



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

### Meeting Minutes

*June 27, 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, Dale Madyum-Baskerville, Melvin

- Song – Chocolatté: Whitney Houston “I love the lord”. And Scripture – Phil: Luke 15:11-13.
- Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve agenda – Phil and Ace.
- Update on Sanctuary Renovation. Dale reported that AVG had completed the install of video/audio system upgrade. This upgrade should take us through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This upgrade gives us the ability to bring in someone participating via Zoom into the sanctuary if we want to do that. We will still have a screen that shows the ASL interpreter. The upgrade removed a lot of the old wires that everyone used to see in the sanctuary. Dale showed a video of the audio/video transformation. The placing of the new video screens in the sanctuary took into account sunlight coming in. Dale explained that this Friday will be a training session on how to configure the video and the screens of which screen is showing what. This Sunday will be the first Sunday service using the new screens. We can make changes on our own once we fully understand the new system. There is still a lot to learn. Rev. Dwayne said that we can Zoom in another moderator or preacher during the service. There are a lot of options and possibilities made available with this upgrade. Johanna gave a shout-out to Dale for all the work she has done – from the beginning of putting together the requirements, dealing with the proposal and negotiating with the vendor. Ace asked if there were going to be two “sound ports”? Rev. Dwayne explained that there are now two desks. Johanna explained that one is the sound side and one is the video side. Now everything will fit into one cabinet upstairs instead of taking things downstairs.
- Approval of Meeting minutes from May. Motion moved by Phil and seconded by Chocolatté. Approved.
- Consent Calendar –
  - Update on Security Grant (signed in September) – report on progress on the work. Rev. Dwayne reported that the work is complete. Melvin reported that the installation and required training are complete. However we are waiting on the second phase of reporting so we can submit those reports to DHS. The final payment portion is pending

on the completion of this step. We also need to consider if we will participate in the competition for the second round of grant money for grantees. The current grant must be exhausted by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. Rev. Dwayne said the next round of opportunity will need a volunteer from the BOD to work with Melvin to work on the second round of security grant money. The next round of grant money could have to do with grant money for cybersecurity. Rev. Dwayne gave the example of a methodist church that was submit to a ransomware attack. Johanna said that she could not participate in this project as she oversees DHS/FEMA as part of her job and in order to avoid any conflict of interest she will not be able to participate. Johanna asked about people squeezing through the gate and breaking the gate. Melvin said that there is a gap not an entry way due to the gate not closing completely to it's end point. We now have a camera on that spot. Johanna mentioned a larger individual in times past that was pushing open the gate through the gap and breaking the gate – this has been a problem in the past. Melvin clarified that the gate is still the same gate. The operating system of the gate however has been upgraded. Melvin said that it is possible to physically push the gate off track if you use enough force. Melvin reported that there are new security fobs that go with the system as well as a PIN. Melvin said that we do work with our neighbors on the functioning and access of the gate. Please remind people that the gate is on a timer and will automatically close behind someone.

- Pastoral Report – no questions.
- Harris report – Nothing to report.
- Motion to receive the consent calendar: Phil and Chocolatté. Passed.
  
- Treasurer's Report – Chocolatté reported the following prepared by Terri:
  - Truist General Fund: \$-15,328.74. Note that there is still \$79,625.77 which the church has remaining on hold from the BHT grant.
  - MCCDC Mortgage balance: \$824,646.21
  - Eaglebank Emergency Fund: \$26,548.01
  - Charles Schwab FRFTF: \$510,198.92
  - Remaining balance of \$175,000 originally approved by the congregation in June 2021 is: \$34,284.00
  - Johanna asked about rental income – \$0 is reported. Chocolatté explained that the rental income had not been updated on the report.
  - Motion to receive Treasurers report as is with the exception of the rental income which needs to be updated. Motion to approve: Johanna and Ace. Approved.
  
