



Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy

Location – Stephen P. Clark Center – 111 NW 1st St. Miami, FL 33128 – Room 11-10

JANUARY 08, 2026 MEETING

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 2:13 PM

2. Roll Call

Present

Rev. Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson (Chair) [Presided over the meeting]

Rabbi Daniel Hadar

Pastor Conrad Molleda

Pastor Marc Mortensen

Lieutenant Alex Trinchet

Dr. Kendall Turcios

Excused

Rabbi Mark Rosenberg (Chair)

Pastor Stephen Alessi

Dr. Juan Barek

Rabbi Avrohom Brashevitzky

Phillip Davis Jr.

Rabbi Robyn Fisher

Harold Foster

Pastor Eddy Gervais

Father Elvis Gonzalez

Emmanuel Jimmy Loiseau

Father Patrick O'Neil

Rev. Evelio Vilches

Resigned from the Board

Pastor Donald Clarke Jr.

Mrs. Olga Hernandez

Guests

Michelle Johnson

Melvin Dawson III
Aundray Adams

Guests Speakers

Jeneva Clauss
Luis Ferrer

3. Invocation

- Incoming Chair Reverend Dr. Williams-Dawson call the meeting to order at 1:34 PM and asked who among the Members wanted to do the invocation.
- Pastor Mortensen volunteered for the invocation : *"Honor the Father as we've come here today, we thank you for the opportunity and responsibility that you've given us as leaders of this community, to be able to just see what is going on and be able to come up with some solutions and just put our heads together how we can see our society to function properly. We thank you for the leadership that you have. We thank you for Alex. Thank you for our chair, Assistant chair, second Vice-Chair; Lord, for each of these board members. We depend upon you, Lord in any decision we make and we look to you. We think of 2026. Great opportunities are out there for us. Give us vision, give us wisdom and lead us, Lord. In Your name, we pray."*

4. Reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard

No one from the public intervened

5. Opening

- Chair Reverend Dr. Williams-Dawson : *"We have our agenda. We're not going to be able to approve it because we don't have quorum to vote. So we will just move forward as printed for now and go to 'remarks from our outgoing chair. Rabbi Rosenberg is not able to be with us today, but I am. I would like to thank him for the work that he's done. He'll continue to do the work as the assistant as I am the new incoming chair. I look forward to working with him, and by way of my remarks, just Grace and peace to everybody. I'm excited for us to continue the work that we do here in Miami Dade County from a spiritual aspect, affecting this great city known as Miami. This great county is Miami Dade County. So I look forward to an amazing year. God's favor, God's grace, and the work of our hands may be blessed. Yes, let's hear from our second vice chair, Rabbi Daniel Hadar"*.
- 2nd Vice-Chair Rabbi Daniel Hadar's remarks: *"I want to second what you had said. I want to wish everybody Happy New Year, and it should be hopefully happy for everybody, and more spirituality, more spirituality. I think that what's lacking today is something that we can bring as a board here, and that is more spirituality in this world. And we need everybody for that, because there's just a lack of humanity, a lack of, I think, respect between peoples, and I think it's extremely important our work here to support it. Now my hope is that we'll be able to come together in a couple of initiatives that can really make a difference. So hopefully we'll be able to do some of that this year"*.

6. Guest Speakers

1st Guest Speaker : Jeneva Clauss (FLIC) (PACT)

- Program Director Alex Jospitre introduced the first Guest Speaker, Jeneva Clauss who is a representative of the Florida Interfaith Coalition (FLIC) and of the People Act for Community Together (PACT)

- Mrs. Jeneva Clauss: *"Hi everyone. So unlike some of you, I don't prepare sermons every week, so my presentation will be more interactive. So I appreciate your cooperation. I've introduced myself to a few of you, but I'd love to know everyone that's in the room and what brings you here today. Obviously, I see your name, but we'd love to know how you come to the sports"*
- Introduction of Board Members present for the meeting:

Chair: *"I'm Kay Williams-Dawson, and I was appointed by our mayor, an honor. She and I have done a lot of work together out in community for years; she was with the Guardian enlightens program out of the Department of Children and Families, and so we had a long standing relationship of really being boots on the ground, and that's how I got here".*

2nd Vice-Chair: *"Rabbi Hadar; we have a great Judeo-Spanish community on the beach. We are connected with Commissioner Steinberg, who appointed me here. And we're here really to see and to be seen and hear and to be heard and to share. I think some great work for this board is really all of us have an interest, a clear interest in trying to move the whole county in the right direction and to share so that when, when there are issues, that we all be a good".*

