

# BMC Church Council Minutes

3/13/25

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## ATTENDEES

Bruce Fast, Susan Graber, Becky Neumann, Pastor Randy Spaulding, Ezra Tice, Bruce Wheeler. (Barry was travelling and unable to attend)

After a quick check-in with attendees, Randy read a poem by James Madison Bass, "I do not pray, but if I did...."

## REPORTS

### Treasurer

- February giving was on course, but we are still behind about \$10K in offerings. Becky reminded us that at our annual meeting we raised Randy's salary, and then raised our offerings to meet that amount. Our giving is comparable to last year, but that is not enough to meet this year's budget.
- Bruce F does post the income statements online.
- Most of our outreach giving for the year has already been done. Did some in December to get matching grants at Paul Classen's urging.
- We could use more giving units, more rentals, creative thinking.
- There is one non-profit Saturday rental in April. Susan will send Bruce F the rent amount. Bruce F has the deposit check from the group. We have a nice building that is a good deal to rent, and the deck is another enhancement. We need some PR for our rental capability.
- Might we be able to attract back some people who fell away during the pandemic due to the current political environment? We have 200 people on our bulletin list, so those people are probably being contacted.
- Bruce F mentioned that in the past Eldon Mast had the idea to somehow borrow against our building—something like a reverse mortgage? That would probably be a last resort for finances.
- Per more radical ideas, Ft Collins Menno is thinking about selling their building to a developer for affordable housing, and they would have some space there to continue to meet. We could consider something like that; our location would be desirable to the city. If we would want to consider something like, we'd need a group to work on it, and might need an external person to help guide us through that decision.
- Randy is meeting with Dennis LaFevre (of Everance) next week and will pick his brain per our budget.
- Could we invest our savings? Even a 6-mo CD would earn more than the meager interest in our savings account. Bruce F had started working on something like this with Dennis after our annual meeting.
- Bruce F will pull together the Finance Committee (Bruce F, Gary, and Frances).
- Becky will think about a communication to the broader congregation per our budget.

### Saavedras

- A man tried to break into a basement window in the girl's room! Yorger scared him off, and he rode off on a bike. Our camera did not pick up his face. Bruce F will work with Trustees to get some solar motion detector lights installed outside those windows, perhaps a couple on the shed pointed to our building.
- Saavedras have now been with us a year.

- Yorger passed another test in his driving program—he is determined. Vilimar is still waiting to get on FT at CU.
- At this point, them staying in our building seems to be best. If they both get FT jobs, maybe they can start to pay us a small “rent.”

### Indigenous Issues

- There is a pilgrimage event to the Sand Creek massacre coming up, but it is quite pricey (\$675/person). Bruce W won't be going. It is mentioned in Sunday's bulletin.

### Deacons

- We sent a check to Rino's wife in New Mexico after his death. Funds from our emergency fund.
- Deacons discussed a potential service learning project. One idea is to do it here, and work in our backyard. If we don't do that, we'll probably organize a couple of work days to work back there. Another idea is to go visit the new Habitat for Humanity home factory here in Boulder and volunteer with them. If **anyone** has other ideas, please let the deacons know.

### Pastor Randy

- He'll be away the first two Sundays of May and has already lined up guest speakers. Fabulous, Fierce and Sacred conference in PA the first weekend, at CLC meeting the second.
- He's meeting with Ivanna to see if she's ready to return in April. 4/4 will be the one-year anniversary of her son's death, so keep her in our prayers.
- There will be a Menno Action event in Denver on 3/27. Randy will help with singing. Hopefully we can get additional folks from BMC to attend!
- Had a good session of greeter training, including reviewing how to respond to potential ICE officials coming to our building. Info for reference is on the greeter table. Randy thinks that immigration enforcement could continue to get more aggressive.
- **Randy** will put up additional large signs at the bottom and top of the stairway indicating it is private space.
- Need to schedule a date for our annual meeting in July. First weekend is Fourth of July, next weekend Randy is gone (for MennoCon in NC). So, looks like we will do it **July 20**. **Susan** will put it in the bulletin.
- We talked about putting an ad for our Easter service into the Daily Camera. In the past such ads didn't really bring in people. So, we will not do it this year. We will put out our sandwich sign with the service information. Putting an ad in the Camera for Christmas Eve might make more sense—Randy feels we're more likely to have guests then. Daily Camera used to do a free listing of worship services in their Friday paper, but no more.

We're a hidden gem! We have something to offer people. People just have to take a risk to come to a traditional church building.

- We like Randy's use of images during worship, a nice enhancement. People respond to different inputs—maybe we should do more with smell, like baking bread (Susan could bring a bread machine next time we do communion!).

### Trustees

- A sprinkler system was installed in the backyard. Will turn on the water and test it later after chance of freezing.
- Excel is putting in a new smart meter on Monday. Karl and Bruce F will be here.

## NEXT MEETING

Thurs, 4/10, 5:00, BMC/Zoom