



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2023, 6:30PM

Moderator: Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Board Members: Ace Barbari, Johanna Hardy, Phil Helbling, Chocolatté Miller, Bobbi Strang

Trustees:

Guests: Rev. Cathy Alexander, Dr. Carla Sherrell,

Song – Bobbi: Ruthie Foster “Joy on the Other Side”. Scripture - Ace: Psalms 9 vers 9-10.

- Approval of Agenda. Motion Phil and Bobbi. Agenda approved.
- Approval of Meeting minutes from June. Motion to receive Phil and Bobbi. Approved.
- Consent Calendar –
 - Update on Security Grant (signed in September) – report on progress on the work. Pastor Dwayne reported that the security grant is in the final stages. Melvin has been meeting with Clear Connection to finalize the details so work can begin.
 - Pastoral Report – Rev. Dwayne mentioned some highlights:
 - Eclectic Praise is going to have their first concert soon.
 - This Sunday we will have a discussion following the 11am service at 12:30 on Wellness. Pastor Dwayne asked for the presence of the BOD.
 - Reverends Dwayne and Cathy were interviewed for the Transgender Project.
 - Rev. Dwayne will be part of a panel on Trans-literacy in Virginia later this month.
 - Rev. Cathy concurred with the importance of the Transgender Project work. That this is a reflection and reaffirmation of the work that MCC DC is called to do.
 - Engagement discussion and the role of Trustees. Chocolatté said that the condition of the building merits having Trustees to ensure that the building continues to be taken care of. Rev. Dwayne said that there is a need to recruit Trustees. Trustees are a subset of the BOD. Phil said that he is happy to say something at a service regarding the church’s need for Trustees. There are currently 3 vacant Trustee positions. Johanna said that she is uncertain if the Trustees know that part of the responsibility is to create a pipeline of maintenance needs. Rev. Dwayne asked Phil and Chocolatté to discuss ways to advocate for Trustees. Rev. Cathy said that the emphasis is on not only those that are willing but those that have leadership skills to make sure the things that need to be done get done.
 - Discussion to reaffirm or revise the priorities and processes from the 2023 board retreat. Rev. Dwayne mentioned financial responsibility/stewardship and church growth. Bobbi asked if we have a stewardship working group. Rev.

Dwayne said we do but we need to reevaluate their interest and bring them back because we are looking at a generosity initiative in the fall. Rev. Dwayne said that Aug. 9th we will discuss these topics. Both Rev. Dwayne and Johanna mentioned the difficulty of capturing the true number of people that are attending online because some may be attending a “watch party” others may be watching via a Discord page, etc. Bobbi asked if MCC DC has the ability to pay via CashApp or Venmo. Johanna said we do not have CashApp or Venmo set up but we should. In order to do that however we need to sign up for meta pay. Rev. Dwayne mentioned that some of the in-person visitors have been driven by our social media.

- What specifically needs to be discussed regarding the financial future of MCCDC. Terri is not here so we will discuss more next time.

- Treasurer’s Report - Terri is not here so we do not have a Treasurer’s report.

- Support for Financial Responsibilities and Processes. Potential discussion of midyear giving statements or board phone bank to congregation. Rev. Dwayne mentioned mid-year giving statements and a phonebank to the congregation. Need to find a date for the phonebanking. Ace said he works on Sundays but is available during the week to do phonebanking.

- “Building a Culture of Generosity” update. Discussed via the items above.

- Other items (to be discussed, as needed)
 - Fire system update – Rev. Cathy reported that \$34K that remained of the \$175K that the congregation approved to be spent out of the FRTF Terri transferred those funds into our Truist account to be used for this purpose. We are awaiting the final wording of the contract to pay for the Fire system update. But the \$34K will not be enough to cover the expected \$46K which the fire system update will cost. The thought was then to go to the Congregation to ask for approve to pay for the balance needed out of another approved withdrawal from the FRTF. Rev. Cathy said it will take a Congregational meeting and a Congregational vote to release any funds from the FRTF. The other alternative is to take the money from the Emergency fund at Eagle Bank that has about \$26K in it, however this would not be a wise or appropriate use of the emergency fund which is needed for emergencies – which this is not.
 - Update on Sanctuary Renovation. Rev. Dwayne reported that there is a training coming on 7/23 to be led by the professionals from the electronic vendor. Thanks to Dale Baskerville and the Tech. team.
 - Update on the 472 rental units – Melvin. Melvin was not present at the BOD meeting. Rev. Dwayne mentioned that Phil has been helping keep an eye on the maintenance and costs. Rev. Cathy noted that one of the previous vendors work should be under warranty.
 - Update on DC Central Block proposal down the street. Rev. Dwayne reported that he had talked to Michelle Nigro our neighborhood representative who asked us to draft a letter about our concerns. Johanna said that the City has made the decision to add 24 cells without consulting with the community so it looks like it is moving forward

regardless of our concerns at this point. This is due to the fact that there are already cells there and that this is not considered a change in use. The cells would go in the basement and construction is due to begin in the fall. This was not an MPD decision but a decision by the Dept. of Corrections and the Mayors Office. Rev. Dwayne will take the action to draft the letter of concern.

- Discussion on push to encourage members info updates. Rev. Dwayne mentioned the importance of members keeping their records current. Johanna mentioned the importance of including consideration of Melvin in our effort to collect information. Johanna mentioned the concern about collecting private information from members.
- AV advancement Project with AVG – This is a completed project and can be removed.
- Mid-City Development – no update.
- Early Learners Academy Update. Rev. Dwayne reported that the contract is up for renewal and we're looking at it now. Ace asked if the Early Learners have moved back upstairs. Rev. Dwayne reported that they had.
- 50th MCCDC Anniversary – no update.
- Discussion on the Buchanan Fund – no update.
- Shout-Outs – Rev. Dwayne gave a shout-out to a pop-up cleaning group which include Chocolatté on landscaping including Rev. Cathy and Dr. Carla, and Miss Peters and Remond Hammond. Chocolatté gave a shout out to Pamela Stevens for stepping up. Rev. Cathy gave a shout out to the hospitality and greeter volunteer support group. Rev. Dwayne gave a shout out to the people who moved the chairs after the service. Rev. Cathy seconded the shout out to the pop-up landscaping group which included Pamela, Chocolatté and others. Rev. Dwayne reported that we hired a new part-time custodian. And we have another interview with a possible additional custodian.
- Scripture and Song for following meeting: Song – Phil. Chocolatté – scripture.

Motion to adjourn – Phil and Chocolatté.