Pastor Conrad Modella: *"Pastor Conrad, we been with the board three years already, and appointed by a commissioner, Anthony Rodriguez".*

Pastor Marc Mortensen: *"My name is Pastor Marc Mortensen, and I also was appointed by Commissioner Anthony Rodriguez, the chair of our county commission. And happy to be a part of this board. And we work alongside with all these members, doing a great job, each one of them, we're thankful for our chair today."*

Lieutenant Alex Trinchet: *"Alex Trinchet with Miami Dade Fire Rescue; I'm the lead Chaplain over there had multiple different roles, from being a licensed counselor to ministry outside the fire department as well. I was appointed by Commissioner Gonzalez. And prior to that, the board had a different type of format and all that. So I'm really glad how the format is now. I'm just happy to be here to be able to continue to help the community, serve, and be that bridge between being a county employee, a minister and a firefighter counselor. So we have multiple hats. Thank you Chair and thanks for everything."*

Dr. Kendall Turcios: *"My name is Kendall Tercios, and I pastor the arise Miami seventh avenues church. And I was also appointed by Commissioner Gonzalez, who was appointed by the government, and again, I echo the sentiment of everybody around this table. We really want to just be everything we can be for our city. My friend here, Rabbi Hadar has said that there's a deep need for humanity, for compassion. I'm happy to lend my voice and my influence to whatever we can to help out".*

- Guest Speaker Jeneva Clauss: *"So grateful to meet all of you. I see some familiar faces in the other parts of the room. Just for time sake, hi to the familiar faces. Nice to meet you to the new faces. My name is Jeneva Clauss. I'm the senior organizer with PACT Miami. PACT stands for People Acting for Community Together. It sounds like our mission is very similar to your mission here, in trying to make our county a better place for all who live in it".*
"And so PAC has been around since 1988; PACT was actually founded by a group of pastors that came together after the riots and uprising the wake of Arthur McDuffie's murder, and they came together to try to say that we need some actionable change in our communities to make sure that people are being taken care of and that our churches are more Powerful working together than they are working separately towards similar goals, right? So since then, we have expanded to become an interfaith organization. We have synagogues, we have a mosque, we have Christian university involved as a membership. So we've gotten more diverse over the years and we're really representative of the county voice. We represent over 50,000 people in Miami, Dade County. And you might be wondering, well, what does PACT do? That is always determined by our membership. So every year, we have our membership vote on what issue of the county is impacting us and what we want to take on. So, like I said, we're nonprofit with the mission of justice. We're interfaith, and we have a process which I'll show you a little bit later on in this presentation, but we identify very specific solutions, because we want to see very actionable and

tangible change, and we do so by bringing large groups of people together. So we all know Micah 6:8, and that is really our guiding scripture at PACT. What does the Lord require from you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk confidence with your God. We know that so many congregations in Miami Dade County do such a good job of walking hungry with God. We have tour study, we have Bible study, we have services on Sunday, Saturday, Friday, depending on your faith. And we love mercy. A lot of our congregations do mercy work with direct outreach to the surrounding community are congregants themselves. But what Justice; biblical justice that we see in Scripture, it's actually holding those in power accountable to what the people need in their community. So we're really guided by the story of Nehemiah, where he refers to Jerusalem as these people being taken advantage of, and sees people being taken advantage of right before being charged huge, huge amounts of interest on loans that they had to take out because there's a famine going on. And you know, Nehemiah could have done a lot of things in that situation. He could have opened up a food bank to make sure that folks had their immediate reuse being met, but instead, he called a grand assembly of folks together to get that people power together to make a change and to demand that the folks in charge do right by the people that they're supposed to represent. So in that honor, we hold our Nehemiah assembly each year to do just that, to hold people accountable to what the people want; and what do people want? Well, we figure that out. Bye. Let me skip ahead. We have a listening process each year. So in each of our congregations, we hold what we call House meetings, or listening sessions, where every single one of our over 40 congregations is holding multiple of these meetings where folks come together and you ask the questions, what are you praying about? What is keeping you up at night? What do you want to see changed in your community? What's impacting you the most? We collect all of those stories, not anything that is confidential of course, but we collect all of the themes of those stories. We bring them together, narrow it down into housing category, a category about transportation, a category about health care, and then you hold our annual federally where our membership is all invited to come and vote on what they want to work on that year. So for the past three years, we have been working on housing. Does anyone know anyone who has experienced any problems finding affordable housing in Miami, Dade County? Yeah. So our membership is also fairly hot. What you are seeing and experiencing our membership is also they have voted on working on affordable housing for the past three years. But in the past, there's been many other problems that we've tackled. So these are just some recent things that we've been able to secure. In the past year, we were able to confirm that there's going to be a continuous \$2 million for the eviction diversion program that was at risk of losing money in our budget crisis that we have been in, and that's allowing families to stay in their homes. There's been over \$17.4 million for tree planting to combat extreme heat, which goes very deep into to people's health and neighborhoods. They're researches and we had discovered that neighborhoods are oftentimes up to 15 degrees warmer or cooler, depending on the tree canopy, which impacts people's health, their physical health, and also their utility bills. So that's why we ended up working on that, and we're also continuously working on implementing the adjustable citation program in the city of Miami and the city of Miami is going to be the first pilot for that civil citation program to allow folks to go into a court to get their license back and get out of collection, because over 600,000 people have a suspended license due to update fines, and so a lot of them are in collections that has up to 40% interest rates. So if we think about usury from biblical text, that that would classify a 40% interest rate. And so we're working on getting folks their license back so they can be insured and we can all be safer on the roads. So those are just some recent wins. But like I mentioned, PACT has been around since 1988 so here are some of our historic victories over time. And I talked a little bit about how we pick our issues, but I want to go back here to our processes. Because after we listen, we don't just listen, we take action, right? And we take informed action through our research process. So we have our research to action process where we hold research meetings with community experts around the issue that we're working on. So for affordable housing, we're reaching out to

different organizations that focus on housing, leading experts nationwide, statewide, to try to get a sense of why we're seeing the problem that we're seeing and what are some potential solutions. We then have our rally, where we get assembly and talk about what we're going to be asking for. And then we have our Nehemiah assembly where we collect all of our membership in one place to show our people power and be able to make the change. And then we have, over the summer, our investment drive process, which is people paying dues and are included to come to our celebration to make sure the organization can run. We are a very small organization. Myself, you're looking at 50% of our staff. We have one other staff person, our boss, our executive director, and so we run a very tight budget, very important work, luckily, with the participation of all of our membership, and something that I heard a few of you saying as we were introducing is something that drew me to PACT. So I actually started out at PACT as a volunteer. A friend at Temple Beth Shalom invited me to come to any of the assembly with her, and I went with her, and I was like, I've never seen anything like this. And got involved volunteering, and now am on staff. Why I came? Because when I was at that Nehemiah assembly that she invited me to, I had never seen a gathering like that in Miami Dade County that unites people across such difference that we're experiencing, and it's really feeling elevated, especially in these moments of crises. Saw a few crises that we're going to talk about on the next page of the agenda, just thinking about how beautiful it's been for to work in such a diverse organization and see people come together and have relationships that otherwise would never be talking to each other, so it's similar to this board, and bring folks across space, Faith across differences, together for a common purpose. That's what, what drew me in there."

"And so there's different ways to get involved: We you can contact me. That's my phone number and email. And then we also have some upcoming events. We have a research meeting that we're going to be meeting with Miami homes for all that's going to be on Zoom virtually at 2:30 on the 13th next week. And then we also have our rallies that I mentioned on that research process page on March 16 or 17th, at 7pm. What will be in order? We realize that the county is really tough to get to one place. And so we started a few years ago, doing North rally for congregation for folks that live in the north of Miami Dade County, and the South rally for folks that live in the south of Miami Dade County. And then our big assembly, where we unite the north and the south parts of the county is our big Nehemiah assembly action. Are there any questions about PACT's work, or how to get involved, or anything that I mentioned?"

- Pastor Mortensen: "How long have you been a part of PACT?"
- Mrs. Clauss: "My first Nehemiah assembly was in 2021. My employment in PACT when I've been on staff is coming up in three years and my anniversary is next week."
- Pastor Mortensen: You got started as volunteer, how many volunteers do you have now helping?"
- Mrs. Clauss: "I would say, a consistent membership of who's coming to our meetings, who's making the decision, we had over 300 people at our community problems assembly, where we vote on that issue that we're going to take on. But we usually have around 1000 people."
- Pastor Mortensen: "where does it take place?"
- Mrs. Clauss: "It takes place at different congregations across the county, so we try to be fair and equitable, switching up the location so that folks that are living in homesteads and South Dade aren't always going up to North Miami. So we switch around locations; this past year it was at Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church and Perrine. On the border of Perrine and Cutler Bay."
- Pastor Mortensen: "And where is it this year?"
- Mrs. Clauss: "This year, to be determined. but I will absolutely let you know and you can share out with folks, and also would be happy to stay connected with all of you. I have my phone number and email up there, and then I also have some handouts where I also included my phone number and email at the bottom; some quick facts about as an organization. Any other questions about PACT work before I move on to Florida Interface coalition?"

- Mrs. Michelle Johnson: *"I just wanted to say that the meetings that you host are amazing. Tons of people there. You do a wonderful job of outreach and engagement. But I do have a question: the listening sessions, How and when do those happen? And let's say you are a church and you want to participate or have a listening session in your church. How does that happen? And then the ones that have happened, is that open to everybody, or is that just that congregation?"*
- Mrs. Clauss: *So like I said, we hold those listening sessions at each of our congregations. They usually happen somewhere between August and October, because our annual assembly, where we go is at the end of October, typically. And those are happening at all of our congregations, or at people's homes that are members of those congregations. So I always encourage our congregations to open it up to anyone in the community, in any congregation that is interested in being part of Pat's work and working on the issues. I absolutely would love to set up a listening session with your congregation, with folks that you're connected with in your community, so we can have even more voices operate on that.*
- Mrs. Jones: *"Is there a list of the churches that has happened already?"*
- Mrs. Clauss: *"Yes, I can share that queue; any other questions about any part of our process? Okay, so you're welcome. I'm still up here because I'm turning on my other hat. So I'm taking off my PACT hat and turning on my Florida Interfaith Coalition hat."*
"So the Florida Interfaith Coalition is a very new organization. We happen to share an acronym with another organization like who's Florida immigrant coalition, but we are Florida Interfaith Coalition, and our mission is that we're Florida clergy and people of conscience. We got started in this last summer in wanting to support our immigrant neighbors in our communities and making sure that their dignity and humanity is perfected. So through that process, we have weekly meetings that are interfaith and open to any Florida clergy and people conscious that are interested in getting involved. You might have seen that we hold prayer vigils outside of alligator Alcatraz in the Everglades weekly on Sundays, just to pray for the folks that are detained inside. And we also have been trying to gain access into the facility to provide spiritual care to folks inside. There is currently a Catholic church has priests going in to provide spiritual care, but we want to make sure that folks at different states are also able to access spiritual care, so we're in contact with the state and how to make that a reality, and we host and help promote different events to make sure that folks feel the support of the community. So if that is something that you're interested in, we have people meetings on Mondays over zoom, happy to connect you there. This next slide, we also are going to be planning a trip to Tallahassee. We have two groups going on the January 21 or 22nd or January 27 and 28th if you're able to attend those, one of the main focuses is the visible act, just making sure that folks the ICE agents, are wearing their names and badge numbers visibly and Oh. And then we have our weekly Monday from two to three to plan the weekly air rituals that take place outside of I of out here, out trials. So a shorter presentation, and we were newer group of people. It's not an official nonprofit or anything very solidified. It's really a group of people who want to defend the dignity and respect and humanity of their neighbors that came together out of their own faith and passion. So just trying to organize all of the folks in one place so that our efforts can be collective and more powerful together than apart. So any questions about Florida Interfaith Coalition? Thank. All right, wonderful. Well, the handout that I gave you, if you're interested in pact or Florida interface permission, please reach out to me. My phone number is at the bottom of the front page right here, and so you can reach me there anytime that's my cell phone and my proctor email and happy to answer any questions and talk a little bit more about Florida interfaith coalition or Procter, anytime. I appreciate you all."

