



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

## Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2023, 6:30PM

**Moderator:** Rev. Dwayne Johnson

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

**Newly Elected:** Tina Fulp and Darryl Walker

**Trustees:** ~~Cecelia Hayden Smith, and Tamara Orebaugh~~

**Guests:** Rev. Cathy Alexander, Rev. Jules Christian, Dr. Carla Sherrell, Dr. Teresa Tygart

- Welcome to Tina Fulp and Darryl Walker
- Song and Scripture: Bobbi - 1 John 16. The Afters – Well Done.
- Approval of Agenda – moved by Phil. Seconded by Terri. Agenda approved.
- Approval of Meeting minutes from October – Moved by Ace, seconded by Phil. Meeting minutes approved unanimously.
- Consent Calendar –
  - Update on Security Grant (signed in September) – report on refund. Motion to receive the consent calendar and pastoral report – Chocolatté and Ace. Motion passed to receive.
  - Pastoral Report
    - +2024 Board Retreat Attendance Poll
    - >February 3 or February 10 from 9:30a.m. to 2:00p.m. – It appears that Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> is the best date for the new board for the Board Retreat.
- Treasurer's Report
  - December Giving Statements via Email.
  - Truist General Fund balance \$51,835.52.
  - Truist Buchanan Fund balance \$759.92
  - EagleBank Emergency Fund balance \$28,135.
  - Charles Schwab Far Reaching Faith Trust Fund balance \$467,859.11 plus the money market account \$3747.40.
  - Recent approval by the Congregation at the Congregational meeting of \$100K from the Far Reaching Faith Trust Fund to the General Fund.
  - Motion to receive the treasurer's report – Johanna and Chocolatté. Motion passed.
- Support for Financial Responsibilities and Processes – Chocolatté asked that everyone sign up for days they are available to sign checks. Pastor Dwayne explained to the new BOD members that they will need to be approved and expected to help sign checks as we need two signatures for each check. Ace said that he can do it this Friday as he will be there

preparing for the December 2<sup>nd</sup> event. Terri said she will be at church this coming Sunday. Rev. Cathy asked for the full names of the new BOD members so that we can get them approved for signature: Tina Fulp and Darryl Walker.

- Phil, Terri and Chocolatté said that they would be available on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> to be on hand to collect and process any cash and other donations from the concert on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Payment of Credit Card statements by electronic payment – Pastor Dwayne explained that we are continuing to push for electronic payment as this helps with problems with the US mail.
- Signing and Deposits – as discussed above.

Note: Chocolatté available to train people on the process of making deposits.

- Preparation for Board Officers vote on December 19 – Pastor Dwayne suggested that Tina and Darryl be allowed to vote for their position on the next Board at the next Board meeting in December. Pastor Dwayne asked current BOD members to talk about their positions and explain them to the newly elected BOD members for consideration. Johanna explained her role as the vice moderator. Terri explained her role as the Treasurer – she has been the treasurer for more than 5 years, and would like to continue in the role. Chocolatté explained that as the vice treasurer he assists Terri with anything that is needed – especially the arranging of signing of checks and check signing. Phil explained his role as the Clerk and the duties of recording minutes and being the official signature for the BOD on church documents as needed. Bobbi explained the duties of the vice-clerk. Terri asked if anyone is tracking what the funds for the BHT grant. Rev. Cathy said that she has been tracking the BHT funds and how they have been tracked to ensure our compliance with the gift. Ace explained his position as the “at large” member – which entailed picking up duties as assigned and helping out where needed. Ace said it was a really enjoyable position because you can help in so many ways. Bobbi said that she would be open to the at-large BOD member. She has served in that capacity before.
- “Building a Culture of Generosity” update – Giving letters went out thanks to Melvin, Knut and others. It was also discussed to send out electronic annual giving statements. Chocolatté has been a part of that. Rev. Dwayne reminded everyone of the 5 pillars of generosity of giving every Sunday. Every gift of time and talent matter. Terri asked to be informed more about the December giving statements. Rev. Dwayne explained that the generosity statements were not official giving statements but more of a “thank you” for giving. Chocolatté explained that they are still working on tabulating the “in kind” donations.
- Other items (to be discussed, as needed):
  - Spring Forum March 10 and Congregational Meeting March 24: Ministry Action Plan (Budget). Pastor Dwayne said that this will be held at 12:30pm and the focus will be on our financial action plan. Terri asked about the selling of parts of our property and how beneficial the sale of the parking lot has been to the FRFTF. Bobbi and Johanna explained how controversial the sale of part of the parking lot to developers was. Johanna explained that the congregation originally wanted the FRFTF to be an investment fund for future major capitol projects. Not used as an emergency, contingency or general fund uses. Terri explained that it gives her a great deal of anxiety

