

**ST. JUDE'S MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 9, 2024**

Board Members Present: Tim Corbett, John Lankford, Carol Leininger, Sandy Maddox, Judy Hill,
Reverend John McLaughlin

Absent: Beth Hultberg

Members Attended: Ardith Taylor, Pete Muenzen, Drew Culwell, Lisa Richardson, Rick Cobb, Tom Janicki

OPENING PRAYER: Reverend John McLaughlin.

COMPLIMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM MEMBERS:

Drew Culwell shared thoughts/concerns with the Board in regard to the choir's low number of active members and other ongoing issues. He suggested a need for consistent communication and offered to be a part of a solution. Lisa Richardson expressed concern about the situation and asked that the Board to consider a solution to support the ministry and a need to develop a decorum to be adhered to during choir practices. Reverend John noted their concerns and expressed his appreciation for their desire to assist and shared that the Board would take their concerns and suggestions under consideration.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTION ITEMS:

AGENDA:

The agenda was reviewed. It was requested by Tim C. that the discussion about T-shirts be added to the On-going Business and that the discussion about a security team under New Business be moved up on the agenda to follow the Fundraising Report. Tim C. made a motion to approve the agenda with suggested adjustments and John L. seconded with the motion being passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November minutes were approved via email.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

No report was given per Reverend McLaughlin's previous absence.

FINANCE REPORT:

Budget 2025:

Tom Janicki presented comments, recommendations and answered Board questions with regard to 2025 budget. Reverend John requested that the budget discussion for 2025 be held in Executive Session.

Financials – November 2024:

Tom Janicki was present to provide financial report as Beth H. was absent. Tom noted in the past he had received Board meeting minutes and requested the minutes be provided to him again. The Clerk was unaware of this and inquired if the Administrative Assistant should also receive a copy. Reverend John said both should be included on the meeting minutes distribution. Tom also noted that if expenditures were to be made for non-budgeted items, he should be notified.

Tithes were above budget for November, closing the gap to being only \$931 below budget for the year. Positively, tithes exceeded 2023 giving by \$11,000. Fundraising is below budget for the month and \$648 on a YTD basis. As a note, tithes in December 2023 were \$23,250!

Expenses remain under budget for the Year by \$8579 and only \$3000 above 2024 expenses. Given inflation, this is a great job of controlling expenses.

YTD, the church has a gain for the year of \$7,150 which is due to the control of expenses!

November Extraordinary Items

- Yard maintenance expenses have increased significantly. We have now paid \$5,300 in 2024 for maintenance while only spending only \$2600 in 2023 for the same. Thus yard maintenance has doubled? This item was discussed and it was noted that \$1,100 of this total should have been charged to Building Maintenance adjusting this amount down to \$4,200.
- Offsetting the increase in yard maintenance, normal maintenance expenses for the church are down by \$2100 versus budget.
- The balance sheet and income statement reflects a \$50,000 loan from the foundation at 6% interest, the first payment of \$1500 + \$250 (interest) was made in November. This loan reflects the costs of bathroom remodeling. As a reminder, the board budgets \$1500 / month for building expansion, so the only increase is the interest payment of \$250.
- It should be noted that tithes are up over 2023 and the church also received over \$44,000 in special intention donations in 2024 YTD. This is very impressive!

Carol L. made a motion to approve the Finance Report and John L. seconded with the motion being passed unanimously.

BUILDING & GROUNDS AND RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Judy H. gave an update on the following items:

- Security cameras – She is gathering information on the addition of 2 high definition cameras to increase security of the overall property.
- New flood lights update – She started the two existing lights on the Market Street (parking lot) side of the building were not working, but could be replaced by LED dusk to dawn lighting fixtures. She provided a quote of \$1,481 to fix.
- Buffing dining room floor – The floors could be buffed for \$600 prior to year's end.
- Sanctuary ceiling – She will check on the sanctuary ceiling and have the 4 lights that were out replaced.

FUNDRAISING REPORT:

Reverend John shared with the Board multiple quilts had been donated to the church for a silent auction fundraiser. He noted these would be made available in the dining room of the church for bidding from December 15th through December 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Security Team – Rick Cobb was asked to provide leadership for a newly formed security committee. The team is made up of a group of congregants focused on maintaining and updating security procedures as the ministry grows. The committee consists of Rick Cobb (Security Coordinator), Debbie Brandis, and Glenn Hultberg. The committee will have its initial meeting on January 8, 2025. The initial Scope of Work of the team was provided. Rick asked that the Board be engaged in the process and share input and concerns.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

An agenda item was added to discuss the status of the T-shirts. Pete M. brought to the Board a color chart for the T-shirts and suggested the Board consider selecting two shirt colors. Board discussion was initiated, but with no vote taken. Therefore, final color selections were to be reported to Pete at the next Board meeting in January.

Feeding Ministries:

- Food Pantry remains a strong outreach into our community. Food distribution occurs every other Tuesday with 60 - 70 families served.
- Bagged Lunch Program - Weekly delivering 270 bags to those in need.
- Numbers continue to grow with 120+ plates served during Friday breakfast.
- Reverend John shared a new shower trailer was given by the United Methodist Conference to Pastor McBride's church, Hope Recovery, and we would be provided access for use of the trailer soon.

Expansion Update:

- Sandy M. reiterated that the church had received approval from city to begin construction with landscaping/drainage plan. The building contractor, church representative, and city personnel conducted the on-site planning meeting at the church to sign the agreement.
- Sandy shared we are working with the contractor to address electrical, water, sewer, gas, and Internet (AT&T) access to the property to get issues addressed and required permits in place. The building permit was submitted by the contractor and it is moving through the process.

Bathroom Update:

- Sandy M. shared after the congregational meeting approval, we were waiting for Reverend John to get back from his trip to sign the contract for the project. We are working on getting a date for that to occur.

New Well and Irrigation:

- Cape Fear Garden Club Grant - \$7000 used for new well.
- Done: New well for irrigation (not included) – Michael & Sons \$6,061.12
- New electric work for well – Michael & Sons – after building \$3,956.33

Hot Water Heater Update:

- Judy H. had the hot water heater checked out as was not delivering prolonged or hot water when in use. She reported they raised the temperature of the heater slightly as restricted by code. It appears this has made a difference in the water temperature when in use. Discussion ensued about whether we can tap into the on-demand gas water heater to service both buildings. This was to be investigated by Sandy M. in conversation with the contractor.

SOPs – Final Approval:

- Tim C. shared 14 SOPs had been sent to the Board for their review and comment. Board members approved 10 of the 14 in the November meeting. They were notified that the remaining 4 of the 14 SOPs were to be reviewed and approved during the December Board meeting. No Board members provided feedback on any of the 4 under final approval. Carol L. made the motion to accept the 4 SOPs and John L. seconded and all were unanimously passed. The 4 SOPs approved were:
 - SOP First-Time Visitor Follow-up at St. Jude's MCC
 - SOP Fundraising Activities at St. Jude's MCC
 - SOP for Security at St. Jude's MCC Church Building and Grounds
 - SOP for St. Jude's MCC Board of Directors

CLOSING PRAYER - Reverend John McLaughlin

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:15 PM