2nd Guest Speaker : Luis Ferrer (National Week of Prayer for the Healing of HIV)

- Chair Williams-Dawson : *"Thank you for some great information. Next, we have presentation of the national prayer for the healing of HIV."*

- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *“you met with Mr. Ferrer last year, and he electronically introduced me to Reverend Baxter who unfortunately couldn't make it today, so he asked to get a couple of minutes, like to just feel up for him.”*
- Mr. Luigi Ferrer : *“So again, I'm Luigi Ferrer. I work for the Florida Department of Health, but I'm also the board chair for the return Universalist conversation of Miami. And we had packed one of their events at our congregation this year, so we're really happy. I'm just going to go ahead and pass these out to you. I don't know how many of you are aware that Miami, and maybe you do a show of hands, that Miami has the highest rate of HIV transmission in the country. You all know that, and we've had the highest rate of HIV transmission in the country for the past 12 years. So it continues to happen.*

And a group of pastors, mostly from Liberty City, for many years, have been organizing the National Week of Prayer. This is an event that was created by the Balm in Gilead, and it's been a way to raise consciousness and awareness about issues regarding HIV and specifically HIV prevention in our communities. So this year, the National Week of Prayer is March 1 through the eighth, and Reverend Baxter traditionally has organized it. You can see the flyer from last year on the document that I gave you, his contact information is on the back of the flyer. There are several ways to participate: you can either organize a prayer service, an event at your congregation; and I have my card from the Florida Department of Health if you guys need any help, want some stats, or want us to bring out somebody to do an HIV education workshop to provide resources, we can bring out our mobile testing unit to do testing, if that's something that you'd like us to offer after service we'd be happy to do that. And there's also that one option: you can organize something for your own congregation, and then Reverend Baxter will make sure it gets listed on the flyer like this, and you can be part of that; or Reverend Marrero from the Unitarian Universalist congregation is also organizing an interfaith prayer service, and I'm not sure where it's going to be, maybe at Temple Israel. But so those are two ways, and if you have questions, if you want me to help out anyway, I'm more than happy to do this. This is part of the health department's faith response to AIDS program, so we always like to promote this event. Oh, and it's on the press release but there is a pastoral prayer process specifically for ministers, rabbis to come and join and learn more about what's happening. So that is the date, and the information on that is in the press release. So that's really all I have to say. I'd love to be in touch with any of you folks that are interested in doing more work in HIV awareness in your congregations. People of faith, from the beginning of the epidemic played an incredible role in serving people that are sick and helping people that are at risk for HIV transmission. Thank you. If you have any question, I'd be happy to take them.”

7. Installation of the Interfaith Advisory Board's newly Elected Officers

- Chair Williams-Dawson asked Program Director Alex Jospitre to go back to the installation item of the Agenda
- Program Director Alex Jospitre explained that there's no real ceremony given that. after consulting with his department director, he was told that there's no swearing required, but only remarks from our outgoing Chair and from the newly elected Officers which were given at the beginning of the meeting by the officers present.
Then Program Director Jospitre, under the applause of everybody in the room, welcomed our new Chair Reverend Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson, our new Vice-Chair who is also the outgoing Chair Rabbi Mark Rosenberg, and our new Second Vice-Chair Rabbi Daniel Hadar.

8. Vote to approve the minutes of the November 2025 meeting

- Program Director Alex Jospitre explained that we have to skip this item given that it requires a vote which can't take place because of absence of quorum.

9. Discussions followed by the adoption of the 2026 Interfaith Advisory Board meetings calendar

- Program Director Alex Jospitre explained that the Members present can discuss about it but won't be able to vote on them because of absence of quorum.
- Chair Reverend Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson : *"We have our dates for this year for everybody to take a look at."*
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"last year, we skipped July for the summer break, and, of course, December for the holidays. I know when it comes to December we are sure about that, but the year before it was August for the summer break. So I don't know if you want to keep August for summer break or July instead; Because the year before it was August while last year we skipped July and did have a meeting for August."*
- Rabbi Daniel Hadar : *"I'm in favor keeping July meaning of skipping July and see what happens."*
- Program Director Jospitre : *"we can actually agree today, and then when we have quorum next month we vote on it. So I don't know if you want to have some discussions about it now."*
"And what about the other dates? Because I checked them out, but I want to make sure that the other dates do not fall on any religious holiday. I already checked, but you know, maybe I missed something because I believe last year there was like a little conflict and one of the meetings fell on the Sukkot holiday."
- Second Vice-Chair Rabbi Hadar : *"Yes, April 9 is, is a still a Passover holiday, so we wouldn't be able to attend. But if that works for people, you know that's okay, but the 16th is better out of April. These days are okay for the Jewish County, okay, yeah, other than April 9."*
- Chair Reverend Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson : *"So I think we have enough time to, once we have a quorum to shift on that April 9 if that's okay with everybody, we can discuss that and then possibly move it to the 16th or another date."*

10. Old Business updates

Individuals harassing Places of Worship cannot be prosecuted as long as they don't enter the space.

