

MCC Knoxville Congregational Meeting

April 14, 2024

Guidelines for Meetings

1. We are to be open to the winds of the Spirit of God. We will spend time listening for God's Word.
2. Every person is a valuable asset. Everyone has something to offer. Position and longevity do not give a person more rights.
3. The process needs our sharing in honesty, openness, and respect.
 - A. "I" messages should be used whenever possible.
 - B. We need to seek clarity before debate.
 - C. Care should be taken to not use loaded words.
 - D. While sharing is important, no one should feel they can monopolize. The less we use our tongues the less chance of offending.
4. We need to be listeners.
 - A. Always attempt to restate what you hear, so that it can be clarified.
 - B. Calm your inner voices to hear instead of trying to form a response.

Board: Rev. Colleen Darraugh, Steve D., Donna K., Doug K., Ruby L., Gary W., and Cassi W.

Agenda

Member check-in and determination of quorum (20% of Membership)

Opening prayer

Amend/Approve Agenda

Approval of Congregational Meeting minutes of November 12, 2023

Election of Three Board Members (2-year terms ending Spring 2026)

Board seats currently held by Doug K, Ruby L, and Gary W.

Treasurer's Report

Election of One Lay Delegate (3-year term ending Spring 2027)

Carrie R. has served as our Lay Delegate

Reception of Reports as a Group

Pastor's Report

Board of Directors Report

Lay Delegate Report

Deacons Report

Food Pantry Report

Motions of Appreciation

Closing Prayer

Minutes of MCC Knoxville Congregational Meeting November 12, 2023 (Draft 3)

Board Members Present: Rev. Colleen Darraugh, Steve D., Donna K., Doug K., Ruby L., and Cassi W.

Rev. Colleen Darraugh convened the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

After recording members checked in it was determined a quorum had been met (20% of Membership; 28 voting members were present, 10 is a quorum).

Opening Prayer – Pastor Colleen

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion to amend agenda to receive all reports except Treasurer's Report as a group.

Moved: Lois W.

Seconded: Kathy H.

Approved

Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Donna K.

Seconded: Sandy T.

Approved

Colleen said she would introduce these two non-binding resolutions (full texts below):

1. Resolution of Support to our Jewish Neighbors
2. Resolution to be Sister Churches

Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2023

Motion to approve: Vicki V.

Seconded: Beth P.

Approved

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was made available in advance on our website, presented, and discussed at the Congregational Forum.

Ginny asked whether giving on the website was through Breeze, and it is.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report

Moved: Gina G.

Seconded: Cassi W.

Approved

Approval of the 2024 Budget

Motion to approve the 2024 Budget as presented: Donna K.

Seconded: Sandy T.

Approved

Reception of Reports as a Group (Amended Agenda, above):

(All reports were posted on the church website)

Pastor's Report

Board of Directors Report

Lay Delegate Report

Deacons Report

Food Pantry Report

Colleen asked for a motion to receive all of the ministry reports as a group.

Moved: Kathy H.

Second: Steve D.

Approved

Motions of Appreciation

For Steve's work in the Video Ministry

Moved: Shelly T.

Seconded: Gina G.

Approved

For Robert White for his financial services to the church

Moved: Donna K.

Seconded: Cathy H.

Approved

For Lois and Carrie for their altar designs and worship art

Moved: Bob G.

Seconded: Donna K.

Approved

For CB and Cathy H. for their work with the Food Pantry

Moved: Ginny B.

Seconded: Vicki V.

Approved

For Rev. Caedmon, for his digital ministry, and also for all worship leaders.

Moved: Ellen C.

Seconded: Rick S.

Approved

For Ginny as an office volunteer

Moved: Donna K.

Seconded: Bob G.

Approved

For the Board and Deacons

Moved: Sandy T.

Seconded: Carrie R.

Approved

Thanks

From Shelly for this church home

From Colleen for support during her hospitalization

From Carrie for all who donate supplies to the church

Non-binding Resolutions

Resolution of Support to our Jewish Neighbors—Pastor Colleen

Given the history of antisemitism in the world and the United States,

Given the rise of antisemitic hate crimes during the past few years,

Given the over 300 antisemitic incidents in the US since October 7th, 2023,

Given that the synagogues in Knoxville find it necessary to employ off-duty police officers and/or security personnel to ensure their safety during worship and events,

Given the commitment of Metropolitan Community Churches to justice and the inclusive love of God,

Be it resolved, therefore, that the Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville expresses its rejection of antisemitism and hatred of all kinds. We stand with our Jewish siblings and neighbors for love, freedom of religion, human dignity, and safety. We will do our part to educate ourselves, and to root out unexamined hatred and antisemitism in our own lives and our communities.

We acknowledge that the war in Gaza is highly complex. We call out Hamas as a terrorist organization and pray for the peace and safety of all in the region – Jews, Palestinians, and all who call Gaza and Israel home.

May the God of our shared ancestors grant discernment to all our political leaders.

May the God of our shared ancestors teach us the ways of justice, peace, and love.

May the God of our shared ancestors help us be loving neighbors to one another and the planet.

May our one God watch over and protect our houses of worship, and may they be a safe “house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:7) Amen.

Moved: Ellen C.

Seconded: Ginny B.

Robert recommended adding Palestinians to the resolution.

Colleen said she would make a similar resolution of support for the area Mosques.

Moved to approve with Colleen’s note: Kathy H.

Seconded: Cassi W.

Approved

Resolution to be Sister Churches—Pastor Colleen

Given that the denomination of Metropolitan Community Churches has asked Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville, in Tennessee, USA, to be a sister church with Hope and Unity Metropolitan Community Church in Johannesburg, South Africa,

Given that MCC Knoxville has been in existence since 1977 and has experienced challenges and successes, declines and growth, financial shortfalls and abundance,

Given that Hope and Unity MCC was once a vibrant community, experienced challenges, closed, and has now restarted,

Be it resolved that MCC Knoxville and Hope and Unity MCC be sister churches, mutually encouraging each other’s growth, discernment, and mission.

MCC Knoxville commits to pray for Hope and Unity MCC and for their Senior Pastor, Rev. Nokuthula Dhladhla, and Associate Pastor, Rev. Paul Mokgethi-Heath.

MCC Knoxville will share with Hope and Unity MCC those resources for worship, courses, bible study, community development, and justice/community service tools that are effective in our local ministries.

As feasible, various leaders and/or Pastors from our two congregations will have a video call per month to exchange experiences and achievements.

We will find unique ways to live into our calling to be in partnership, seek to grow spiritually, and to learn together.

Moved: Joyce C.

Seconded: Sandy T.

Approved

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Bob G.

Seconded: Kathy H.

Approved

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

MCCKnoxville March 2024 Treasurer's Report

As of April 1, 2024

Notes

1. Undesignated (General Fund) Disbursements & Receipts for the month

- a. March General Fund receipts of \$9,028.49 were unfavorable to disbursements of \$9,239.10 by (\$210.61).
- b. March General Fund receipts were favorable to budget of \$8,755 by \$273.49.

2. Undesignated (General Fund) Disbursements & Receipts year to date

- a. YTD receipts of \$30,870.13 are favorable to disbursements of \$26,931.74 by \$3,938.39.
- b. YTD receipts of \$30,870.13 are favorable to budget of \$26,265 by \$4,605.13.
 - i. There was an annual tithe contribution of \$6,000 that was received in February. The annual contribution provides a great cushion but should not be considered as "current" giving. It is both current and future giving equal to \$500 per month when compared to budget and disbursements.
 - 1. We are currently favorable to budget even with this adjustment.

3. Designated (Non-Budgeted) Receipts & Disbursements.

Note that this category of funds should be self-sustaining. Disbursements should not exceed each fund's balance on a year-to-date basis without prior Board discussion and approval.

- a. March Designated funds receipts of \$428.30 were unfavorable to disbursements of \$759.07 by (\$330.77).
- b. YTD Designated funds receipts of \$2,029.53 are favorable to disbursements of \$1,935.57 by \$94.06.

