

Metropolitan Community Church
SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBER HANDBOOK
Reverend Leon Perry III, Senior Pastor



2024
**THE
YEAR
OF THE
OPEN
DOOR**

July 27, 2024

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." (Revelation 3:8)



JOIN VIA PHONE or ZOOM
DIAL BY PHONE: (312) 626-6799
MEETING ID: 830 7588 4427

JOIN US FOR OUR

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

IN PERSON & ONLINE

**SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024
10:15 AM**

From the Pastor's Desk

"The Year of the Open Door"

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou has a little strength, and has kept my word and has not denied my name."
Revelation 3:8

Grace and Peace Beloved Congregation and Ministry Leaders.

Welcome to our Semi-Annual Meeting, a pivotal time for us to reflect on our journey together over the past six months and to plan for the exciting future that lies ahead. As we gather here, let us remember the spirit of unity and purpose that guides our mission. Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated victories, and continued to grow in faith and service. Today, we will review our progress, share our financial status, and discuss our goals for the coming months.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the possibilities that God has in store for us. Thank you for your dedication, commitment, and unwavering support.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Leon Perry".

Servant Leaders Quarterly Meeting Agenda

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 - 9:00AM

SCRIPTURE & OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rev. Leon Perry, III - Senior Pastor

REVIEW OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR

OVERVIEW OF MINISTRY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CHALLENGES FACED AND LESSONS LEARNED

MINISTRY REPORTS

Worship and Music Ministry
Christian Education Ministry
Outreach and Community Service Ministry
Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Brotherhood
JASA
Justice
Undershepherds
New Membership
Ushers
Stewards
Hospitality
Ministry of Arts

Sign Ministry
Media
Habari Gani
African Missions
College Support
Prayer Ministry
Volunteers
Greeters
People to People, INC.
New Community Initiative
Deacons
Pastoral Care Ministry

DISCUSSION ON FUTURE GOALS AND PLANS

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR 2025

OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

CLOSING REMARKS

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024 - 10:15AM - 11:30AM

SCRIPTURE AND OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME AND OPENING STATEMENT

Rev. Leon Perry, III - Senior Pastor

THE READING OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

REVIEW OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Summary of Ministry Reports

FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

Presentation by the Ministry of Trustees
Overview of Financial Health and Budget
Review of Major Expenses and Income
Future Financial Planning and Goals

Q&A SESSION

Open Floor for Questions and Comments

DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Key Dates and Events for the Second Half of the Year

CLOSING REMARKS AND PRAYER

Rev. Leon Perry, III - Senior Pastor

ADJOURNMENT



SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 27, 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order

- The January 27, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church Established 1920 was called to order at 10:25a by Senior Pastor Leon Perry III with prayer offered Min. Darnette Solomon and led the congregation in the recital of the church's 2024 theme taken from Revelations 3:8.
- Pastor Perry apologized for all omissions sharing that his proofreader, Delores Elliott is resting in a different place right now, but to govern yourself accordingly and if there are other corrections to please write them down and share.
- Minutes from the July 31, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church established 1920 were read into record by Nefertari Cutler, Recording Secretary; there being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Nomination Committee Report:

On behalf of the Trustee Nominating Committee, Gloria Stratton Josie Moore, LaSandra Stratton and Loretta Moppins for their much-needed help in getting things together for this year's trustee election, with a special "thank you" to Karen Swinger and Faye Buchanan. This year we were blessed to have two candidates, and both were overwhelmingly elected as our new trustees on Sunday, January 21, 2023, during the election process: Ms. Shanya Williams and Mr. Jamaal Simms.

