service with a few carols, Christmas memories, and Communion.

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. Holly Blonde and I are scheduled to meet the afternoon of October 20.

Holly will be first point of contact for cards, letters, etc. for sick, birthdays, anniversaries. Holly will do visits as a backup to Martha

Social Action Ministry

I am working on reactivating this ministry; I've spoken with Holly Blonde about this as well, and our meeting will cover SAM as well. I'm volunteered at Share Food Share Love on Saturday October 15 (Tuesdays are not possible for me, since that's when my choir rehearses).

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 will meet next week, when I should have an update on their many activities.

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 October 25, at 11 am, via Zoom, and the topic is "The Stonewall Generation-LGBT Seniors and Sexuality." We will also be covering this in our small group meeting on October 6 at 7 pm.

Revitalization Team

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

Education and Formation

I offered a membership class after church on October 9, and had two attendees, both of whom will be taken into membership on October 23 during worship.

I am scheduling book/movie discussions for October 23 and November 27. The topic for October will be the book and movie "In This House of Brede," a novel about a very successful British civil servant in the 1950s-60s who leaves a lavish lifestyle behind to join a convent and become a nun. We'll explore the themes of mysticism, companionship, call, and service. The book is available on amazon and the full movie is available on YouTube. I don't have a topic yet for November, but it will probably be Advent/Christmas themed as that is the first Sunday of Advent.

UFMCC

No news to report.

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

Saturday evening, October 15, several affirming churches in the village of LaGrange had homophobic signs placed on their doors. These signs used both Biblical quotes and inflammatory language to call upon clergy members to cease supporting LGBTQ+ members and to "turn and repent" if they themselves identified as

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LGBTQ+. According to a member at one of the churches, who works with the censorship group at the American Library Association, the language on the sign is very similar to that used by the Oath Keepers organization, which is known for homophobia and white supremacy beliefs. Video surveillance at the churches revealed footage of three high school age males with the signs, packing tape, and a backpack. The individuals could not be identified. Police reports were made.

Monday evening, one of our Board members came to the church in the evening to do some office work and observed the signs on our front doors. She removed them, photographed them, and notified the rest of the Board. Tuesday morning, I notified the Brookfield Police Department. I had been in conversation with Deputy Chief Terry Shriver on Monday about the events in LaGrange. An officer came to take the report and took the signs with him as examples. He emphasized their willingness to respond to any concern we had with individuals and indicated that they would be increasing their patrols in the area.

In my conversation with DC Shriver on Monday, he recommended we place a camera on the front door as well as the back one. He felt surveillance cameras were more reliable and flexible but agreed that a Ring is more affordable and is almost as useful. He also suggested a program the BPD offers to deal with disruptors (someone who interrupts the service via shouting or singing, with the intention of stopping the service) as well as violent individuals (with or without weapons). The Worship Team will also discuss this at our meeting Wednesday (this is written Tuesday morning).

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

VII Continued Items

A. Building and Grounds

a. Roof Repairs

Barbara will email Nick from C&N to see the progress with Erie.

B. Fundraisers

a. Garage Sale

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

b. PJ Klems

Barbara did a survey about what people would want to do. Still thinking about it.

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d. Church Dance – Dance date was changed to October 29th. Roxann concerned about people coming and how many tables we will need. Artis Wilson (Barbara's SIL) has offered to make a beef brisket and serve it as sliders at the dance. Sue will DJ and we need someone to collect money at the door. Kathy and Bob will be donating beer and others will donate the wine.

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

We are waiting on them to make a decision.

F. Plainfield Pride

It was a windy day and cold. The tents were taken down because of the wind. Sue Calahan, Holly Blonde, Andrew Hillum, Joanie Baird and Rev. Martha Daniels were there to represent us. We thanked them for doing this! The city wanted PP to cancel the Drag Show but they would not. There were protestors there, food vendors, Planned Parenthood, League of Women Voters and others had tables there. Martha estimates that we had about 30-35 people stop at our table.

A. Congregational Forum and Annual Business Meeting

Everything is prepared except for accounting, social media, Building & Grounds reports. We will use September accounting for this meeting.

VIII New Business

A. Church Security

Martha reached out to Rev. Cathy Alexander at MCC to report the hatred that was shown to us. Rev. Cecilia Eggleston wants to make a press release but Martha asked her to hold off until we hear from the FBI and/or police about the matter. There was general discussion about the letter that was left. We will be putting security into our SOP's for future years. Martha is to write up a letter to the congregation to put into the newsletter. Will be having some training

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regarding security. Barbara has donated a Ring doorbell to the church to use for the front door. We will talk to our electrician to see if he can put it in.

A. Snow Removal for Winter

We received a quote from Jesus for snow removal and it is way past our budget at this time. We will use him as needed.

Barbara will put in Brookfield Connections a request for snow removal quote. She will send Jesus an email regarding our decision.

IX: Executive Session - None

Closing prayer by Roxann Victory.

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm moved by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara.