

Holy Covenant MCC Board Minutes
September 21, 2023
Meeting Held at HC 9/28/23

I: Meeting called to order: 7:41 pm

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

Regrets:

Guests:

II: Opening Prayer Barbara Adams Latsaras

III: Check-In:

- Barbara – Been busy. John & Linnie Dumas want to stop by on a Sunday to thank the congregation for being a partner.
- Joanie – Granddaughter is a Senior now. Work is okay. Twins are okay and growing. Went to Joliet Pride celebration on 9/23/23. It was good and they had a drag show advertised as a variety show.
- Martha – Ben visited with Martha on 9/27 to discuss the upcoming wedding. Rev Johnathan at First Presbyterian will officiate the wedding wearing Martha's stole. Their bridal shower was held on 9/24. It was held in Oswego. I continue preaching for Imago Dei church on a supply basis.
- Roxann – Not a whole lot going on. Work is good. Been fighting a reoccurring sinus infection.

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

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Martha and 2nd by Roxann. All in favor.

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

Motion by Joanie to approve the August Board Minutes, 2nd by Roxann. All in favor.

VI: Reports

A. Clerks Report – 22 adults, 4 children.

B. Treasurer's Report – Joanie Baird

a. Tithing – August 2023 assessment = Adjusted income = \$1,535 x .02 = about \$31.

b. Income – Our current Operating Fund cash balance as of 9/20/23 is about \$11,862 plus one Sunday's estimated total \$300 = \$13,666 Total - \$3,450 restricted to salary - less \$480 restricted for Cost Overruns less \$3000 Reserve = **\$5,232 Available** less \$694 unpaid September bills leaves **\$2,038 unrestricted balance on October 1, 2023** after paying Martha.

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Unusual and/or large bills incurred in August 2023: None

Bills September 2023 for Board approval:

a) Electric	\$ 86 Est
b) Gas	\$ 75 Est
c) AT&T	\$ 52
d) Erie WC	\$ 58 Monthly
e) Northfield Insurance	\$ 321
f) Water Est. Jul-Aug	160
Total Bills	\$ 752

- a. Total owed by the Operating Fund to the Designated Fund is still \$1,200 as of September 20, 2023
- b. There is about \$91 balance in the Bid Repair - Painting Fund (Rainbow Restoration).
- c. HVAC Designated Fund Balance is about \$983.
- d. Balance in the Sign Repair Fund is still about \$2,528
- e. Checking Balance in the Designated Fund on 7/31/23 was \$5,757 plus Age Options Grand 2023 \$1,500 = \$7,257 less \$25 possible overpayment to C&N = \$7,232 on 8/31/23 less Age Options Zoom \$16 less Age Options support \$88 = \$7,128 on 9/20/23.

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

C. Draft Budget Continued discussion on 2024 budget which Roxann moved to table to Executive Session, Barbara 2nd, All in Favor.

Motion by Joanie to pay September bills as listed, 2nd by Roxann, all in favor.

Motion to approve 2024 budget to present to the congregation by Barbara, 2nd by Roxann with all in favor.

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C. Pastor's Report

Worship

The Worship Team met Wednesday, September 13

We are planning for the reclamation service on Sunday September 24. I've invited several folks from the community, fellow clergy, and those who volunteered to help with the repainting.

We have begun to think about other upcoming special services as well—Blessing of the Animals on October 7, All Saints on October 29, and Advent beginning November 26.

Pastoral Care

The community prayers continue.

I continue to support the two men in Cook County Jail.

I continue to be available for congregational support as needed, both for people who are in church in person regularly, and for others. I visited one member when he was in the hospital recovering from surgery and again when he was in physical rehab.

Pints with the Pastor continues to be regularly attended, with usually at least three people and sometimes as many as eight.

Social Action Ministry

Barbara Adams Latsaras is our lead on this right now, with her active participation at Share Food Share Love. We received an invitation to request Bombas socks again—we need to decide if we want to continue with this.

Administration

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

Community Outreach

SAGE—now West Suburban Senior Services or WSSS-- continues to meet by Zoom; and now in person also (hybrid) on Fridays at 1 pm.

LaGrange Ministerium met yesterday, Wednesday, September 20. I was not able to attend but will report on whatever is passed on to the group via email.

Thrive with Pride

The large group continues to meet via Zoom on the fourth 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 September 26 at 11 am, via Zoom, to discuss changes to Medicare—this is important for many people, as the open enrollment period is

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coming up. The next café (small group) will be Thursday, October 5, at 7 pm.

Education and Formation

For our fall education event, we will watch “Joseph,” (1995; available on YouTube) for discussion October 22 after church.

UFMCC

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

Louisville Institute Grant

The grant awardees will be announced November 1st, so I am just waiting to hear!

Other

Continuing Education--I attended a wonderful webinar on Tuesday morning (the 19th), presented by a very well-known Biblical scholar, Amy Jill Levine, on the Gospel of Mark. She has published a new study of Mark. This is of particular relevance because the three-year lectionary cycle of readings, which focuses on a different gospel each year (John is used for Lent and Easter), will focus on Mark in the upcoming year.

Personal—just a reminder that I will be largely unavailable from the afternoon of October 8 through the afternoon of October 11. My son Ben’s wedding is October 10, so I will be involved with various family events (rehearsal, ceremony, reception, etc.). I will also be out of town October 15 through 17.

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

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VII Continued Items

A. Building and Grounds

A. Siding/Roof Replacement – Mary Ann Latsaras/Barbara Adams Latsaras

The new roof, siding and gutters replacement have been completed at a cost of \$76,549.61 with Holy Covenant only paying for the gutter replacements at a cost of \$3,200. The rest was paid by Erie Insurance & work completed by C & N Roofing.

B. Fundraisers

- a. **Garage Sale** – Garage sale date was set as October 7th. Barbara will talk with Chery Bartik (Roxann's mother) to help with the sale. There will be no rain date.

C. UFMCC – See Martha's Notes

D. Social Media Coordinator

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

B. Letter To Absent Congregants

The Board reviewed the letter and made changes as needed. Martha will make corrections and email to Barbara to send out. We will snail mail first, then follow up with an email few days later. There were 4 members the letters were sent to. They will have until September 30, 2023 to respond. If there is no response then they will be removed as members which in October will show as 18 members.

VIII. New Business

C. Bombas Request

Barbara filled out the request and requested socks be sent during the 2nd quarter of 2024. We will distribute to VFW, veterans, homeless and women's shelter just to name a few of the organizations.

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D. Annual Congregational Business Meeting

The meeting for the year is set for November 12, 2023 after services. Joanie is up for re-election and there is an unfilled position available. The date that was set was October 20, 2023 for the Board packets to be in to the Board with the ministry reports due by the same date and for those reports and applications for Board member to go out by November 5, 2023 via email to members only. Reports are needed by Social Media, Clerk, Pastor, Congregational Care, Treasurer and Building and Grounds. There will be a forum on 11/5 for questions on the budget and for Board positions.

E. Weeding

Barbara presented to the Board that we can hire Alison & Graham Daly to do the weeding at the church (which is sorely needed) as no congregants came forward to do it. They will charge \$30 an hour. Motion by Roxann to hire Alison to do the weeding for no more than \$100 and was 2nd by Barbara with all in favor. Barbara will contact Alison to set a date to come and do it.

IX: Executive Session – None

Closing prayer by Joanie Baird

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm moved by Roxann and 2nd by Barbara.