



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022, 7PM

Moderator: Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Board Members: Lilah Blackstone, Johanna Hardy, Terri Neal, Knut Panknin, Phil Helbling, Ace Barbari

Trustees: Cecelia Hayden-Smith, and Tamara Orebaugh

Guests: Rev. Cathy Alexander, Dr. Carla Sherrell, Dr. Teresa Tygart, Melvin Moore Adams, Chocolatté Miller

- Song (not decided) and Scripture (not decided) – Phil will do the scripture for the next meeting. Dr. Teresa will do the song.
- Approval of Agenda – Phil and Knut. Approved.
- Consent Calendar –
 - Update on Security Grant (signed last month) – report on progress on the work. Report from Ace reported that the Security Grant is still “under review”. Ace will update Melvin and the BOD when he hears something. Terri asked for clarification that there is no refund yet for the amount that was paid to Clear Connections in July. Ace said since it is under review – the money can’t come back to us until it is approved.
 - Pastoral Report – No questions on the Pastoral Report.
 - Prep for congregational Forum (November 6) and Congregational Meeting (November 20):
 - Board recruiting (2 positions +election of position Ace currently appointed). Rev. Dwayne expressed appreciation for Chocolate’s application and presence in the BOD meeting tonight.
 - By-laws: any suggested changes this year?
 - Call for reports – Rev. Dwayne suggested the deadline for the reports be 2 weeks before the next BOD meeting so that the board can review the reports before the congregational forum. Knut explained that there are 2 reports – a written report that the Clerk usually does and a video report that Knut usually does. Usually the written BOD report is a highlights of accomplishments for the year and a look ahead for the forthcoming year. That would make the reports due Monday 10/17. BOD, Lay pastors, resumes of those running for the BOD, trustees report Rev Cathy mentioned need to be submitted. As well as lay delegates. Due to our membership numbers we rate 2 lay delegates. Both of the lay delegate position require membership of at least 6 months. Terri asked about the treasurers report – if that was required for this congregational meeting or the next one in the spring. Terri indicated that she would like to better understand our relationship with Mr. Tom Melzoni and communicate that our expenses are outstripping our income. Dr. Carla said we should manage

congregants expectations on what topics may be covered and topics that may not be covered so people aren't disappointed if their topic isn't covered.

- Knut and Lilah motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion approved.

- Project Empowerment update – Welcome Mr. Baltimore. Rev. Dwayne reported that Mr. Baltimore has been a good fit so far. Mr. Baltimore has done good engagement and dropped in on things and the service we are getting is a step up from what we have gotten in previous years.

- Treasurer's Report:
 - Truist general fund \$7654.50
 - Truist Buchanan Fund \$689.78
 - EagleBank Emergency Fund \$24,228.38
 - Charles Schwab FRFTF \$529,133.06. Plus \$3759.74 left from the \$58K transferred from the bequest to Truist GF.
 - \$175K approved by Congregations in June 2021 has a balance left of \$75,706.01.
 - Terri noted that 2 of the 3 units of 472 Ridge street are vacant so we are not receiving the income from those units right now.
 - Knut asked about the final payment of the HVAC provider. Or was it the roof? Terri said Rev Cathy had a conversation with the vendor because the invoice was not clear on what the final amount should be. Terri said our payments continue through the end of the year and into early 2023.
 - Rev Carla asked about giving. Are people giving what they planned to offer. Has this been included when we consider what people are giving. Terri reported that what she reports is what we have – NOT what people have pledged. Knut said that when we asked for people to make pledges – we did not ask WHEN we expected them to give their gift/donation. Thus the giving dollars may not reflect the ultimate intentions of what people have actually pledged. Rev. Dwayne reported that we received a range of pledges – some one time annual pledges and some people increasing their monthly pledges. Our EasyTithe pledging is down \$12K from a year ago. Also in 2022 we had no PPP grants, which made life easier in 2021.
 - Chocolate asked about pledges – his understanding was that we formulated our budget predicated upon what pledges we received. Rev. Cathy said that because of the timing of the year we haven't sent out the giving statements with intentions yet.
 - Knut and Ace – motion to receive and accept the treasurers report.

- Support for Financial Responsibilities and Processes – Rev. Dwayne thanked everyone that covered for Terri for check signage and coverage. Terri reported that she is good so far for except for the 1st Sunday in October. Phil can come in on Thurs. Sept 29th to tee everything up for Terri to sign on Sunday Oct. 2nd.
 - Signing schedule
 - Other support

- “Building a Culture of Generosity” update – Move this up in the agenda. Rev. Dwayne encouraged everyone to look at the generosity calendar we sent out along with the agenda for tonights meeting. Rev. Dwayne said that building a culture of generosity is about more than making a one time gift,

but about building a long time giving culture. Work that is really 365 days a year that the calendar speaks to.

