



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023, 6:30PM

Moderator: Rev. Dwayne Johnson

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

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

Guests: ~~Rev. Cathy Alexander, Dr. Carla Sherrell, Dr. Teresa Tygart~~, Darryl Walker, Melvin Moore.

- Song – Dr. Teresa (skipped as Dr. Teresa was not in attendance). Scripture – Phil : Proverbs 3:2-4.
- Approval of Agenda – Phil and Terri. Approved.
- Approval of Meeting minutes from August – Phil and Johanna. Passed
- Consent Calendar –
 - Update on Security Grant (signed in September) – report on progress on the work. Rev. Dwayne reported that everything has been submitted to Ms. Ross with Homeland Security and we now await reimbursement. Melvin is continuing to monitor.
 - Pastoral Report – Pastor Dwayne highlighted October 7th and Eclectic Praise. Pastor Dwayne highlighted that the church has been fined for people dumping furniture in front of the church – chairs, tables, etc. MCC will be contesting the fines and is working with ANC Commissioner Nigro. Chocolatté volunteered to work as a conversation partner with Melvin for working towards the next Homeland Security grant which could be worth up to \$150K.
 - What specifically needs to be discussed regarding the financial future of MCCDC. Rev. Dwayne reported that the Generosity Team met and would like to have a special joint meeting of the BOD and the Generosity Team in October. Pastor Dwayne reported that it will take some time to prepare for this meeting. Thursday October 19th was floated as a possible meeting date.
 - Columbarium expansion – Darryl Walker reported that the new columbarium niches will be the same size as the current columbarium. Darryl got 3 quotes and submitted the one preferred quote (Adam Edelstein) which is also the lowest price quote. Phil asked about the price of the other quotes. Darryl also explained about the glass covering the columbarium, which will be 8 pieces of glass one for each column, like the current columbarium. Phil asked if the visit and recommendation by the original architect was pro bono, and Darryl reported that it was. Johanna asked if the contractor offers any warranty for his work. Darryl reported that he was unsure about any warranty and would ask the contractor. Rev. Dwayne said that he was recommending \$2k/niche. Darryl said that \$750 is the low-end of niches nationally. Pastor Dwayne said some

other churches charge as much as \$4k for their niches in major cities like Washington, DC. Johanna reported that a quick Google search revealed that indoor niches cost more, and niches at eye level cost more, etc. Ace asked if the \$2k would be a one-time fee. Pastor Dwayne clarified that it would be a one-time fee. Not a maintenance fee.

- Treasurer's Report

- Truist General Fund: \$18,917.91 balance which is dangerously close to overdraft. There is no evidence of payroll being processed for this week yet. Terri reported that \$20,500 is needed and hoped for to be reimbursed from the Homeland Security grant for funds that we have already paid to Clear Connection for the security work.
- Far Reaching Faith Trust Fund (FRFTF) balance is: \$469,400.95 at Schwab.
- Buchanan Fund has \$759.90 balance and MCCDC has a \$811,833.20 mortgage balance.
- There is no balance remaining from the \$175K that was approved by the Congregation in June 2021. Those funds have been spent down, largely for the HVAC repair and the roof.
- EagleBank - There is currently a balance of \$35,132.82 in the Emergency Fund.
- Terri reported that we currently have rental income coming in from the 472 rental property in the amount of \$6333.01. Plus we have a mortgage payment each month on 472 Ridge Street of about \$2k. Plus some unknown maintenance charges this month.
- Johanna moved to move \$10K from the Emergency Fund at Eagle Bank to the General Fund at Truist. Bobbi seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Potential discussion of midyear giving statements or board phone bank to congregation.
- Discussion of the church's financial situation. Johanna said that it is important at the next Congregational meeting that we communicate the dire state of our finances – that we are having trouble even meeting payroll. Phil mentioned that it was reported in the Washington Post Religion section that the average annual tithing for all people was \$2300-\$2400/annually. Johanna suggested that something could be communicated immediately in the eBlasts. Johanna emphasized that we need to communicate that we are spending the Emergency Fund down, and once that is spent down, the church is essentially out of money. Chocolatté expressed his frustration with the Board that the knowledge of this impending financial crises had been coming for a year now as Terri regularly reported our finances. Pastor Dwayne clarified that some of the BHT funds could be spent toward the columbarium or for the mortgage, but may not be spent on payroll. Pastor Dwayne said that essentially we are breaking even on the Early Learners Academy due to the increased expenses due to their use of the facility, however supporting the Early Learners Academy supports our mission. Ace asked about another church is occasionally using our space. Rev. Dwayne clarified that we do make money of that. Terri said that a payment came in from one of the other churches that pay us rent to use the facility (Unity Fellowship Church). Terri reported that Unity Fellowship Church recently paid \$1750, but she is uncertain how many weeks or months the \$1750 covers.
- Motion to receive the treasurers report: Phil and Chocolatté. Motion carries.

