

**Minutes of the MCCDC Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 21, 2016**

Members Present: Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Fenicia Ballard (by phone), Kathleen Carey, Mark Kornmann, John Merriwether, Knut Panknin

Guests Present: Rev. Cathy Alexander, Jim Garner, Donte Hunter, Denise Wright

I. **Call to Order**

Rev. Dwayne called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. **Song/Scripture & Opening Prayer**

As opening prayer, Knut shared a scripture from Colossians 3:12-14 that talks about clothing ourselves with love. Rev. Cathy shared the song “Breaths” by Sweet Honey in the Rock, a band she loves. The song talks about our ancestors.

III. **Consent Calendar**

Rev. Cathy had one addition to the agenda – a proposal for a fall revival. Knut moved to receive the agenda and Mark seconded. The motion carried. Kathleen then moved to receive the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Knut and was approved unanimously.

IV. **Informational Items**

A. **Shout Outs**

A shout out went to the Pastoral Care Ministers for their retreat and full participation in Sunday’s services. Another shout out to the YAMs for their open house and cook out. Valeria Myers received a shout out for their ministry work around the Share program, and Mark Kornmann received one for his 5-year long ministry in putting together and sending out the eblast each week.

B. **472 Update**

Mark reported that he will meet with the inspector on Friday and that no decision has been made yet on the basement bedroom windows. He also met with the tenants in unit #2 who felt that the Property Management Company did not respond properly to their requests. Crescent decided to switch the property managers, and Matt Rock will be the point of contact for the tenants from now

on. They had several issues with package deliveries, security outside of the building, doorbells, and parking. Mark bought two wireless doorbells and Dennis will look into installing an automatic lock at the main entrance door. Mark asked the Board to remind congregants and church facility users not to use or block the parking spaces for 472. Mark will also meet with Lance for access to the rental portal and to reconcile accounts and deposits. Lance will then do the split of rental income into mortgage, maintenance and reserves.

C. Trustees

Jim Garner gave an update from the Trustees. He informed the Board that Brian Scott would step down after fulfilling his three-year term as a Trustee, effective August 1st. He and the Board thanked Brian for his excellent service. Brian will serve as a “Trustee Emeritus” to provide institutional knowledge, and he also looks into other ways of serving MCCDC.

One big issue is the gate repair. The contractor, Bini Iron Works, has been on site but is not very responsive. The Trustees are escalating communication with them. If the contractor does not start work in the next few days, the Trustees will consider contracting out of the agreement and requesting the deposit down payment that had been made by The Food Bank (50 percent of the projected costs).

Another project is the roll out and announcement of the gender-neutral restrooms. The restrooms on the entrance level will have no locks at the main entrance and will be used by all genders equally. Signage will be provided to inform users of the change and the set-up of the restroom. The lower level restrooms will remain single use restrooms. The Trustees recommend an education and info campaign announcing the change to the congregation. They will also be available for questions and comments.

Rev. Cathy said that she is in favor of the switch as presented but also reminded the Board and Trustees that the implementation proposal is different from the original plan to turn all bathrooms into single use restrooms. Therefore, we need a good communication campaign. In order to facilitate this, she has set up an email account for the Trustees.

Kathleen wanted to know why the Trustees decided to change the original proposal. Jim said that there were different reasons – there was strong support from Trustees for a true gender-neutral facility and there were pragmatic reasons. Having all single-use restrooms would limit the number of people who can use the restroom at the same time. We also would have to replace bathroom doors on the main level and there are already single-use restrooms available downstairs.

Rev. Dwayne favored an abbreviated communication campaign that could start on July 17th. The change would be implemented on Sunday, August 7th. He also suggested good signage similar to the one that Open Doors MCC uses for their gender-neutral facilities (so people know what set-up they walk into). Mark said that he expects pushback from some members in the congregation and that the basement restrooms need to be well cleaned and stocked. There should also be people at hand at the 11am service for the Sunday of the implementation.