2024 Designated Giving Results

Balance On Hand as of 1/1/2024		2024 Receipts	2024 Spend	Balance On Hand as of 4/1/2024	
Beginning Designated	13,715.21	2,029.53	1,935.57	13,809.27	Ending Designated
Building Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Building Fund
Children's Ministry	1,815.45	0.00	0.00	1,815.45	Children's Ministry
Deacon's Benevolence	7,351.79	300.00	690.75	6,961.04	Deacon's Benevolence
Deacon's Food Pantry	1,098.95	1,529.63	1,181.42	1,447.16	Deacon's Food Pantry
Deacon's FC Gift Cards	1,981.04	0.00	63.40	1,917.64	Deacon's FC Gift Cards
Medical Support Fund	1,467.98	200.00	0.00	1,667.98	Medical Support Fund

Total Current Balances

Total Current Liquid Assets

84,878.70

Cash on hand	82,961.05
General Fund	4,210.75
General Conference	500.00
Reserve Fund	66,358.67
6 Months Emergency Reserve	52,525.00
Discretionary Reserve	13,833.67
Designated Cash on hand	11,891.63
Non-monetary Liquid Assets (FC Gift Cards)	1,917.64

Note that the Reserve Fund has been redistributed into 6 Months Emergency Reserve with the balance in Discretionary Reserve.

Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2024

	<u>Mar 31, 24</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
CBBC OPERATING ACCOUNT	
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FUND	1,815.45
DEACON'S FUND	
Deacons Benevolence	6,961.04
Medical Expense Support Fund	1,667.98
Pantry Fund	1,447.16
Total DEACON'S FUND	10,076.18
General Conference	500.00
GENERAL FUND	4,210.75
RESERVE FUND	66,358.67
Total CBBC OPERATING ACCOUNT	82,961.05
CBBC Square and Paypal	0.01
Total Checking/Savings	82,961.06
Other Current Assets	
Deacons' Food City Cards	1,917.64
Total Other Current Assets	1,917.64
Total Current Assets	84,878.70
Fixed Assets	
BUILDING	233,211.45
Total Fixed Assets	233,211.45
TOTAL ASSETS	318,090.15
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Cleaning Deposit	150.00
Direct Deposit Liabilities	541.94
Total Other Current Liabilities	691.94
Total Current Liabilities	691.94
Total Liabilities	691.94
Equity	
FUND BALANCE	313,365.76
Net Income	4,032.45
Total Equity	317,398.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	318,090.15

Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville
Profit & Loss
March 2024

	<u>Mar 24</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
INCOME	
TITHES AND OFFERINGS	8,734.92
Total INCOME	8,734.92
OTHER INCOME	
INTEREST INCOME - CBBC CKING	3.57
MISCELLANEOUS	290.00
Total OTHER INCOME	293.57
Total Income	9,028.49
Gross Profit	9,028.49
Expense	
ADMINISTRATION	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	59.60
Total ADMINISTRATION	59.60
DENOMINATIONAL SUPPORT	
UFMCC TITHES	1,301.55
Total DENOMINATIONAL SUPPORT	1,301.55
FACILITIES	
ALARM SYSTEM	50.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE from GF	78.49
Cleaning	300.00
COPIER	35.00
LAWN CARE	160.00
Pest Control	100.00
UTILITIES	985.25
Total FACILITIES	1,708.74
OUTREACH	
Johannesburg Silbing Church	407.50
Total OUTREACH	407.50
PASTOR	
CELL PHONE	133.32
HOUSING	1,500.00
SALARY	2,000.00
Total PASTOR	3,633.32
STAFF	
ACCOMPANIST	750.00
Associate Pastor	800.00
PAYROLL TAXES	118.57
Total STAFF	1,668.57

Profit & Loss

March 2024

	<u>Mar 24</u>
TECHNOLOGY	
Internet	383.73
Web Hosting	25.00
Zoom, Breeze, GoDaddy	<u>51.09</u>
Total TECHNOLOGY	<u>459.82</u>
Total Expense	<u>9,239.10</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-210.61
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Pantry Income	<u>428.30</u>
Total Other Income	428.30
Other Expense	
Deacons' Assistance Expense	307.50
Pantry Expense	<u>451.57</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>759.07</u>
Net Other Income	<u>-330.77</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-541.38</u></u>

Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through March 2024

					TOTAL			
	Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Jan - Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense								
Income								
FUND RAISERS								
SPECIAL FUNDRAISERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total FUND RAISERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
INCOME								
Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
TITHES AND OFFERINGS	8,734.92	8,575.00	159.92	101.87%	30,529.95	25,725.00	4,804.95	118.68%
Total INCOME	8,734.92	8,575.00	159.92	101.87%	30,529.95	25,725.00	4,804.95	118.68%
OTHER INCOME								
INTEREST INCOME - CBBC CKING	3.57	4.00	-0.43	89.25%	10.18	12.00	-1.82	84.83%
MISCELLANEOUS	290.00	140.00	150.00	207.14%	330.00	220.00	110.00	150.0%
Total OTHER INCOME	293.57	144.00	149.57	203.87%	340.18	232.00	108.18	146.63%
Total Income	9,028.49	8,719.00	309.49	103.55%	30,870.13	25,957.00	4,913.13	118.93%
Gross Profit	9,028.49	8,719.00	309.49	103.55%	30,870.13	25,957.00	4,913.13	118.93%
Expense								
ADMINISTRATION								
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	104.94	0.00	104.94	100.0%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	59.60	150.00	-90.40	39.73%	95.68	300.00	-204.32	31.89%
TN STATE ANNUAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	20.00	20.00	0.00	100.0%
Total ADMINISTRATION	59.60	150.00	-90.40	39.73%	220.62	320.00	-99.38	68.94%
COMMUNITY BUILDING								
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%
SPECIAL FUNDRAISERS EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total COMMUNITY BUILDING	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%
CONFERENCES/NETWORK GATHERINGS								
General Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Network Gatherings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total CONFERENCES/NETWORK GATHERINGS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
DENOMINATIONAL SUPPORT								
BOARD OF PENSIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	252.00	250.00	2.00	100.8%
UFMCC TITHES	1,301.55	825.00	476.55	157.76%	3,465.49	3,215.00	250.49	107.79%
Total DENOMINATIONAL SUPPORT	1,301.55	825.00	476.55	157.76%	3,717.49	3,465.00	252.49	107.29%
FACILITIES								
ALARM SYSTEM	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.0%	150.00	150.00	0.00	100.0%
BUILDING MAINTENANCE from GF	78.49	100.00	-21.51	78.49%	2,819.74	300.00	2,519.74	939.91%
Cleaning	300.00	200.00	100.00	150.0%	700.00	600.00	100.00	116.67%
COPIER	35.00	30.00	5.00	116.67%	93.99	70.00	23.99	134.27%
INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%

Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through March 2024

					TOTAL			
	Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Jan - Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
LAWN CARE	160.00	260.00	-100.00	61.54%	160.00	260.00	-100.00	61.54%
Pest Control	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.0%	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.0%
UTILITIES	985.25	850.00	135.25	115.91%	2,409.10	1,900.00	509.10	126.8%
Total FACILITIES	1,708.74	1,590.00	118.74	107.47%	6,432.83	3,380.00	3,052.83	190.32%
OUTREACH								
ACT blanket ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Johannesburg Silbing Church	407.50	134.00	273.50	304.1%	407.50	400.00	7.50	101.88%
ORGANIZATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
PRIDE ACTIVITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Welcome/Outreach Materials	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total OUTREACH	407.50	134.00	273.50	304.1%	407.50	500.00	-92.50	81.5%
PASTOR								
CELL PHONE	133.32	134.00	-0.68	99.49%	400.12	400.00	0.12	100.03%
CONTINUING EDUCATION	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
HOUSING	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.0%	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.0%
SALARY	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.0%	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total PASTOR	3,633.32	4,134.00	-500.68	87.89%	10,900.12	11,400.00	-499.88	95.62%
STAFF								
ACCOMPANIST	750.00	416.00	334.00	180.29%	1,000.00	1,250.00	-250.00	80.0%
Associate Pastor	800.00	800.00	0.00	100.0%	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00	100.0%
Holiday Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
PAYROLL TAXES	118.57	113.00	5.57	104.93%	240.94	338.00	-97.06	71.28%
Total STAFF	1,668.57	1,329.00	339.57	125.55%	3,640.94	3,988.00	-347.06	91.3%
TECHNOLOGY								
COMPUTERS & Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Internet	383.73	188.00	195.73	204.11%	1,146.16	563.00	583.16	203.58%
Web Hosting	25.00	25.00	0.00	100.0%	75.00	75.00	0.00	100.0%
Zoom, Breeze, GoDaddy	51.09	108.00	-56.91	47.31%	191.08	328.00	-136.92	58.26%
Total TECHNOLOGY	459.82	321.00	138.82	143.25%	1,412.24	966.00	446.24	146.2%
WORSHIP								
HONORARIUMS	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%	200.00	250.00	-50.00	80.0%
Music Licenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
Total WORSHIP	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%	200.00	450.00	-250.00	44.44%
Total Expense	9,239.10	8,708.00	531.10	106.1%	26,931.74	24,594.00	2,337.74	109.51%
Net Ordinary Income	-210.61	11.00	-221.61	-1,914.64%	3,938.39	1,363.00	2,575.39	288.95%
Other Income/Expense								
Other Income								

Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through March 2024

					TOTAL			
	Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Jan - Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
BUILDING FUND Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Deacons' Assistance Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	300.00	0.00	300.00	100.0%
Homeless Ministry Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Medical Support Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	200.00	0.00	200.00	100.0%
Pantry Income	428.30	0.00	428.30	100.0%	1,529.63	0.00	1,529.63	100.0%
Total Other Income	428.30	0.00	428.30	100.0%	2,029.63	0.00	2,029.63	100.0%
Other Expense								
Deacons' Assistance Expense	307.50	0.00	307.50	100.0%	690.75	0.00	690.75	100.0%
Homeless Ministry Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Maintenance Expense-Bldg Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Medical Support Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Pantry Expense	451.57	0.00	451.57	100.0%	1,244.82	0.00	1,244.82	100.0%
Total Other Expense	759.07	0.00	759.07	100.0%	1,935.57	0.00	1,935.57	100.0%
Net Other Income	-330.77	0.00	-330.77	100.0%	94.06	0.00	94.06	100.0%
Net Income	-541.38	11.00	-552.38	-4,921.64%	4,032.45	1,363.00	2,669.45	295.85%

Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville, TN						
Summary of Receipts & Disbursements for March 2024						
	<u>Month:</u>			<u>YTD:</u>		
	Undesignated	Designated	Total	Undesignated	Designated	Total
Receipts	9,028.49	428.30	9,456.79	30,870.13	2,029.63	32,899.76
Disbursements	9,239.10	759.07	9,998.17	26,931.74	1,935.57	28,867.31
Increase/(Decrease)	(210.61)	(330.77)	(541.38)	3,938.39	94.06	4,032.45

Pastor's Report – Spring Congregational Meeting 2024

The time since our last Congregational Meeting has been full of activity plus the addition of new ministries. I also fully left my position with the denomination and continued with my doctoral studies. My health is doing well and keeping up with my productivity!

In January, we launched the year with a New Year's Day **hike/walk** at Seven Islands State Birding Park. We had 9 souls brave the cold that day. We decided to do an easy hike on the first Saturday of each month. February took us to the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and March to a lovely walk by the river below the dam at Norris State Park with 10 people. As I write this report, we are preparing for an April hike at Ijams Nature Center in South Knoxville. The plan for May is to walk the Little River Trail near the Elkmont Campground in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park followed by a hotdog cookout. Thanks to Linda and Carrie for picking out our trails!

In January, we also launched a new **monthly book club**. We meet onsite at South Press Café on the third Friday of the month (generally). This group averages 7 participants. Initially, I offered an online gathering as well. However, only 1 person attended once, so the online gathering has now been canceled.