- Support for Financial Responsibilities and Processes
  - Chocolatté sent out a note on his schedule. Phil said he can cover this Sunday. Ace said he is available to come in on Friday and will come in at 1pm on Friday. Knut is not available as a backup this week as he is on travel.
  
- “Building a Culture of Generosity” update
  - Rev. Dwayne will work with Phil to do a video interview. This week our video testimony is to BHT which enabled us to pay for the sanctuary renovation. Next interview after Phil will be with Chocolatté. Thanks to Johanna and Ace.
  
- Other items (to be discussed, as needed)

- Fire system board vote. Melvin will be presenting a summary comparison of bids with a recommendation from staff for Board vote. Melvin sent a comparison sheet via email on the work that needs to be done to replace our fire system replacement which is over 25 years old and in need of replacement. Two quotes: one from Fireline and one from BFPE. BFPE is our current vendor and came in with the better price. Melvin explained that the horn system that BFPE uses is permitted as long as the total capacity of the building does not exceed 300 people. Currently there is no power to the system so it cannot be tested and thus will not pass inspection. Phil asked what the timeline is to have this remediated. Melvin explained that we are currently operating at-risk as the fire system as it is is not operational. Johanna and Chocolatté asked about the maximum capacity of 300 for the fire system for the voice over system. Rev. Dwayne said that somewhere in our records we have a record of what our actual capacity is. Melvin reported that the occupancy from 1992 of the first and second floors as 137 people. Melvin explained that in regards to maximum occupancy – that the day care center will have to have a reinspection now due to there being two desks in the sanctuary and reducing the amount of floor space available for occupancy by the day care center during the week.
  - Motion to approve the BFPE proposal for the fire system upgrade with the source of funds to be determined by the Treasurer, assistant treasurer, and director of operations (Terri, Chocolatté, and Rev. Cathy). Moved by Phil and Bobbi. Motion approved.
- Update on the 472 rental units – Melvin. Melvin reported he is working with Mr. Edwards on the 4 maintenance requests on the 3 units (all occupied).
- Update on DC Central Block proposal down the street. Johanna reported updates that there was no public input into the decision. The local ANC commissioner has been active in trying to get parties to meet. There is nothing at this point for us (MCCDC) to do. Rev. Dwayne said it is important that we watch this issue to make sure that whatever takes place with the Central Block is humane.
- Discussion on push to encourage members info updates – Discussion of the need to be involved with our congregation – example of Azar being missing and no one knowing anything about him or what happened to him. Ace suggested the church could email everyone to confirm that the personal contact info is up-to-date. Rev. Carla said that timing is important in regards to tithing, community, connection and staying in touch with each other. Rev. Carla said she will be coming back into the office soon and may be able to help with some of these issues.
- Mid-City Development - nothing to report this week.
- Early Learners Academy Update - Melvin staying up-to-date with changes there.
- 50<sup>th</sup> MCCDC Anniversary – no update.
- Discussion on the Buchanan Fund – long term analysis still needed at some point.
- Shout-Outs – Rev. Dwayne gave a shout out to TL Green, Rev. Cathy and Rev. Carla for fulfilling the call to the pulpit. Rev. Dwayne gave a shout out to Johanna for acting as moderator while Rev. Dwayne was away. Ace gave a shout out to Melvin for all he does. Melvin gave a shout out to Pamela Stevens for acting as our sexton. Melvin gave a shout out to Rev. Cathy for all she does at both the local and national level to assist with our operations. Rev. Dwayne gave a shout out to Jackie Louis for help with the prayer call. This week’s prayer call was prayer call number 1010. Rev. Dwayne gave a shout out to Eclectic Praise. Ace gave a shout out to Pastor Dwayne for his work on pulling

together all the information on Azar being missing and filing the police report on him.

- Scripture and Song for following meeting: Song – Bobbi. Scripture – Ace.

Motion to adjourn – Phil and Ace. Passed.