

**Council meeting minutes  
Boulder Mennonite Church  
December 11, 2025, 5pm**

**Present:** Barry Janzen, Randy Spaulding, Karen Cox, Steve Voran, Douglas Minter, Bruce Fast, Ezra Tice. By Zoom: Paul & Mary McKay, Gwen, Elleanna..

Barry started the meeting considering the words of Psalm 19; "Keep your servant also from willful sins ... May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight..."

**Finances:** Bruce gave a brief treatment of the November income and expenses. We are about \$6K behind, if we take into account that we have sent out many Outward Ministries. Regarding the future, our current operating budget could only be sustained for about 5 years before reserves are depleted. We are building-rich but funds-poor. Part of "transition" should be looking hard at our income/expense situation.

**Hosting Afghan couple:** CHAN has requested that we consider hosting another asylum seeker, an Afghan and his wife. He was held by ICE for over a year despite seeking asylum and having all necessary documentation. He could be released provisionally if someone officially hosts him. CHAN is offering \$10,000 to cover costs. Council gave Bruce support in pursuing communication with CHAN.

**Pastor's report:** Randy and Ivanna will be here through January 11.

**Rent:** Weavers Guild looking for space in our building. They want storage room as well as meeting space. Can we find out how much Mt. View church was charging them?

**Planning worship:** Should we consider paying a musician in coming months? Mt. View pays \$150 per Sunday, though for a much more involved program. In our congregation, there are some additional potential pianists; Peter, Frances, Susan.

**Sunday Worship committee:** form a group by first asking Randy's sabbatical group (Carole, Susan, Judy, Toni) to get planning started. Sandi Sanborn has already volunteered to be part of the group.

Elleanna has volunteered for visual setup. Randy will meet with Elleanna so she knows where all the resources are.

**Speaker list;** Randy has a list of available speakers, and Amy may help with others.

**Transitional/interim pastor:** A new pastor would be facing big life change; we need to be able to support them for more than just 3 years, especially if the pastor comes with family and kids.

We don't want to spend a lot of transitional time "navel-gazing", which would lose people, but will need to be intentional about making progress. We want to continue self-motivation and not depend on a pastor to do everything.

**Search Committee formation:** Council can choose the interim or transitional pastor, but a dedicated Search Committee would seek and select a long-term pastor. Perhaps we can ask Carole, Becky, Susan to be part of that committee.

**For now:** Deacons will meet with pastor tomorrow, and request that he complete the part of the CIF (Congregational Information Form) which is more data/statistical in nature. The deacons will complete the more subjective portions of the form.

The CIF is needed whether we seek interim or transitional pastor so the sooner the better; Paul urged the group to get started immediately. Recommended duration of transitional pastor, minimum 3 months but probably more like 9-15 months.

**Office administration:** Barry will ask recent part-time admins (Cheri, Jen, Susan) to see if we can cover 12 hours per week by an admin-by-committee arrangement, at least to start with. Bulletin schedule may change. Council agrees that we should have some acknowledgement/party for Ivanna to thank her for her years of service.

**Next Council meeting:** January 8, and 5:00pm.