Special Acknowledgement:

All members of the Trustee Ministry were asked to stand as Pastor expressed his gratitude to them and how God has used them throughout this past year and for that which is to come. These are representatives of this faith community, and they represent you in every way of our faithful stewardship to God and our due diligence to the body of Christ he said to the members present. It is not just counting the dollars, it is so much more; every physical scenario, every mouse, every roach, every crack, the dirt on the carpet, the broken doors, which is all trustee responsibility. They stay when everyone else leaves; the complaints, even if they must clean the toilets that's trustees too. The budget, when there is no money; how are we going to do it, they must pray and trust the process. It is so much more than counting on Sunday. Pastor also highlighted the arm of the Facilities Management team and Deacon Rosager Parker who continues to faithfully serve alongside the Trustees making sure God's House is in prime condition, not wating until something is broken, so we are grateful.

Trustee's 2024 Budget Presentation:

Before presenting the 2024 Budget, Chairman Dorothy Cole-Gary thanked God for giving her the scripture in preparation for today's presentation "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God ..." (Philippians 4:6). Pastor, I would be remised if I didn't give honor and thanks to God for you and the Ministry of Trustees that I serve with throughout the year, and to our newly elected trustees, it is to be an honor to serve with you as we age, it is a blessing that God sends the youth to work with us. The year of 2023 has been awesome, but it would not have led us here without the leadership of our Pastor. Thank God for the vision that God gave him. Thank God for the angels He sent to deliver His promise, those angels came in the form of laborers like Shawn Peters-English and her team, those angels who came like conquerors and counselors to help along the way in many forms like Gilead Management. For the year 2023 as we close our financial stewardship would not have been possible without your leadership and vision, as we recap the fruits of your labor.

Review of the 2023 Budget:

We would like to report that our beginning projection for 2023 was not only met but exceeded! To God be the Glory for the things he has done. Also included in your handout and in your printed materials are some of the projects completed in 2023.

2024 PROJECTED BUDGET

Projected Revenue: \$614,300

Projected Expenses: \$609,771

Projected Net Revenue: \$ 4,529

Pastor also shared that we have seen a decrease in revenue from October to November so we ask for continued support because if you take a look at the projected expenses that we had in 2023, by the Grace of God we were able to complete many of our facility projects but we have an aging building and we want to continue to keep God's house functional so we can bring others into God's house but in order to do that we need each one of us as Pastor has shared last Sunday to seed \$100 monthly beyond our tithes and offerings (preventative maintenance), that will identify those resources given monthly, we are open and receptive to all donations, so that we can continue to do God's ministry work.

Chairman Cole-Gary highlighted all the completed projects for 2023 as well as the pending facilities management For 2024.

Question: Why is there a need for two (4) computers – Shawn Peters-English

Answer: One (1) for Administration, two (2) for Trustees and one (1) for Media

Response: Shawn Peters-English stated that Cal-Met Village would donate a computer to Administration

Pastor stated that if there is anyone else who heard the presentation and would like to sponsor or help support in that area, we will greatly receive that so thank you.

Question: Deacon Parker – correction on the asphalt repair, the quote is for parking lot repair , resealing and striping (\$11,000). The cost for the complete parking lot would be \$40,000.

Question: If the ministry deems that they have a need in increase in their funds for outreach, what happens if we need an increase and exceeds our budget – Deacon Peters

Answer: Pastor responded, if there is an increase then we will expect an increase in support of, we will never deny the increase of our work but it must align with discipline of the house, we are not to be all things to all people except the Lord makes provision so as God provides so if a ministry as an example say Pastor what I submitted to you at the end of 2023 is going to be more in 2024, that's a discussion prayerfully that we will need to have which does not mean that we will make approval of that but right now we are going to walk in the discipline of that which has been projected as the increase of service comes up then we're going to share that with the congregation that we have more that we would like to.

Deacon Peters: As members seed into that ministry and members donate toward that ministry.

Pastor: I'm glad you publicly asked that question, no members are to be solicited in any form individually to support an activity, no members. It should never come to a member well I need your help. The call comes from the pulpit to the church family to support and as God blesses you to support, you will put it in your envelope as "other" or you can put "Mission" and it will go in support of that, but no ministry should solicit individual assistance in any project, none, please hear that from the pulpit.