when the church needs to make payroll and the mortgage in the same week. This makes it a challenge at times to make sure that the general fund has enough money to cover all expenses. Rev. Dwayne mentioned all the different ways we could have fund raising events such as having a bake off, Greek sale, craft sale, pancake bakeoff etc.

- Fire system update – Pastor Dwayne thanked everyone for the vote at the Congregational meeting to approve this work this past Sunday.
- Columbarium Expansion (Tabled until funding allows) – Darryl explained that the columbarium will have 50 niches for sale at \$2k each. So if we can use funds from the FRFTF to build the columbarium it will take the sale of just a few of the niches to pay for itself. Ace suggested that perhaps we could have someone be the angel donor to kick-start the building of the new additional columbarium and be recognized with their name on a plaque as underwriting the building of the new columbarium.
- “Christmas Hope in a Chaotic World” Concert at 5p.m. December 12; two Board Members Needed to steward offerings
- Update on the 472 rental units – Rev. Dwayne reported that we have one unit coming available in January. Melvin has started setting up weekly meetings. Rev. Cathy reported that Melvin is working tirelessly with EJF property managers to ensure that issues are corrected. Phil offered his assistance following his service on the BOD to assist with rental property management issues.
- March 9, 2024 Volunteers of America Colloquium on Gun Violence with partner organizations including MCCDC (Rev. Jules Christian) – Jules Christian spoke about VoA and Colloquium on Gun Violence. Dr. Carla is on the planning team and they meet on the first and third Thursday of the month. The Colloquium is in March. Rev. Cathy and Jules will be speaking of the history of gun violence. Ace mentioned that in PG County there was a church that handed out \$52K for people that turned in their guns. Ace asked if we had thought about doing anything like that. Jules said that that is something we could talk about in the future and maybe partner with other faith organizations on. Ace asked if the Colloquium has thought about inviting the new DC police chief. Jules said that the Colloquium would love that and hope for that in the future. Pastor Dwayne mentioned that he had communicated this with our local ANC commissioner Nigro, and Ms. Nigro is very interested in being part of the community forum on this.
- Discussion on push to encourage members info updates
- Mid-City Development – No update.
- Early Learners Academy Update – Rev. Dwayne reported that the point person on this is Melvin.
- 50<sup>th</sup> MCCDC Anniversary – Rev. Dwayne reported that his hopes is for January is to have a fundraiser around this topic. Rev. Dwayne recommended a target of \$50K to be raised - \$1K for every year as a goal. Both an inward focus as well as an outward focus.
- Discussion on the Buchanan Fund – Rev. Dwayne explained this is more of a place holder for what we would like to do with this fund.
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> ideas – Ace suggested we have a sign-up sheet with peoples names, and contact info so we can follow-up with them after the event. Ace suggested a \$25 gift card idea for the Christmas program. Include a place for people to do a census.
- Shout-Outs – Phil gave a shout out to Melvin. Johanna gave a shout out to Dale, Knut and the team for the Transgender Days of Remembrance. Tina gave a shout out to everyone on the BOD. Phil gave a shout out to Terri for all that she does helping with our financial management. Rev. Dwayne gave a shout

out to Rev. Cathy and the wellness team and mister Diedra and Miller Hoffman who served on the team for the Gender Awareness and Advocacy Day. Rev. Cathy gave a shout out to Diedra who last night received an award for the Karen Holmes Flame award.

- Scripture and Song for following meeting – Ace will do the scripture. Phil will do the song.
- Motion to adjourn – Chocolatté and Phil. Motion passed.

- Announcements/Online Events