- Program Director Alex Jospitre explained : *"This topic was introduced by Rabbi Haddar during our last meeting. Rabbi Hadar thinks the IAB should discuss it and voice against such situations which he believes can be very dangerous. Rabbi Hadar shared an event that was on the news about an individual that was harassing and even threatening his community which prompted them to meet with the State Attorney about it. The same individual came back for different Jewish events like Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, vigils... Rabbi Hadar explained that if an individual goes after someone and harasses that person on some religious ground, it's a misdemeanor but if, instead he goes and harasses your Church, Synagogue, mosque... and doesn't enter the facility, it is not considered a crime and there cannot be any legal claims against that person. So it's up for discussion, if the Interfaith Advisory board would like to take action on that, to voice against that."*
- Second Vice-Chair Rabbi Hadar : *"I think that it's something that we should look further. We should take some time to investigate as a board, to really see how we can assist the faith community to be safe, because this is something that's going to impact everybody in different ways. You know, the world's getting a little bit crazier. So I think that we need to see if there's a collective interest in making our voices heard : people have to be able to come to a place of worship and feel safe walking in and walking out. And I think that's a very important thing. I mean, this is going on in New York right now, actually, where there are protesters that try... It's going to become a hot topic, because it happened just recently, and then now you got a new administration, we'll see how they deal with it. I mean it's very jarring when you're trying to come a place of worship and there's people outside screaming at you or coming close to you. It's, it's very jarring. And any of us can, can deal with that at any time, because people have ideas,*

whatever those ideas might be. So I think this should be on the radar for this year. I think we should take some time to do a little more research on and see what we can do."

- Lieutenant Alex Trinchet : *"is the issue going on now? Is it like, kind of like within the parking lot of places of worship, or is it kind of like in public spaces?"*
- Second Vice-Chair Rabbi Hadar : *"So it turns out that our particular space is on the street. So some folks are more suburban. They have kind of a space between the street and their door. We have street doors, then we have second floor that you go up to, but people can literally stand as close as possible and just say, Well, I'm on the street, but they're literally in front of our door, you know. And this caused not just tension and stress, but actually there was confrontation, and those can lead to bad things. So it's something I think we need to share so everyone is aware of what's going on, and think of how to deal with the situation moving forward."*
- Lieutenant Alex Trinchet : *"the reason why I ask is, is the issue going on within the parking lot? Is because on the fire service side of say, we've had several vandalisms. Fire station parking lots where some firefighters' vehicles have been totally destroyed. So I can see where that will put, you know, uncomfortableness, stress, tension and all that within a specific congregation. That was the context of my question."*
- Second Vice-Chair Rabbi Hadar : *"I think it's got to be that there's supposed to be a safe space buffer, if you will. So I think that's something we got to work on. Maybe we can come up with, some sort of a statement that addresses this, and it can be forwarded on to the commission to say this is of concern, and to look at this."*
- Chair Reverend Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson : *"Everybody can kind of do our own research for the next meeting we talk about it, and then we can possibly work on constructing a missive and share that with the Commission."*
- Pastor Marc Mortensen : *"Are you personally experiencing this?"*
- Second Vice-Chair Rabbi Hadar : *"we had already two encounters like this, and the individual had to be arrested. It was on the news, and thank God, nobody's hurt. But it was close. It was very close, and we don't know. And I had another situation where the individual was not arrested, and they were carrying, seemingly, some sort of a potential weapon, from what we could tell video cam, but they came so close to people that security flag them now, but otherwise it could have been that I'm sure. I think the key aspect is that it's not just inside the building, there's got to be a space if you will."*
- Mr. Aundray Adams : *"Can I ask if those are random attacks or targeted attacks?"*
- Second Vice-Chair Rabbi Hadar : *"It's definitely targeted, I mean people coming after us for our faith. There's has no question about it. I mean, they said that."*
- Pastor Conrad Molleda : *"we had an incident also might have been related to mental health. The gentleman just approached our facility and just started going off. Who knows if he had prior bad experience with the religious sector, but he just went off and we tried to not escalate the situation, but he was aggressive. We just let it diffuse and let him go on his way. But it's similar. The mental health issue is also a problem."*
- 2nd Vice-Chair Daniel Hadar : *"I'm sorry I have to leave a little early because we have other meetings. I will have to excuse myself. Thank you, everybody. I Wish everybody Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you guys next time."*
- Chair Reverend Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson : *"If nothing else with Old Business, we'll move to :
"New Business and recent and current events."*