Another issue that Brian alerted the church of was the imminent closing of a unit in the condo building in the back (462 Ridge St NW). In our MOU with the builder, there was a stipulation that the construction company, in exchange for using the church parking lot as drive way for construction, will resurface and align the entire parking lot, once construction was finished. However, that has not happened yet. Additionally, we need amended and recorded easement documents as the original easement showed four contiguous parking spots for that building. Today, there are two times two parking spots with limited hourly use for condo owners. Rev. Cathy said that she would follow up with the construction company regarding the pavement, and Mark will call the title company to make sure that the owner advises the condo buyer of the easement regulations before closing.

Kathleen also asked the Trustees to look into whether the city would replace the tree that they have cut down in front of the church on Ridge Street.

D. Treasurer's Report

John presented P&L reports for January through June 16, 2016, and also a balance sheet as of June 30th. The combined P&L showed a positive balance of \$1,416 as of June 16th. The total for the checking account, including Eagle Bank money, was \$85,922.

He also said that the Finance Committee (John Merriwether, Tammy Orebaugh, Tim Hassett, and Phil Helbling) would meet on July 3rd and that they will discuss the 2017 budget.

Mark asked for the General Account balance and wanted to know why we dropped from about \$20k to about \$10k if the income for the month was positive. He asked whether we changed reporting, and if we paid denominational tithes on the money that was fundraised for the 45th anniversary.

Rev. Cathy affirmed that we paid tithes on the profits, but that income from the 45th was still accounted for in the stipulated accounts and does therefore not

show in the checking account. John said that one large factor for the drop was the tithes of about \$5,000.

Mark asked to watch check requests this week as there will be one more payroll on Friday and that the check for the denomination should be held.

E. 45th Anniversary

Rev. Cathy gave a closing report on the 45th Gala. She said that total revenue was \$27,192, and that expenses were about \$23,889. A net profit of \$3,303 will be transferred into the General Fund. Mark added that there were also still \$500 to collect from pledge cards.

Rev. Cathy also reported on the cruise bid. The original bidder had stepped back from his commitment, and Rev. Dwayne and Cathy have spoken to him to ask him to at least make up the purchase price and make a donation to the church. She also went to lower bidders but no one has stepped up at this point.

The photographer has provided pictures and a video with photos, and the 45th activities continue with a columbarium project and other history pieces.

Kathleen expressed her deep frustration with the bidder. She asked Pastor Dwayne to have a strong conversation with him. The bidder was upping bids that night, he got credit for it, and we cannot let him walk away. What is more, the church needs the money, and he should be at least responsible for the Delta.

Denise said that she would ask friends who might want to go on this cruise. There is a group of her friends who are going already, and she might find one more person. If that does not work out within the next week, the church will have a silent auction in the eblast. The certificate for the cruise needs to be redeemed by August 1st.

F. Follow Up from Congregational Forum

Rev. Dwayne thanked Mark for creating an eblast for a congregational input on the candidates for clergy and lay positions as well as the Moderator's position up for election at General Conference.

He also presented edited guiding statements, based on the congregational feedback. The three main concerns were around the words "co-creator", "progressive" church and reflecting "Jesus" more prominently in the document.

The new mission statement reads: “We are creating a powerful inclusive spiritual community, working with God to make a positive difference”. Under the section “We are called to”, he added:

- Be fully engaged in our own spiritual growth and giftedness.
- Follow the call of Jesus to “come, taste and see”, inviting all to the open table of Jesus’ beloved community.

The section “Growing from the Inside Out” was edited and reads now: “As we live into this vision, we will inspire people to discover and develop their talents. [...] We will equip them for Spirit-led ways of service to make a positive difference in the lives of others”.

The section “Becoming a Spiritual Force” reads: “Empowered by the Holy Spirit we share [...]”.

Mark asked whether the edited version addresses Johanna Hardy’s main concerns. Rev. Dwayne affirmed that it addresses her primary concerns.