In February, I interviewed and auditioned Jackie Manning for **accompanist**. Jackie joined us for the month of March, and we are discussing continuing the arrangement. Jackie's presence meant we could call together a **choir** for Easter Sunday. As I write this, I am excited to have 14 singers in the choir and to offer special music on Easter Sunday. In addition, some of the choir members have sat in the choir loft during Lent to help lead congregational singing. Adding the choir has meant additional work for me with preparation and rehearsals, however, it gives me great joy to make music with others.

Our **worship services** have included the Advent/Christmas series – The Gift of Being Present; the Epiphany season series – The Light of Community and Connection; and the Lenten series – Wandering Heart. Since Christmas Eve was on a Sunday, we did our Christmas Eve service in the morning and offered a short online only service in the evening. This year, we are offering an onsite and online Good Friday service. Plans are underway for the weeks following Easter (the Season of Easter) for a series of Resurrection Stories. I am involved with my clergy peer group planning a series for the summer that our churches will do.

Since December 1st, there have been 20 worship services for which I have prepared the order of worship (script) and powerpoint. Worship information has been communicated to the worship leaders, soloists, and Steve for the tech team. Rev. Pressley Sutherland was a guest preacher in January, and Rev. Caedmon Grace preached once in February. I was

pleased to have been able to arrange for a group from the Appalachian Equality Chorus to come and sing at church in early January.

During this time period, I have continued with ongoing ministries and meetings such as Board Meetings, Deacon Meetings, and our **Tuesday noon and evening discussion groups**. Rev. Joan Saniuk and her spouse Sharilynn Steketee led the Tuesday groups for Lent. They will continue to lead these groups until they finish the book “If God is Love, Don’t Be a Jerk.” Rev. Caedmon and I strive to meet weekly, and I meet with the pastors of our sister church monthly.

We transferred our online giving platform to **Breeze**. I was involved with the setup of that and contacting our recurring donors to assist (if needed) with them moving to the new platform. I also created the Contact Information Form that we distributed to try to update our records in Breeze.

I met with the Director of Contextual Education at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities regarding our having a remote **intern**. (If they had any students from Knoxville or nearby, we would be an option for an onsite intern.) Subsequently, I had a meeting with a potential student intern. She will begin with us likely over the summer although officially her internship will begin in September.

I attended the January **Game Night**. Thanks to Sam Guffey for his years of service organizing Game Night. Thanks to Gina and Sharon for being willing to carry this forward!

In January, I assisted staff from the denomination with the cleaning out of **The Rock MCC** in Chattanooga which had closed. I brought back a number of items for our Worship Arts Team and for our Yard Sale. Speaking of which, the **Spring Yard Sale** is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. Mark your calendars!

Given the improvements in my health, my community involvement has increased. I’ve been more active with **Pride Interfaith Knox (PIK)** moving this group to a formalized coalition preparing to apply to for 501(c)3 status. We have drafted our Mission, Vision, and Bylaws and presented them to the participants. These will officially be voted upon in May. Our Co-Chair Steering Committee (of which I am one of four) meets regularly while the organization only meets quarterly. MCKK hosted a luncheon for the February 1st meeting. We are now actively planning the June annual Pride Interfaith Service and booking booths at the various Pride celebrations in our area.

We had representatives from **Justice Knox** attend our church and speak to us about this organization. I have learned more about it and attended their spring rally. I am encouraging our people to attend the Nehemiah Action on April 9th. We do not have to do anything other

than be present as witnesses of people of faith (and voters) while they ask city and county officials to commit to various community improvements toward justice for all.

Our community has a new organization, the **Aging Rainbow Coalition**. I attended one of their events at South Press and had planned to go to another but had a flat tire. I am in communication with members of their leadership team, and we are trying to schedule a meeting.

In January, I traveled to Orlando, Florida for the **FACT** meeting (Faith Communities Today) where I serve on the Steering Committee and the Research Committee. Coming up we will have an online meeting of the Research Committee as we finalize the next national survey of congregational attendees. In February, I traveled to St. Louis to be with the Transition Team of **MCC Greater St. Louis** as they contemplated the results of their surveys regarding their next Pastor. I was able to assist and guide their deliberations and share in the sermon on Sunday while Shelly was also able to offer music ministry.