11. Vote to approve the meeting Agenda

On the fifth day of patron set of the patron set of immigrants, Catholics in Miami demonstrated their solidarity with immigrants

- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"on the fifth day of patron set of the patron set of immigrants, Catholics in Miami demonstrated their solidarity with immigrants. Father Pedro Corces presided over a Mass in Gesu Church in downtown Miami on November 13 2025 for the Feast Day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Patron Saint of Immigrants. During the Mass he stated the word that defines Mother Cabrini is PERSISTENCE.*

Father Pedro Corces read part of the statement emphasizing the Bishops' opposition to mass indiscriminate deportations as well as their concern about poor conditions in detention centers and the arbitrary loss of immigration status: ['We feel called to raise our voices in defense of human dignity.']

Mother Cabrini was an Italian nun who fought for the rights of immigrants in NY in the late 1800s and early 1900s and faced enormous obstacles because of her great love for immigrants. Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski expressed his support for the US Bishops during the mass he celebrated also on November 13 at the USCCB Fall Assembly in Baltimore where he stated the following: ['Today many take umbrage at our advocacy on behalf of the irregular migrants; But in doing so, we Bishops stand in proud moral tradition that holds that positive laws should promote both the common good and the good of the individuals in society.'] So I thought that was an event that I should bring to you. I didn't even know that there was a Patron Saint of immigrant, which is Mother Cabrini."

- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : *"Any discussion on it from any one else? Thank you for bringing it on."*

December 14 2025 mass shooting targeted Jewish community Hanukkah celebration in Australia.

- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : *"Oh My goodness: December the 14th! I saw this on in Australia. I saw various who offered prayers and condolences in our group. Thanks!"*
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"I believe you all know about that father and son who decided they were going on a killing spree killing 15 people among them a 10 year old and a rabbi. So just wanted to let you know what has been done, and also have your thoughts about security. Unfortunately, Rabbi Hadar already left, and Rabbi Rosenberg is not around. So Miami Dade County Mayor Daniella Cava described the devastating attack as an act of terror, emphasizing that antisemitism is a real threat.*

The Miami Dade Sheriff's Office and Miami Beach Police announced increased security and visibility at Jewish places of worship, community institutions, and holiday gatherings out of an abundance of caution despite no credible local threats.

So you have to put the highlight that there's no local threats, but they're just taking all measures and precautions.

Cooper, city officials coordinated with law enforcement to enhance security for community wide menorah lighting event. So all the cities they are jacking up their security from that. So I don't know if you have any thoughts on that because we all have worship places; So we should all be concerned, because, of course, this is hate, antisemitism, but we just spoke about mental issues also. So anybody could be targeted in these situations in these times of antifaith."

- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : *"Maybe we can get additional information so you can have an update for us for our next meeting. Any other comments, or any of you aware of these particular groups, the care and the Muslim Brotherhood? You all heard of that?"*

- Mrs. Jeneva Clauss : *"I think CAIR filed a lawsuit"*
- Program Director Jospitre : *"Yes CAIR filed a lawsuit, but I don't know what the other group; Nothing from them."*

Muslim group announces lawsuit after Governor Desantis labels it a "terrorist organization"

- Program Director Jospitre : *"I don't know if you heard about it. There's a Muslim group that announces lawsuit after Governor DeSantis labeled it as a terrorist organization. It's actually two groups. So, Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an executive order on December 8 2025 designating two Muslim groups : 'The Council on American-Islamic Relations' (CAIR) and the 'Society of Muslim Brothers' (Muslim Brotherhood) as ['foreign terrorist organizations'] pointing to alleged connections to foreign extremist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. As a result of the order, Florida agencies including the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol, are directed to ['undertake all lawful measures to prevent unlawful activities by these organizations, including denying privileges or resources to anyone providing material support.'] Founded in 1994 and registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with 25 affiliated chapters across the country, CAIR which describes itself as the ['nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization'] responded to the order, announcing the group's plans to file a lawsuit against DeSantis after calling the executive order ['defamatory and unconstitutional.' So this is where we are. I don't know if there has been any update since then, but this is the fact; the other group didn't really react. So I don't know if something will happen soon with that."*

