

# BMC Church Council Minutes

**DATE** 3/12/26

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## ATTENDEES

Toni Diaz Bachus, Paul Classen, Jen Dudenhefer, Bruce Fast, Susan Graber, Barry Janzen, Douglas Minter, Ezra Tice

Barry started the meeting started with devotions. He's been reading the Peaceful Practices document from MCC. In section 4, it uses I Cor 12:12-31, which Barry read. It probably comes from Stoicism. Many parts, one body, one baptizing Spirit. Body has many members, all belong to the body. You are the body of Christ. Strive for the greater gifts and I will show you a still more excellent way.

## REPORTS

**Treasurer:** Bruce F sent out the Feb financial summary. At end of Jan, expenses \$10K more than income. At end of Feb, income \$5K more than expenses, due to some large donations and not paying salaries, other than janitor. Bruce doesn't expect that will happen every month. We will have more expenses this month, like the quarterly insurance payment. Offerings are only \$1,500 below budget, which is pretty good.

Honoria that we pay to guest speakers. Someone needs to confer with him when we are supposed to pay it. Generally we pay \$150, plus travel expenses, if the speaker asks for it. **Barry will work with Bruce F** to clarify who needs to be paid.

**Asylum Hosting:** We need to make it official, if we are willing to host an Afghan couple. If they are released, do we want to host them? The couple does have some other financial support that we know about, but we think we may be the only ones considering hosting them. We would not want to have anyone living here during the Assembly at the end of July. Might we want to use our building as a "parsonage" for an interim pastor? Could be for one or two nights/week, if they are driving in to serve us. Or some people in the congregation might be willing to host a pastor in their home.

Our decision is that we would be willing to host an immigrant couple starting in August. **Bruce F** will follow up with their lawyers about this.

**Deacons:** They are cognizant of their role around Service Learning. Have talked about possibly working for Habitat again.

Cheri is checking in with small group leaders to determine how best to proceed—reorganize now as would be normal, or delay during this time of transition. Will discuss at their meeting next week. Singing group, that Randy led, is disbanded.

Barry expressed a concern about some BMCers falling away during this transition time—may be especially challenging for our folks who are not from a Mennonite background. Hospitality is very important during this time, and a responsibility for all of us.

**Admin** Would we want to host the Foster Family display? What would the purpose be? To bring in outsiders to our church or to try to find foster families in our church? Possibly combine it with a pie party for the community.

To be effective at recruiting foster families, we would probably need to bring in community members, as we don't have many people at the age to consider fostering. Maybe be clearer with who we are—Susan will email the foster group. Barry would be willing to meet them at the church if they want more of a sense of who we are.

**Trustees:** We would like to change the key lock box code, and re-key. Need to announce to the congregation a couple of weeks ahead. Barry will also check with Karen, who he thinks had some interest in it. Susan will work with Trustees on this. Most people should be able to use the lock box, and not need a key.

**Pastoral Search Committee:** Karen is doing the COB CIF. For the MCUSA one, there are a few gaps in the version that Susan received. Douglas doesn't remember any sections being empty. Douglas will check on the version that he sent out. Barry forwarded the one he sent to Amy on Jan 3.

Search committee thought it might be good to continue to educate the congregation on the length of term for a transitional pastor and the work they are expected to do. Committee has been told that 15 months is about an average term for a transitional pastor. So, 9 months would be quick. Some feel that since we are smaller that we could be on the short side of the transitional pastor. Bruce Wh was concerned about the long gap until we get a new settled pastor—he's willing to stand aside (per our consensus decision-making). Council feeling is that people do understand the length of time and the purpose of the transitional pastor, but there is still disagreement about how long we'd expect a transitional pastor to be needed. The congregation feels we should stick to 9 – 15 months, and the committee will make that clear to transitional pastor candidates. The group did not feel like we needed to do additional communication to the congregation about the concept of a transitional pastor.

For a new settled pastor, a summer start date (after the school year) might be best. Really depends on the person.

Should we have congregational meetings to reinforce that our mission needs to continue while we are in this time of transition? Reinforce that we should be working together.

We do all need to be careful to use the term "transitional pastor" (as opposed to interim pastor) consistently.

**Assembly:** Do we need a temporary committee from our church to help to support our hosting of the event? There will be some hands-on work that needs to be done by our church. Susan will consider this—the Assembly plan team will do most of the planning.

**Guest Speakers:** Next three Sundays are speakers from within our church, Kurt, Brenda, and Mike. Former attendee, Kent Arnold, who has moved back to the area, and/or his wife, who is a pastor at a local Episcopal church, maybe. Jeni Umble is willing. Thanks to Barry who is lining up speakers! Barry is in town pretty much until Sept, but hopes he won't have this responsibility until then!

**Closing** Ezra led us in a prayer.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Thurs, 4/9/26, 5:00, BMC/Zoom