I have sought to support **APATT** through conversations with various leaders, supporting my wife in cooking, brainstorming about the upcoming fundraiser, promoting the making of sandwiches at our church, and thanking volunteers. APATT has a major fundraiser coming up on April 20th which I hope you will support. Donna Braquey is actively working with **Knox Pride** and others providing a **community fridge** outside Knox Pride. She, along with other volunteers, is now making sandwiches for the community fridge one Sunday afternoon a month at MCKK. We were able to share some meat from APATT with them as they now offer a once-a-month **hot meal at Knox Pride**. I was also able to take some extra desserts from APATT to Knox Pride.

We are past due for a **Membership Class** at MCKK. We have a number of people who have been attending regularly for a while who I hope will decide to become members. We will be offering an onsite and an online membership class very soon.

This church has wonderful leaders and volunteers. I am so grateful for the Board Members, Deacons, and all the various ministry leaders. I could not do what I do without all of you! I am especially grateful to Steve and his team who run the AV every worship service. You extend our reach beyond the walls of the building. So, a special thanks to Steve, Richie, Linda, Sharon, Shelly, Vicky, and Caedmon.

Thank you all for being ministry partners. Thank you for your prayers for me.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
Congregational Meeting
April 14, 2024

The Board of Directors works on behalf of the congregation as steward and administrator of the church's funds. The Board also supports both short and long term church plans and activities. Since the last Congregational Meeting on November 12, 2024, the Board has:

- * Met five times virtually via Zoom. Other business was handled by email.
- * Monitored income and expenses to ensure that the mission of the church continues. We are thankful for the generosity of our members and friends that has allowed us to continue to pay all our bills on time.
- * Ensured that the primary functions of the office remain covered with volunteers. As always, we thank Robert and for the hours he spends in the office each week. We also thank C.B., who remotely keeps up with office voicemail messages during the week.
- * The Board especially wants to acknowledge and thank Colleen for arranging several Sundays of meaningful and uplifting worship experiences when she needed to be absent, and it thanks all who contributed to these services. Our Digital Pastor, Caedmon Grace, has also participated in worship beyond his usual responsibilities and as always produced excellent worship experiences for the congregation, both onsite and online. Pastor Colleen's wife Shelly continues to contribute her musical talents during worship services, for which we are most grateful. Colleen also arranged an appearance onsite of the Appalachian Equality Chorus, which was very successful, as well as a pianist, Jackie, for the month of March. The Board also provided financial support for Knox Pride, and it is developing a policy for rental of the church building for events. It is also evaluating insurance options for our buildings.
- * Your Board worked closely with Pastor Colleen and Treasurer Donna on the budget development process.
- * Under Steve's guidance the AV Ministry continues to receive improvements, resulting in excellent hybrid services. In addition, Steve has been assisted by Linda, Doug, Richie, Shelly, Vicki, Sharon, Sandy and Sam in delivering Sunday AV worship coverage onsite and on Zoom and Facebook. Steve is preparing for possible Internet service provider changes.
- * Ruby has been very busy coordinating maintenance of church facilities. Gravel spreading, seeding, tree and entrance trimming, mulching, and pressure washing are just a few of her continuing oversight areas.

In all of these things, Ruby either supervised almost all of the work, arranged to have it supervised, or did the improvements and repairs herself. She also took bids and made many calls to secure the best workers for all the various projects. The shed has been leveled and rehabilitated, the annex is now properly leveled, and landscaping projects have been continued.

- * We also thank the Social Committee, and especially Sam G, for hosting our monthly Friday Night Game nights, as well as Gina and Sharon (who will be assuming that role).

Lay Delegate Report

April 2024

Dear MCC-Knoxville Congregation,

I have been serving as your Lay delegate since being elected in October 2020. Since my last report at the November 2023 Congregational Meeting, I have continued to receive and review the email/newsletter called CONNECT, which shares the general workings of our global church, including the Council of Elders, virtual and ongoing events, the governing board and many resources. Anyone can sign up to receive the newsletter online at ufmcc.org.

