

## Annual Congregational Meeting 14 July 2024

Present: Susan Graber, Barry Jantzen, Bruce & Micheline Fast, Karl Ortman, Elvira Glenn, Paul & Judy Classen, Cheri Krause, Justin Mathis, Sandi Sanborn, Joan & Ezra Tice, Jen Dudenhefer, Karen Cox, Carole Suderman, Toni Diaz Bachus, Gus Gouvas, Sheng & Mai & Bruce Wheeler, Bob Satterfield, Anita Jantz, Ivanna Johnson-McMurry

Pastor Randy opened the meeting up, leading For the Beauty of the Earth (120) from Voices Together.

Barry Jantzen offered opening words and led in 870 a congregational reading, and an opening prayer.

Barry asked for discussion items (non-budgetary, church items)

Susan shared re: appreciation of Christian Ed sessions we had. How do we move forward? Don't have many children/youth. Many adults don't stay for ed hour. Susan has a few ideas.

### Updates

Trustees: Karl said we could use a third trustee!

Barry: mentioned the deck again and appreciation for all the work on some of the upgrades

Paul C: nominates Toni as a third trustee.

Pastor Randy: shared his theme of "gratitude" for the vitality and vibrancy of this congregation, for the ministries BMCers are tending to and making a difference; recognizing the hurts and struggles of our church (broken friendships, our own hurts, diagnoses, physical and mental health struggles. Grateful BMC remains a space for all of us to walk together and not feel alone.

**Deacons:** no report out – grateful for new deacon who joined last year, Cheri K.

### Ministry of Financial Resources – Treasurer Report

- Bruce F speaking on behalf of MFRC.
- Sharing from a space of gratitude this year. We raised as much money as we spent. Surprised by this, but grateful for more donations, including some significant, unexpected donations from folks associated with our congregation.
- Our finances look good enough for another year, and beyond that.
- This year, Bruce is presenting to Council a different kind of balance sheet, including the total bank accounts minus our liabilities and restricted funds. When subtracted you get "unrestricted currency." 10 years ago we had none of that. Beginning around 2017-2018 the number began to rise. This is beyond our rainy-day, restricted account. Q: is that what we want? If so, what is the right amount? Should we have it or not have it at all?
- Susan G: It looks like we have one month of reserve. I'd like to see that higher. Maintenance seems really low per month. Are we up to paying our pastor the recommended denominational guidelines? If not, we should work at this. Could we give Pastor Randy another \$1000/month for rent? Is it appropriate to have this much money in reserve though we are not paying our pastor adequately? Are we up to Conference guidelines for our pastors salary, if not that needs to be addressed.
- Cheri sad that our pastor and his husband won't be able to live in boulder, it seems challenging and problematic that he won't be able to live here
- Justin - the cost of living has gone up significant'y and he is unaware of what our cost of living guidelines have
- Bruce says COL is about 5 percent per year
- Susan is also concerned that Randy and Gary aren't going to be able to live in Boulder

- Sandi - are we truly poor or are we being frugal

Bruce wouldn't say we are poor, but we have to be careful from year to to year

- Sandi is confused about a new way of stating information, that number wasn't being revealed in the past (unrestricted funds) The restricted funds were significant'y lower, and reached 40k and has been there for the past 4-5 years, that is to include the Covid years. Gretchen Williams was the one who asked some years ago about the unrestricted funds, and if unrestricted funds be used invested.

- Carole S: If we need more, we ask people for more. We have a generous congregation. Would like to see some of the reserve going to help pastor in his housing request, if people are okay having some of it used to raise pastor's salary, and to help pastor in his housing request, if people are okay having some of it used to raise pastor's salary.

- Sandi - this "good news" has to do with the mortgage pay off last year. Which was about 11-12k per year.

- Makes Karen sad that we are not paying at the salary guidelines, wants to know what the salary guidelines are. We should figure out how much under we are from MC USA guidelines, then try to match the guidelines if possible, especially for future pastors, too. (i.e., single pastor wouldn't be able to live in Boulder on one pastor's salary).

- Randy says Becky Neumann will know those numbers, will talk to Becky and get that number

**To do:** find out what the numbers are for Conference salary guideline and then send an email out stating that number. Toni says that time is of the essence as Pastor's Randy's is already showing.

- The ship has likely sailed on him staying in his current location, but there is a chance if the salary increases, then he can still reside in Boulder, still has to move from his current location, but may be able to find a place closer than "Peacepipe" (Gunbarrel).

- Ivanna: we're not following denominations guidelines. If we're not, we shouldn't be following any guidelines.

-Barry: Council and PCRC can run some figures and see what it looks like.

Bruce closed with, It's amazing we do the things we do as a congregation. Just to be clear, in the budget, maintenance costs doesn't include electrical and water usage, that is a separate line item. Bruce wants to thank everyone for their generosity, as treasurer. It is so grateful that we have been able to host the Saavedra family. Pastor Randy has done a lot of things that help in the community, meeting with the governor, CHAN, the people of BMC generously donate so much of their time and talents to the community.

**Other Business:** Church Council is talking about moving the meeting up to 6p, so that more people can attend.

**Closing** – Randy led in singing 71 Praise God the Source