Pastor took time to thoroughly explained the process of a ministry's need for a financial increase in its budget emphasizing that under no (zero) circumstance should a ministry leader solicit individual members for support of their ministry's project. He also reiterated that ministries are not owned by their respective leaders and that all ministries belong to the Church as does the furnishings.

I submit to the trustees, and they know it; as the increase I already know its going to be an increase because God is given to our hands, but the increase will come with provision. We are not going into debt trying to carry the city of Chicago, but we must do our part to the faith community first (that's scripture). It starts in the House and then spreads and there's some needs here. We are not going to be in debt trying to prove anything.

Most of our trustees are here, however, Candace Gregory, our Bookkeeper and she is the one who with the assistance of Chandra and Lori and everybody makes these numbers work. I didn't want to overlook her, and I want to thank her for her service and the gift that God has given to this House.

There being no further questions, there was a motion to accept the Projected 2024 Budget as presented, moved by Gloria Stratton and seconded by Yvonne Bryant; the motion carried, and the 2024 Projected Budget was approved.

Pastoral Presentation - Highlights::

- Pastor Perry shared that he is thankful to God who has allowed us to experience 2023.
- 2024 will be a year of Open Door
- 2024 will be his 28 th year as Senior Pastor
- Retirement: NO announcement in 2024, preparing, being prayerful
- Pastor loves his members of this faith community, God prepared him for Metropolitan Community Church and prepared MCC for him, he shared so he is going to be a little selfish that he has given 37 years of his 65 years to this ministry. He is going to enjoy the fruit of his labor.
- He will be taking a one-month sabbatical in 2024
- Pastor will be attending a pastoral retreat in Morocco in May with other pastors
- Pastor shared that every Sunday each ministry will host a lite reception (coffee/tea or cocoa; cookies or cake bought or homemade) so members can fellowship before rushing out after service. Ministry leaders should see Lisa Whaley to sign up.
- He thanked Shawn Peter-English and her team for the hard work in completing the tasks necessary ahead of schedule which allowed Metropolitan Community Church to receive its mortgage donation; James Stewart (Stu) whom God has allowed to witness this journey, and for his continued support.

Q&A: None

There being no questions it was moved by Yvonne Bryant seconded by LaShawn Walker, the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church Established 1920 was closed. Prayer was offered by Pastor Leon Perry, III.

The meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nefertari Cutler

Nefertari Cutler, Recording Secretary
Ministry of Trustees



MCC Ministry Stewardship Facility Update

Completed Projects as of June 30, 2024

- Replenished mulch surrounding campus grounds, front, rear; south, and north side grounds - Clarence Davids - (\$3,846)
- Two-door Astragal covers (controls the opening and closing of the doors), Exit Door in the front and door in the Multipurpose Room (Revilo Construction) - (\$3,325)
- Painted Multipurpose Room and Kitchen and replaced baseboards in both rooms, includes labor and materials (Willie Reavley) - (\$1,550)
- Storage shelving in kitchen pantry and custodian room, includes labor and materials (Willie Reavley) - (\$1,750)
- Tri-Electronics Gate, additional remotes - (\$315)
- Repaired Irrigation System (replaced controllers and wiring and purchased 15 valves (Joe's Sprinklers) - (\$9,550)
- Submitted final payment for Marquee (\$4,732)
- Repaired Heating and Air Conditioning: Rooftop Units RTU-2 & RTU-7 (Hill Mechanical) - (\$8,577.38)
- Gordon Facility Services - cleaned and waxed all tile flooring - (\$2,050)