On February 24, 2024, I attended a virtual forum to learn about the new elder candidates, and on February 25, I presented the biographies of the elder candidates to our congregation. I voted virtually to affirm the UFMCC Council of Elders on February 27, 2024 at a special general conference. The elders will serve as official representatives of the fellowship in the areas of public and community relations; provide oversight of and support to the congregations; consult with churches on issues, related to church development; and fulfill other and ceremonial duties according to the bylaws. The new elders are Hattie Alexander-Key, Reverend Mark Byrd, Rev. Nokuthula Dhladhla, Velma Garcia, Rev. Rich Hendrix, Rev. Aaron Miller, Rev. Elaine Saralegui Caraballo, and Rev. Stewart Sutherland. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this position.

Yours in Christ,

Carrie Roller

DEACONS' REPORT, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING APRIL 2024

DEACONS' FUND

Thanks to the generous contributions of our church family, we have 6,961.04 in the Deacons' Fund. Since the last meeting we have been able to assist families with rent support, Christmas for children, and school fees.

WORSHIP AND OTHER SUPPORT

The Deacons have continued to participate in worship leadership including the celebration of communion. Lois and Carrie head up the Worship Arts Team that decorates the Church for the church seasons. Carrie assigns the monthly worship participants. Robert checks and responds to church phone messages and emails on Monday of each week. C.B. and Shelly checks phone messages at other times. Kathy publishes the weekly newsletter and keeps up with attendance and C.B. provides leadership to the food pantry ministry with the support of a team of active individuals.

MEMBERSHIP & FRIENDS OUTREACH

As part of the regular duty of Deacons, we seek to be in contact with those of you that have been ill or in need. We also seek to reach out to any that seem to be absent more than usual.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Kathy Hyland tracks the weekly worship attendance on Zoom, Facebook live, and in-person. This assists us in identifying people who may appreciate a call from us such as newcomers or members and friends who are unexpectedly absent.

MEDICAL EXPENSE SUPPORT FUND

This fund is to assist those needing financial assistance with medical expenses. There have been no requests or occasions to use this fund during this reporting period. The fund has a balance of 1,667.98.

Food Pantry Report

Congregational Meeting April 2024

Submitted by C.B. Morrison

The demand for food continues to grow as food prices increase. For the last 5 months since the last pantry report, 198 households have been given food. This includes 113 children, 238 adults and 98 seniors for a total of 449 people. There was an average of 40 baskets per month. In 2023 we gave out an average of 37 baskets per month. In order to respect our limited resources, we decided at our December 2023 team meeting, to limit the number of baskets to 35 per month beginning February 2024. We exceeded that both in February with 42 baskets and 40 in March. This has occurred when people who have never contacted the church before, have children and are in need of food. We help them when food is available. After 35 baskets are given, we refer the calls to other agencies and have been giving out flyers for those contacts.

Robert is taking church messages and emails for food on Mondays. Shelly checks messages on the other days, and if Shelly is unavailable, I check messages. Cathy receives direct calls to her cell phone.

I manage the finances, submit required reports to CAC and Second Harvest and order food from Second Harvest. Cathy, the co-leader of the pantry, does the day-to-day activities with the help of other team members, by making baskets, doing inventory, picking up food from Second Harvest, purchasing needed food from Food City that is not available at Second Harvest and making most of the deliveries. I extend a special thanks to Cathy for all her hard work and true devotion to this ministry.

Second Harvest is hosting an Agency Relations Conference on April 11, 2024. This will include guest speakers, seminars and a time for the different food pantry representatives to meet and greet and share experiences. So far there are 95 food pantry representatives attending from surrounding counties. Colleen and Cathy will be attending. Due to my health, I will not be able to attend.

Thanks to the congregation for their generous support of food and finances during Lent and the months before Lent. Also, many thanks to the pantry team of Cathy, Gina, Joyce, Linda, Sandy and Shelly for all of their hard work.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact C.B.