



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2023 via email

Moderator: Rev. Dwayne Johnson

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

Dear Board Friends:

“MOVE to authorize Jim Garner as a Board approved signer on behalf of the Board.”

Moved by Ace.

Seconded by Chocolatté.

Motion carries per thread below.

Bobbi also voted yes and when I replied to Bobbi I forgot to reply all.

I will forward Bobbi’s vote for the record.

From: Johanna Hardy [mailto:brassrat93@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 2:45 PM

To: Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Cc: Chocolatté Miller; Aysar Barbari; Rev. Cathy Alexander; Terri; J. Hardy; Phil Helbling; Bobbi Strang; nerd4mit@aol.com

Subject: Re: Board Resoultion for Jim Garner: Email Vote

I vote yes

On Wed, Sep 27, 2023, 10:54 AM Rev Dwayne <revdwayne@mccdc.com> wrote:

Hello Board Friends:

Ace Moves the motion with a second by Chocolatté. Thanks in advance for responding to this motion.

In Wellness,

Pastor Dwayne

From: Chocolatté Miller [mailto:Chocolatte.mccdc@outlook.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 8:03 PM

To: Johanna Hardy; Aysar Barbari

Cc: Dwayne Johnson; Rev. Cathy Alexander; Terri; J. Hardy; Phil Helbling; Bobbi Strang; nerd4mit@aol.com
Subject: Re: Board Resoultion for Jim Garner: Email Vote

Good evening,

I am in favor of:

authorize Jim Garner as a Board approved signer on behalf of the Board.”

Peace & Blessings,

Chocolatté Miller (He/Him/His)

*Worship Services Volunteer Team, Leader
& Board of Directors, Vice Treasurer*

Metropolitan Community Church of D.C.

Direct: 202.465.0873 / Church Office: 202.638.7373

Chocolatte.mccdc@outlook.com

www.mccdc.com

From: Johanna Hardy <brassrat93@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:59:37 PM

To: Aysar Barbari <arabtop@aol.com>

Cc: Dwayne Johnson <revdwayne@mccdc.com>; Rev. Cathy Alexander <RevCathy@mccdc.com>; Terri <tanbatson@verizon.net>; J. Hardy <johannahardy93@gmail.com>; Phil Helbling <philhelb@hotmail.com>; Bobbi Strang <bobbi.elaine.strang@gmail.com>; Chocolatté Miller <Chocolatte.mccdc@outlook.com>; nerd4mit@aol.com <nerd4mit@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Board Resoultion for Jim Garner: Email Vote

I move or second as well.

On Tue, Sep 26, 2023, 7:54 PM Aysar Barbari <arabtop@aol.com> wrote:

I can either move this or second this resolution. Ace

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2023, at 12:56 PM, Rev Dwayne <revdwayne@mccdc.com> wrote:

Thanks Johanna for reaching out to Tim and Terri and Rev. Cathy for your follow-up.

in the meantime while checking with Truist, for our internal purposes and also if necessary for the purposes of Truist, could we have a mover and a second for the following motion:

“MOVE to authorize Jim Garner as a Board approved signer on behalf of the Board.”

Of course this is a suggested motion. The MOVER may wish revised language.

In Wellness,

Pastor Dwayne

From: revcathy@mccdc.com [mailto:revcathy@mccdc.com]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 4:09 PM

To: 'Terri'; 'J. Hardy'

Cc: 'Rev Dwayne'; 'Phil Helbling'; 'Bobbi Strang'; 'Aysar Barbari'; 'Chocolatté Miller'

Subject: RE: Thanks Johanna: Proposed Message Please reply by Monday, September 25

Thanks Terri. When I read this I've reached out to the point of contact to confirm what the procedure is and if a board resolution is still necessary. Standing by for her response. Hopefully now that we have the POC the process will be smoother. I'll keep you posted.

Peace, Rev Cathy

From: Terri <tanbatson@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 8:15 AM

To: J. Hardy <johannahardy93@gmail.com>

Cc: Rev Dwayne <revdwayne@mccdc.com>; Phil Helbling <philhelb@hotmail.com>; Bobbi Strang <bobbi.elaine.strang@gmail.com>; Aysar Barbari <arabtop@aol.com>; Chocolatté Miller <chocolatte.mccdc@outlook.com>; Rev. Cathy Alexander <revcathy@mccdc.com>

Subject: Thanks Johanna: Proposed Message Please reply by Monday, September 25

As you & I discussed on Sunday, it is great that Jimmie has agreed to be an authorized signer. When there is an opportunity to do so, I'll ask Rev Cathy about MCCDC's POC with Truist Bank.

It took numerous months & much effort to have Truist approve authorized signers the last time.

Terri

On Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 08:45:28 AM EDT, J. Hardy <johannahardy93@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey folks,

I went ahead and asked Jim Garner if he would be open to being a signatory and helping with signing checks etc...

He indicated he would. He's here about every other week anyway.

Johanna

On Fri, Sep 22, 2023, 8:37 AM Terri <tanbatson@verizon.net> wrote:

Thanks Johanna & Rev Dawyne!

Terri A. Neal. M.Ed.

On Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 02:30:46 PM EDT, Rev Dwayne <revdwayne@mccdc.com> wrote:

Hi Johanna and Board Friends:

Johanna, thank you for this revised version. Yes, everyone, please reply with acknowledgment or suggested edits. The thought is for this to go out in the eblast at 2 p.m next Thursday. It will also be submitted for the bulletin. Darryl needs items for the bulletin on Tuesday and items for the eblast are needed on Wednesday to allow for formatting. That's why your reply is needed on Monday.

Also, the thought is to plan time at the Giving Time a week from this Sunday, October 1 for a Board Member or Board Members to speak to this. We can work together on implementation.

Other notes:

+Johanna's note on Spending Pause: Yes, I have already spoken with the staff about monitoring all expenses and pausing or nixing some items. Some worship resources for Advent that we were considering are an example of a nix. We will discuss further in staff meeting next week.

+We also need to consider ideas to offer a specific opportunity for those who are able to "consider increasing. . ." to do so. One thought: In October we have five Sundays so we have an "extra" Sunday . . .we could highlight that Sunday and set a goal. For example, our weekly anticipated giving to meet our needs is \$4,833. If we set a goal for that Sunday (October 29) of "extra" gifts we might consider approximately 50% "extra" over that amount, rounding up for a goal of \$7,500 for EXTRA SUNDAY. There may be better language than "EXTRA" but wanted to offer an idea.

Then, in November, we'll have our forum, congregational meeting and Generosity Emphasis for the month, including Generosity Cards for people to share their intentions.

The thought is to align transparent communication, with ministry impact messaging, with invitations to give/engage/participate.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Dwayne

From: J. Hardy [mailto:johannahardy93@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 1:35 PM

To: revdwayne@mccdc.com

Cc: Phil Helbling; Bobbi Strang; Aysar Barbari; Terri; Chocolatté Miller; Rev. Cathy Alexander

Subject: Re: Proposed Message

So, below is a revised version.

If folks can chime in and indicate if there are more edits and/or if you're ok with it, that would be helpful.

I also wanted to suggest that any potential expenses that are not necessary (e.g. outside of regular bills, staffing -- those types of set obligations we have) be paused right now or at least be reviewed closely by staff and/or the board? It seems we need to be mindful of every dollar that is going out right now.

Important Message from Board to Members and Friends

The board has been working to properly manage our budget and finances. During COVID, as with many churches, our giving dropped but we were blessed with legacy and other gifts that assisted as we navigated COVID, were able to take advantage of the PPP program and forgiveness, began the process on our Generosity Campaign, and more recently applied for and received a homeland security grant to address needed security upgrades. During this time, we managed amounts the congregation had previously approved for use from the Far Reaching Faith Trust Fund (FRFTF) which, per the direction of the congregation, helped to pay for critical capital repairs and projects.

Unfortunately, our giving continues to remain not only below our budget but also below our actual expenses. ***This is unsustainable.*** *This means that decisions may need to be made with respect to staffing, 472 Ridge, and other cost-cutting actions.* This has been compounded by more recent capital repairs that became more urgent, including upgrading our fire alarm system to meet current code requirements and to protect life and safety in the church.

The board has and continues to take steps to identify solutions, including further discussions on generosity as well as preparing for a broader conversation with the congregation during the forum and meeting later this year; however, we ask each of you who are able to prayerfully consider increasing your financial donations in the near term to assist in addressing this shortfall we are experiencing.

We encourage your questions and ideas. Feel free email the Board at board@mccdc.com or Pastor Dwayne at revdwayne@mccdc.com

To give, visit donate.mccdc.com, text GIVE to 202-999-3841 or mail your gift to MCCDC, 474 Ridge St NW, Washington DC 20001.

On Thu, Sep 21, 2023 at 1:14 PM Rev Dwayne <revdwayne@mccdc.com> wrote:

Hi Johanna for the draft and thank you Phil for your comment. Johanna, I think the added line you suggest below provides the helpful additional detail. Thanks, Pastor Dwayne

From: J. Hardy [mailto:johannahardy93@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:28 PM

To: Phil Helbling

Cc: Rev. Dwayne Johnson; Bobbi Strang; Aysar Barbari; Terri; Chocolatté Miller; Rev. Cathy Alexander

Subject: Re: Proposed Message

We can provide more examples. What I didn't want is to mention outcomes we haven't discussed and some of which would require congregational action. So without analyzing options and discussing, I was reluctant to mention specific repercussions.

Perhaps we add something like after its unsustainable , "**This means that decisions may need to be made with respect to staffing, 472 Ridge, and other cost-cutting actions.**" Or something like that?

On Wed, Sep 20, 2023, 1:55 PM Phil Helbling <philhelb@hotmail.com> wrote:

Hi Johanna -

Thanks for taking the lead in crafting a message. The below looks fine to me. Perhaps even too much information regarding PPP and Security Grant assistance. It seems to me what is missing from all of our messaging, including on the Generosity Team however, is communicating the impact of what will happen if we continue at our current rate of giving. For instance, at the current rate of giving, the church will no longer be able to sustain the staffing or programming which everyone has come to expect and enjoy. What other cost cutting measures might we have to consider? Selling of the 472 Ridge Street property? These are real-life impacts that I as a member would want to be aware of. And would be a powerful incentive. The fact that we may not be able to make payroll is alarming. Simply saying our current rate of giving is unsustainable is not enough. Unsustainable how? What does that mean?

Hope the above is helpful. I'm fine with whatever goes out.

Thanks again Johanna,

Phil

From: J. Hardy <johannahardy93@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:54 PM

To: Rev. Dwayne Johnson <revdwayne@mccdc.com>; Bobbi Strang <bobbi.elaine.strang@gmail.com>; Aysar Barbari <arabtop@aol.com>; Phil Helbling <philhelb@hotmail.com>; Terri <tanbatson@verizon.net>; Chocolatté

Miller <Chocolatte.mccdc@outlook.com>; Rev. Cathy Alexander <revcathy@mccdc.com>

Subject: Proposed Message

As discussed, below is my initial crack at a message for the e-blast. Welcome review and edits. This is to get the ball rolling. (Note: not sure if the board email is still active). The other note is that if we do plan to talk about this during the forum, we may need a special note about that in the announcements since we changed the subject matter to have our budget conversations in the Spring.

Important Message from Board to Members and Friends

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