50:42 otter ai

49:50 on phone

12. Announcement

Member updates : former IAB Members Mrs. Olga Hernandez and Pastor Donald Clarke

- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"Mrs. Hernandez and Pastor Clark, as I explained the last time, they resigned. But the process to resign is that you have to send me a letter with an explanation like the reason for you resigning, and that's about it. Unfortunately, they never did. So I had to contact, like a few people to know exactly how to proceed. And at the end, I had to contact the assistant county attorney, and she explained to me the best way to proceed is send the Members a letter or an email stating that this letter serves as confirmation of their resignation. And if there's no object objection to the letter, it means that it becomes effective. And then, with such letter, we can go ahead and remove their names officially from the Interfaith Advisory Board."*
- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : *"So has that been done?"*
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"No, I'm I just got the information after the holidays, so I'm going work on the letters, send them to the two members...; they might answer also, which will make it a little bit easier."*
- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : *"because until that time, they're still considered a part of the board, and that counts..."*
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"Not really, because now it's just a formality to remove their names from any IAB registries, but they're no longer part of the board. I stopped sending them information, and that's why our quorum was ten, and now it's down to nine."*
- Pastor Molleda : *"Is there a time limit to respond?"*
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"they told me, it's up to me, so I'm going to give them like maybe 48 hours to respond. And if they don't respond... The situation is already clear: Pastor Clark has moved to Broward, and I have a text from Mrs. Hernandez. Pastor Clark actually told me about her resignation verbally, but Mr. Sent me a text about it; so I told her, when I asked, that the text wasn't going to do it, so I needed like an email from her. But as you know, she never followed up."*

- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : "So Alex I was checking if you gave us an updated list of everybody."
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"I can send it by email to all of you; And I have Mr. Harold Foster. Foster who is a Member of the IAB who said that he has somebody interested in joining the Interfaith Advisory Board, so I'm just waiting. He needs to meet me and was actually supposed to be here with us, but Senator Garcia needed him at the very last minute. So he's going to have a discussion with me about it as that person is very interested to join the board."*

Miami Dade County Human Trafficking Coalition (MDCHTC) 2026 Annual Conference scheduled for January 24, 2026

- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"This is an invitation to the 2026 annual conference of the Miami Dade County Human Traffic Coalition (MDCHTC. Participation is free of charge. The theme of the conference is ['Faith in Action: United to take a stand against Human Trafficking.'] The goal of the conference is : ['To raise awareness about Human Trafficking and train the faith-based community on how to respond to human trafficking.'] I think just received another invitation, it's from Mrs. Person; She's from the Greater Jewish Organization; She actually intervened in our past meetings, like more than twice, and she's the one who invited us to take a tour of the event about the attack on Israel. She sent an invitation for MLK Day; It's a ['MLK Day Service, learning, activating the beloved community'] and it's going to take place on Monday, January 19, at 10am. Unfortunately you have to click on a link to RSVP, so I didn't print it and will just send it to everybody by email. So this way you'll have the link and you can just ahead and in RSVP if you're interested. I received actually a few minutes before starting the meeting."*
- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : *"with the Miami Dade County Human Trafficking coalition, maybe we can invite them to come and share something here with this body."*
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"I already did; She's still working on it. She'll let me know definitely, because I'm kind of a member of the organization, so I told her that we would really love to have her here with us especially that Mrs. Yvonne is a county employee, so it shouldn't be a problem to have her with us."*
- Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson : *"Because on Saturday, we know some brothers and sisters might be unable to attend so if they come here there's some good information they could share with us. Anything else for us today?"*
- Program Director Alex Jospitre : *"Not from me; I don't know maybe from Michelle."*
Mrs. Michelle Johson : *"Hey Happy New Year! You know, our mayor is having her state of the county on January 28 and it's going to be at Florida Memorial this year. So I wanted to make sure that you all get the invitation. But the invitation actually just came out today, so I'm super excited that you're the first group I'll share it with. Yes, we would love to have our Interfaith Advisory Board present right there. So again, that's going to be at Florida Memorial University. We will need you to RSVP as soon as possible. But that's Florida Memorial University on the 28th, Wednesday at 6:00 PM. All right, thank you. That's all that was my only announcement, thank you."*

13. Adjournment

- Chair Williams-Dawson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting
- Moved by Doctor Kendall Turcios
- Seconded by Lieutenant Alex Trinchet
- Adjournment voted and approved unanimously at 3:11 PM