- Preview of Generosity Calendar
- Covid 19 Advisory Team Update/ Reopening update – Rev. Dwayne asked people to revisit this and ask Johanna to reconvene the team. Chocolate, Dr. Carla, Rev. Cathy that are on the team are here in the BOD meeting. We need to look at anything that has changed and if we need to change or improve some of our practice. Ace asked about the protocol of not being able to wear a cloth mask and he was given a paper mask. Rev. Dwayne said we are really trying to enforce the surgical masking to keep people safe. Rev. Dwayne said he is very proud that no one to our knowledge has gotten COVID from attending one of our services in the sanctuary.
- Other items (to be discussed, as needed)
 - Discussion of vacant Trustee position – Knut mentioned that the best way to find possible people interested in being a trustee is to talk to people. Ace mentioned Jules as a possible Trustee or BOD member. Rev. Dwayne called out Tammy O for her presence and if she knows of someone to recommend them. Question from Rev. Teresa about Trustee qualifications. We can look those up for the next meeting. That is in the by-laws. Ideal candidates are people that have experience with contractors and facilities management. Those that have leadership skills, practical skills, electrical skills, etc. All are very valuable. Knut contributed this definition from the by-laws: *Qualifications-Members of the Trustees of the Buchanan Memorial Building Fund must be Members in good standing of The Metropolitan Community Church of Washington DC, Inc., MCCDC, and have experience in the areas of property management, and/or administration. Conflict of interest - Someone who is a church employee, a Clergy Candidate, or Member of the Board of Directors, shall not be eligible to serve as a Trustee of the Buchanan Memorial Building Fund.*
 - General Conference – Rev. Dwayne said this can come off the agenda as the next conference is not for 3 years.
 - Virtual church update – This can stay on the calendar per Rev. Dwayne. We have more ministries that are inquiring what is needed to do boarder free virtual ministry. For instance, some ministries may have some people located at the church and others remote.
 - HVAC Replacement update – Rev. Dwayne noted that the Harris contractor was out at the church today. Rev. Cathy said that there is a new person that is coming out and that they are replacing a compressor that is out of warranty. Melvin is monitoring but we need to stay on top to make sure the contractor is doing what they said they would be doing.
 - Innovation Hub update
 - Sanctuary Screens Project – Rev. Dwayne reported that we are in the final stages of gathering financial estimates thanks to Dale Baskerville. Ace said he was hopeful that the scripture would be on the screen, but instead all we had was the person’s name. It would be nice if we also had the actual scripture on the screen even though we can look up the scripture using the QR code. Rev. Cathy mentioned that this is what is different from what people are seeing in-

person as opposed to what they are seeing online. We can certainly make that suggestion to the AV team.

- Mid-City Development – No report on this. Johanna will report when she returns.
 - Early Learners Academy Update – they have returned to the sanctuary as reported in the pastors report. There are some enrollment issues they are working through. Their success will help with our investment and our mission in helping support safe, positive environments people at the earliest ages.
 - 50th MCCDC Anniversary
 - Discussion on the Buchanan Fund – Rev. Dwayne reported we want to keep this item on the agenda. We need to discuss how we are going to handle this fund moving forward. Rev. Cathy noted that people are continuing to give regularly to the Buchanan fund. That is because people KNOW about the Buchanan fund even though we haven't mentioned it. Perhaps all we need to do is let people know of it. The purpose of it. And if possibly it can be reimagined based on what has happened the past 3 years.
 - Shout-Outs – Rev. Dwayne shouted out Lilah and Knut for their service on the BOD. Lilah has served 2 full terms and Knut 3. Rev. Dwayne said they have exceeded expectations. Knut gives a shout out to the Komen walk for the cure team. And he gives a shout out to all the survivors in our community. Rev. Cathy gives a shout out to someone that is not a member from Denver but joined the Komen Walk team "Bill". Rev. Dwayne gives a shout out to his ANC commissioner Michelle Nigrove who helped when we had the protesters. Michelle is always looking out for MCC DC and also watching out for the parking issues and parking issues in our neighborhood.
 - Scripture and Song for following meeting
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- Announcements/Online Events – Prayers for Dr. Teresa for her surgery. Prayers for Andre.
 - Motion to adjourn – Lilah and Knut. Motion approved.