

BMC Church Council Minutes

DATE 5/14/26

ATTENDEES

Paul Classen, Toni Diaz Bachus, Bruce Fast, Susan Graber, Barry Janzen, Becky Neumann, Ezra Tice, Terry Zimmerly

Barry started the meeting letting us know that today is Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter. He read the story from Luke 24. Feels like we are in the Ascension time, waiting for the spirit to move us. Welcomed Terry to his first meeting.

REPORTS

Treasurer: Bruce F sent out the April financial summary. Expenses and income are both lower than expected. Income is about \$20,000 behind, with offerings being behind \$10,000 of that. Giving by “units” has been pretty stable. If this doesn’t change, we may have to dip heavily into our reserves. Some givers have given an amount for the entire year already, but Bruce accounts for that in income just monthly (and the rest is held in reserve.)

Paul advises that informing the congregation about the state of the budget is a good thing. **Bruce/Susan** put a budget update in the bulletin next week – offerings behind around \$10,000, expenses, behind. This year’s budget was a stretch-optimistic.

Paul raised the possibility of paying Susan as our administrator. Susan does not want pay, and she does not want to do the job forever. Hopes to transition out this summer.

Becky suggested an idea to perhaps increase rentals is to put out the sign board that says we have space to rent to alert the public about renting from us. The sign, however, is currently broken.

Barry checked about the Revels no longer renting with us with Ivanna, and she didn’t know why. They did once leave some candles burning, but that was not the reason. **Barry** will reach out to them (he has sung with them).

Only having one bathroom on first floor does make it more difficult for rentals – concerts often have older people who may struggle with getting to the basement. Would be great if we could add a bathroom on first floor (maybe using the closet space).

Asylum Hosting: The lawyer for Hassan is finishing a statement for one last try to get the court to release him. Timing is still unknown. He doesn’t have an update on the wife. So, for now we would like to hold the basement for them.

Deacons: Douglas sent out a report. Terry will attend their May meeting.

We’re not sure who, but probably one of the deacons will be rolling off the committee. Judy and Carole were the nominating committee and would be seeking a deacon. (Last year’s annual reports should have information about the committees.)

We're also not sure when Barry's term ends, **Barry** will figure that out.

Admin/Social/Assembly:

We set **Sunday, July 12** for our annual meeting after worship.

We discussed Berit's request about pictures during worship. Safe Church policies are important, according to Terry. Are there safe church policies in our Guidebook? We did do training in the past and did background checks on people teaching Christian Ed. We will start putting a statement in our bulletin each Sunday per pictures—**Susan** will work with Terry on that.

Council agreed to host a blood drive at the church this summer. **Susan** will let them know.

Council agreed that let's do a potluck on **June 14**, also the day we are saying goodbye to Mike and Frances Tice.

Barry and Terry will be our delegates for the Assembly. **Susan** will let the conference know.

Per the request to share about our congregation at Assembly, **Susan** will put a request in the bulletin for someone to share. We think that sharing could include housing the Saavedras, our work with the Habitat project, our monster effort with school kits, and/or Bruce W's leading us in First Nations issues.

Transitional Pastor: Per Terry's "wonderments" in his report, we think the idea of hosting students in our basement is intriguing, but for now we are holding the space for Hassan. Per advertising, we've done a bit of advertising for Easter, but it hasn't got much response.

Per what things Terry might not do that the pastor has done in the past: Terry is not used to doing a worship guide. That is unique to this congregation—most pastors don't do that. Without a guide, it leaves more responsibility for the worship leaders and/or the worship planners. Terry cautioned about worship elements becoming "rituals" and that we might want to be careful about what gets ritualized—that can lead people to think that these elements are required for worship. We could simplify our services and not include some items. Like, maybe we could simplify our bulletin or have no bulletin, use projections for readings instead of putting them in the bulletin. We could use a sound bowl instead of lighting a candle. Worship could be more relaxed, and we wouldn't have to worry about how things go so much. What are younger people looking for, or people who are less involved?

Good to have some anchor points, like following the lectionary, and our flow of worship. **Worship committee and worship leaders** should meet and define how to best move forward. Terry is contracted to preach or find people to preach. **Barry** is willing to help Terry find some speakers—Becky Teiwes, for example, is willing to come back.

Indigenous Mission: Bruce Wheeler reminded us about meeting with Susan Hart, from a native church in OK. Their website is now dark, however. He'd like us to connect with her—the youth from their church were involved with a reburying ceremony. This meeting was put on hold when Randy left. We sent our indigenous scholarship fund to them last year. Randy had met their pastor at a meeting, and Ivanna also had a connection with her. **Barry** could contact Nathan Hart to see how to connect with her (they are brother/sister, we think).

Going forward, there is a buffalo initiative in WY, **Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative**, that the org we have worked with (Coalition to Dismantle Doctrine of Discovery) is working with. They are re-acquiring land, and the Coalition has been asked to come up with some funds to finalize the purchase. There are funds through our budget to contribute. Bruce feels that this is a worthy cause, and a reputable group. This is in addition to our scholarship line item.

Bruce W thinks this program is great for the environment and youth, in addition to them getting the land. He recommends! **ALL**: Find out more on their website: <https://windriverbuffalo.org/>

Closing. Terry led us in prayer.

NEXT MEETING

Thurs, 6/11/26, 5:00, BMC/Zoom