Theme - “Uniting our Church and Community Together”

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 1:10

1. Prayer
2. Update on Connection Campaign
   1. Why Church?
      1. Invite Family
   2. Share Facebook Posts
   3. Family and Friends Day
   4. Continue to Lift up in Prayer
3. Update on Capital Campaign
   1. Grants
   2. Loan
   3. Parsonage
      1. Vote

\***Action Item** - Continue to spiritually, physically and financially support the expansion efforts

1. Update on Community Campaign
   1. Thanks/Gratitude
   2. Upcoming Events
      1. Christmas/New Years

\***Action Item** - Participate in community outreach plan

1. Pastoral Concerns
   1. Means of Grace Attendance
   2. Pastor’s Schedule
      1. PhD, NTS, Travel
   3. Use of Church Building
      1. Funerals, Events, Weddings, etc.
   4. Requesting Funds
2. Appointments
3. Prayer

**MEMBERS’ MEETING MINUTES**

**November 27, 2022**

Theme - “Uniting our Church and Community Together”

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 1:10

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Lisa Anderson. Pastor Charles W. Thurman, Jr. said everyone by now should have received the agenda via email.

**Update on Connection Campaign:**

1. Why Church? – The Pastor reminded us of this sermon series, which he completed Part 4 as of this morning, and why it’s important to be connected to a church. He urged all the members to invite our family members who for whatever reason are not currently connected to St. Matthew or any other church, especially those former family members. He said we have started a new Acolyte Ministry to get the children more involved in the church and that it has attracted more participation and that they are learning more about the Bible as they perform their respective duties.
2. Share Facebook Posts – He urged us to post the sermons, ministry activities and any other related SMC information on our respective Facebook pages, if applicable, to share and encourage our family and friends.
3. Family and Friends Day – We will host a Family and Friends Day this conference year as another opportunity to promote our connection campaign.
4. Continue to Lift Up in Prayer – The Pastor re-emphasized the need for lifting our family and friends up in prayer, that first and foremost we need to concerned about their salvation and then encourage them to connect with SMC or a body of believers for their spiritual growth and development.

It was suggested that perhaps we can create some Public Service Announcements (PSA’s) for the radio to promote our ministries. Sis. Rhonda Briscoe shared that for our Thanksgiving Outreach, we teamed up with the Kansas City Chapter of Omega Psi Phi for their Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway. We identified eight families from our Trunk or Treat and Back to School Fellowships and had baskets delivered to them, along with one of our own members. The baskets were delivered by the Omega Psi Phi members. She also shared that we will starting a hospitality mug giveaway to guests that attend our Sunday Morning Worship Services.

**Update on Community Campaign:**

1. The Pastor expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to all of the members that have supported the building expansion project thus far. In the absence of Billy Holland, one of the Project Committee members, the Pastor shared that due to high interest rates for bank loans, we need to reexamine our direction for the use of the funds that have been donated to date, along with the potential profit from the proposed sale of the parsonage/rental property. He stated that instead of expanding our church building, we should explore how we can transform it into a multi-purpose space, along with identifying a dedicated room for our children, youth and teens (CYT). He remarked that he has not shared his thoughts with the Building Project Committee, but will do so at the next meeting for further exploration and discussion. Several members seemed to concur with the Pastor’s thoughts on renovation of our existing church building.
2. The Pastor presented a proposed change to Christmas and New Year’s Sunday Morning Worship Services. He suggested that since both days fall on a Sunday and to allow for family time, that we hold those services on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve in the evening. This will also provide an opportunity to further connect with our community friends and solicit their attendance and participation. The CYT will present a Christmas program and children from the community will be asked to participate. It was reiterated that we need to be intentional with our connectional efforts in order to leverage more effectively our connection. A suggestion to have a candlelight service to illustrate coming into the light of Jesus. There will not be Watch Night Service as the proposed New Year’s Eve service will be observed. After further discussion, it was consensed that both services will begin at

**Members’ Meeting – November 27, 2022 – Page 2**

5:00 pm. Another suggestion was that we have a virtual Sunday Morning Worship service on New Year’s Day commemorating the start of the New Year. Further discussion will ensue to finalize the design and conduct of the services.

**Update on Capital Campaign:**

1. Grants – In the absence of Daniel Moon, Trustee Chairperson, the Pastor asked Cynthia M. Smith to provide the updates. She shared that we had submitted two grants to Sunderland Foundation for our building expansion project and one to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund’s Preserving Black Churches for repair and restoration of our church. Unfortunately, we were not approved by either. Our feedback from Sunderland was that we failed to submit a certified audit from a CPA firm, which we have since explored other grant opportunities and most of them require a certified audit. The question was raised if we have exhausted the list of available grant funds and the response was a definite “No”. We have, however, stopped our search due to the fact that we do not have a certified audit. A follow up question was raised as to whether or not it is possible to hire a CPA firm on retainer to better position ourselves for obtaining a certified audit? The committee will explore this and other options to ensure our readiness for an audit and for soliciting additional grant funds.
2. Loans – This was addressed earlier during the Pastor’s update on the Community Campaign.
3. Parsonage – Cynthia M. Smith gave an update on the status of the sale of the parsonage/rental property. She shared that Karen Anderson has worked diligently to prepare herself financially to be buyer-ready and that we have drafted a Residential Sale Agreement, that has been reviewed by a licensed realtor (pro bono). Once the Committee has reviewed the agreement, it will be forwarded to our Mortgage Lender who is servicing us (pro bono) and he will then send it to the Underwriting Department to begin the process for selling the parsonage/rental property. She further stated that prior to our proceeding, the members present have to vote on the selling, documented, signed and dated by the Pastor. Then, this document will be presented at the 2nd Quarterly Conference on December 1st for approval by Presiding Elder Moulton and ultimately, sent to Bishop Frencher for final approval. Upon receipt of the final approval from the Bishop, we can then forward the agreement to our Mortgage Lender. After no further questions or discussion, the Pastor called for a motion to approve the sale of the parsonage/rental property. Bro. Bernard Stevenson moved and Rev. Lisa Anderson seconded the motion. The vote was 27-0 in favor of the motion. Motion was carried.

**Pastoral Concerns:**

1. Means of Grace – This refers to attending the following, but not limited to, our Worship services, Prayer meetings and Bible Study. The Pastor encouraged the leaders, especially the ministerial staff, as well as the members to attend for spiritual growth and development.
2. Pastor’s Schedule – He shared that he is pursuing a second Doctorate (African American Preaching) that will certify him to teach on the collegiate level and that it is based out of Indianapolis, IN with an approximate timeframe of five (5) years. He said he will have to travel to Indianapolis periodically and wanted the membership to be aware of his anticipated time away from the pulpit. In addition, as the Associate Director at the Nazarene Theological Seminary and its program for African American Preachers/Pastors, he will have to periodically conduct onsite visits which will involve travel as well. He reiterated that St. Matthew and its members are his first priority.
3. Use of Church Building – The Pastor re-emphasized that any requests to use the church building for funerals, weddings or any other events, should be communicated first to him in advance. The requests should include the proposed date and what all will be needed. He stated that if he’s unavailable, then the requests should be made to Rev. Lisa Anderson, Assistant Pastor.
4. Requesting Funds – The Pastor stated that all requests for funds, e.g. Ministry of Kindness, should be requested from Billy Holland, Preacher’s Steward.

The members were reminded that when making donations to the Building Fund, please designate on the envelopes or via Givelify whether it’s for the Building Fund or the Building Expansion Project so that it can be recorded accurately.

A question was raised as to how the members who are not present at the meeting stay informed and updated on church information, progress and actions? It was agreed that the minutes of the Members’ Meetings would be shared on the Members’ Only page on our website ([www.stmatthewkc.org](http://www.stmatthewkc.org)) and for those members who do not have access to a computer or the website, the minutes can be mailed to them, once the Pastor, Assistant Pastor or Administrative Assistant is provided the names of the members.

**Appointments:**

1. Billy Holland – reappointed to Preacher’s Steward and Chairperson of Stewards
2. Samuel Bell – appointed to the new position of Assistant Preacher’s Steward and Assistant Chairperson of Stewards
3. Deaconesses – Sherry Johnson, Joletta Moon and Rhonda Briscoe (these new appointments will be confirmed at the 2nd Quarterly Conference on 12/1/2022)
4. Christian Education Director – Rev. Cynthia Lewis
5. Young Adults Co-Leaders – Rev. Rebecca Skinner and Racquel Gorden
6. Community Outreach Director – Rhonda Briscoe
7. Director of Children – Christina Thurman

Explanation of the Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society (WH&OMS) was provided for further understanding of how our current structure will be aligned to the Connectional Church structure. This is in keeping with Gelenia Frencher’s, Missionary Supervisor, requests that each local church have a formal WH&OMS.

The appointees were congratulated.

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Pastor.

The minutes were recorded by Cynthia M. Smith.

Attendees:

Rev. Dr. Charles W. Thurman, Jr. Sis. Joletta Moon

Rev. Shannon Hancock Sis. Sherry Johnson

Rev. Rebecca Skinner Sis. Sharon Stevenson

Rev. Lisa Anderson Sis. Shamika Pegue

Rev. Cynthia Lewis Sis. Rose Stevenson

Sis. Cynthia M. Smith Sis. Pearleen Rowan

Sis. Karen Anderson Bro. Charles Rowan

Sis. Racquel Gorden Bro. Terry Skinner

Bro. Samuel Bell Bro. Carlton Brown

Sis. Vedell Smith

Bro. Bernard Stevenson

Bro. LaRon Stevenson

Bro. Patrick Stevenson

Sis. Christina Thurman

Sis. Patricia Crawford

Sis. Joyce Hancock

Sis. Tais Smith

Sis. Rhonda Briscoe