EXPENSE TOTAL: \$35,695.38

*"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."
(Revelation 3:8)*

Updated 07/21/2024



Pending Projects for 2024

- Removal of 100 th Anniversary signage (\$8,750)
- Purchase Church Organ (\$17,000)
- Full tile replacement leading to the first-floor men and women's washroom, and Food Pantry (\$8,000)
- Purchase three (3) additional Desktops for Trustees (\$1,889.97)
- Resurface/replace damaged concrete; repair steps to south of the building adjacent to parking lot and steps and in front of the building (\$37,862)
- Baptismal pool (replace electrical and heater): Revilo Construction - (\$3,695)
- Clean Windows (\$1,500)
- Install Cybersecurity and provide separate band for Media Ministry (\$1,512)
- Parking Lot: asphalt removal/replace; sealcoating, crack sealing and striping (\$11,589.34)
- CCSi for installation of cable wiring and ports for new phones - (\$6,941.92)
- Paint railings (east front; south parking lot and rear west side)
- Camcorder (sign language, special events, etc.) - (\$3,800)
- Closed Caption Software - Livestream - (\$300)
- Microphones (2 SHURE Wireless QLXD) - (\$2,500) **(priority)**
(2 Bodypacks ULXD1) - (\$1,000)
- Laptop Computer/Desktop Computer for Media - (\$2,500)
- Purchase separate laptop for Media (Allena-MCC usage only) - \$1,999

PENDING PROJECTS EXPENSE TOTAL: \$110,839.23

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(Revelation 3:8)*

Updated 07/21/2024

Memo

Date: May 16, 2024

Re: By-Laws Change

On behalf of the Ministry of Trustees, we are recommending the following change in our By-Laws under Article VIII (Section 8.1 Authorized Signatures. The recommended changes are due to current operating procedures of local financial institutions:

- Only two lines are now printed on all checks.
- Banks now require only one authorized signature

ARTICLE VIII/Church Finances

Section 8.1 Authorized Signatures

Current Statement:

Any bank or other financial accounts utilized by the Church shall require **three signatures** for withdrawals, all of which shall be those designated members of the Ministry of Trustees. The Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer must be one of the required signatories. However, this shall not prevent the Ministry of Trustees from authorizing any financial transactions through established electronic banking procedures and processes.

Recommended Changes:

Any bank or other financial accounts utilized by the Church shall require **two signatures** for withdrawals, all of which shall be those designated members of the Ministry of Trustees. The Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer must be one of the required signatories. However, this shall not prevent the Ministry of Trustees from authorizing any financial transactions through established electronic banking procedures and processes.

Respectfully Submitted on May 15, 2024

Ministry of Trustees,

Pastor, Leon Perry III



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS & INITIATIVES

3RD QUARTER ACTIVITIES

July 2024

14th

Pastor's 28th Anniversary

20th

Share-A-Meal Hospitality

27th

Semi-Annual Meeting

August 2024

SABBATICAL MONTH

8th

Back-to-School Blessing Service

8th

New Member Orientation

September 2024

8th

Grandparents Sunday

14th

Brotherhood Partners with Maranatha Church Men's Ministry

15th

Ushers Annual Sermon

21st

Share-A-Meal Hospitality

25th-27th

Annual Fall Revival @ 7pm nightly

28th

Servant Leaders Appreciation Luncheon

29th

Pastor Perry's Birthday Recognition
Heritage Sunday

4TH QUARTER ACTIVITIES

October 2024

2nd

Rev. Leon Perry's Birthday

10th

World Health Day

20th

104th Church Anniversary

25th

Youth Fall Faith Fest

December 2024

1st

First Sunday of Advent

14th

Youth Luncheon at the Walnut Room
Brotherhood Partners with
Maranatha Church Men's Ministry

21st

Christmas Food Basket Giveaway

26th

Kwanza Begins

November 2024

3rd

All Saints Day

9th

Hat Giveaway Outreach

23rd

Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway

30th

Christmas Decorations Setup



Metropolitan Community Church

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday School @ 9am via Facebook Live
Praise, Worship & Word @ 10:30am via YouTube

Wednesday Ministry of Biblical Studies @ 11am via Facebook Live

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REVEREND LEON PERRY, III
SENIOR PASTOR