Mark moved to adopt the guiding statements as amended by Rev. Dwayne and to present them for a vote at the Congregational Meeting on July 17th. Kathleen seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mark also said that we would need to communicate with the congregation how the new guiding statements will move us forward and be implemented. That discussion needs to be part of the Congregational Meeting. Rev. Dwayne added that he is working on making it more engaging for the congregation as well.

G. Bylaws Committee

Knut said that he would put together the Committee after his return from vacation in July. He will also make sure that proposals to amend the Bylaws will be placed before the Congregational Meeting by a majority vote of the Board taken at least 30 days before the Congregational Meeting, as laid out in the current Bylaws.

V. Discussion/Voting Items

A. Endorsement Tom Simmons

Rev. Dwayne presented an endorsement letter for former intern Tom Simmons. The letter states that the BoD of MCCDC endorses Tom Simmons for ordination with the Metropolitan Community Churches. Mark moved to endorse Tom Simmons as laid out in the endorsement letter and Kathleen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Clothes Drive Fundraiser

Rev. Cathy presented a fundraising idea from Dan Ezell and Michael Alexander. The firm “Donation Drive” offers a fundraising tool to raise money by collecting gently used clothing, accessories, and household items. The drive would run for 2-3 weeks in July, where congregants give and contribute in kind items. With the fundraiser, they can clean out their closets and help the church get revenue. “Donation Drive” provides promotional materials and will pay MCCDC by the pound for goods collected. They will either pick items up from the church after completion of the drive or – if we do not collect enough – give us money to rent a truck and drop off the items ourselves at their MD location.

Mark moved to approve the clothing drive fundraiser as outlined in Rev. Cathy’s proposal. Knut seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Movie Fundraiser

Rev. Cathy presented a second fundraising idea – a movie fundraiser, showing the movie “Chely Wright: Wish Me Away”, about a country singer and her journey after coming out.

The fundraiser would be done in cooperation with UCLA. The only stipulation they have is that we show the movie publicly and do marketing together. We would have to charge \$10 per ticket, and sales income would be split between UCLA and MCCDC. We would have to use our own media outlets (eblast, website, bulletin, free ads in Blade), and UCLA would use theirs. There are no overhead costs, as we have the equipment to show the movie and staff time would be allocated accordingly. The proposed date for the movie screening is September 10th.

Mark moved to approve the movie fundraiser as outlined in Rev. Cathy’s proposal. Knut seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

D. Revival Proposal

One idea from the Congregational Listening Posts that received a lot of verbal support was a revival to address spiritual engagement, connections, and re-ignition. Rev. Cathy and Rev. Dwayne reached out to a potential preacher for the weekend, and suggested a date in September.

The tentative schedule is

- Friday, September 23: prayer, fasting, praise service led by Pastoral Care team

- Saturday, September 24: half day to a day retreat, evening revival service, led by guest preacher
- Sunday, September 25: 9/11 am services, led by guest preacher

The suggested preacher and workshop leader is Dr. Cari Jackson, a former MCCDC member and highly acclaimed spiritual leader, author, speaker, and leadership coach. Rev. Cathy negotiated a tentative rate for the weekend (\$3,500), which might be lower eventually. Greg Snyder and Steve Jones would provide housing. The total budget for the revival would be around \$4,650.

Mark suggested inviting UFCDC to join us for the revival and have Rev. Abena preach one night. We should also add a social component, such as a pancake breakfast after services on Sunday. In terms of finances, we should raise the money early on, preferably by support and sponsorship from top givers. That way, we would have all the funds before the revival.

The BoD and Rev. Cathy agreed with the added proposals and Mark moved to have the revival as presented by Rev. Cathy on September 23-25, 2016. John seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

VI. **Adjournment**

Kathleen moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Knut and was approved unanimously. Rev. Dwayne closed the meeting in prayer.