- Support for Financial Responsibilities and Processes. Rev. Dwayne asked if Terri had anything she'd like to share concerned with her role and responsibilities that she'd like to share with the BOD or Congregation. Terri said that she'd like to communicate the need to have other people come in and sign for the checks on Sunday. Terri said that having a calendar where people signed up for check signing in advance would be helpful. Johanna said that she is happy to help, but often with so much going on, she just forgets. That's where Knut is very helpful because he remembers things that need to be done. Chocolatté said that in regards to someone signing the checks, they need to be someone that has the same authority to sign checks as any member of the BOD. Rev. Dwayne said that is why it is helpful to have someone like a former BOD member help out.

- Discussion of Congregational Forum date – Rev. Dwayne suggested Nov. 12 at 12.30 for the Congregational Forum and the Congregational Meeting on the 19th. Bobbi moved that due to the scheduling with UFC DC, we have the Congregational Forum in-person/hybrid and the Congregational Meeting virtual. Phil seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- “Building a Culture of Generosity” update – Rev. Dwayne stated again that we are planning a joint meeting with the BOD and the generosity team in October.

- Other items (to be discussed, as needed)
 - COVID 19 update – Refreshments return on October 1st. They will be packaged for protection. Johanna mentioned the QR code.
 - Fire system update
 - Update on the 472 rental units – Melvin. Already covered above.
 - Update on DC Central Block proposal down the street – No update.
 - Discussion on push to encourage members info updates – No update.
 - Mid-City Development – Rev. Dwayne said there has been a development. Johanna reported that Mid-City is still looking at financing. No work will begin until financing security so everything seems to be on-hold right now.
 - Gate – Ace asked if with the next proposal we could add an intercom to the office from the gate so people can be buzzed in much like the buzzer at the front door.
 - Floors – Ace said that the floors look bad and need a good mopping and waxing. The shape of the floors does not give a good first impression. Rev. Dwayne said that the floors are being mopped but it's not doing the job. Someone however has donated a stripper/buffer. We now know that those floors should never have been waxed. The floors need to be completely stripped. Part of the reality is 20 kids dropping their sippy cups and other wear and tear. Ace said he is happy to come in and help. Johanna said Patricia is willing to come in and help as well. Ace wondered if either Alan or Pam Stevens could help also. We are shooting for Sept. 30th to strip the floors.
 - Early Learners Academy Update – Johanna asked if there's any way to find out from the Early Learners Academy if there are wheeled carts they could use to move things around rather than dragging things across the floor.
 - 50th MCCDC Anniversary – No update other than a lot of archiving going on.

- Discussion on the Buchanan Fund – no updates.
 - Check signing – Chocolatté said he cannot sign checks on Sunday due to a work obligation. Ace however said he can cover the next two weeks by coming in on Fridays to sign checks.
 - Shout-Outs – Johanna gave a shout out to Jason Jedlinski for doing all of the graphics. Json and Dale helped migrate our website to a new host and Json helped trouble-shoot many of the issues. Chocolatté had a shout out to Michael Cunningham for helping with the sound board. Johanna also gave a shout out to Michael Cunningham who is there to help out even when not asked. Rev. Dwayne gave a shout out to Eclectic Praise, Moving Spirit and the Drama ministry. Bobbi gave a shout out to her son who is helping out with a multi-media video design support.
 - Scripture and Song for following meeting – Ace will do scripture. Johanna will do the song.
 - Motion to adjourn – Phil and Ace. Motion passed.
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- Announcements/Online Events