

BMC Church Council Minutes

DATE 6/11/26

ATTENDEES

Toni Diaz Bachus, Bruce Fast, Susan Graber, Barry Janzen, Douglas Minter, Becky Neumann, Ezra Tice, Bruce Wheeler, Terry Zimmerly

With Mike and Frances' last Sunday this week, Barry started the meeting with a conversation with Ezra about how the Tices came to Boulder. Joan and Ezra came from PA to be here with Mike's family, who had moved here two years previously (due to Frances getting a job here). Mike then got a research position, so he can work from anywhere now, Moving to Detroit for Frances' job. Ezra and Joan will stay here until a place in Goshen is available – probably sometime in 2027. Barry ended with reading Philippians 1:2-6. *I thank my God every time I remember you. . .confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.*

Ezra shared that his Parkinsons is affecting him more, so he will need to drop his BMC Christian Ed work. Mike and Randy were also on that committee, so we will need to figure out who will handle Christian Ed this fall. Presumably some of the sessions will be working on the transitional process with Terry.

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

REPORTS

Treasurer:

- Bruce F sent out the budget, showing both expenses and income are lower than budgeted, and at this point pretty much in line with each other.
- We reviewed the proposed budget for FY27. To make the budget balance, he put in money from savings to make the income balance with the expected expenses.
- Insurance has gotten so expensive! Do we need to have full building insurance? We do need liability. Hail is a big potential damage, and you can't just get roof insurance. This should be brought up for discussion at the annual meeting.
Does Everence or MC USA have any guidelines for this?
- Talked about the fundraiser line item– auction amount has been going down next few years. Terry advises that he feels opportunities to raise money that fit our personality can emerge.
- BMC received a \$2,000 mystery check (not sure who it is from) from Forethought Life Insurance. Maybe an RMD from someone's life insurance? **Bruce** will contact Forethought—it would be nice if we could acknowledge this contribution. Will go into the donation line item in our budget.
- **Bruce** will send out a follow up message per the budget. Please **all, review the budget** that Bruce sent out. Send him amendments and suggestions –this can't wait until next council meeting, as we need to get it wrapped up by 6/30 so we can include it in the reports to the congregation for the annual meeting.

Deacons: Douglas sent out a report.

- Deacons are now leading our prayer time in worship—will help position them as spiritual care leaders of our congregation.

- We're not sure who, but probably one of the deacons will be rolling off the committee. Cheri?

Admin/Social/Assembly:

- ANNUAL MEETING: Reports will need to be due by June 30 (not July 2) as Susan realizes we need to distribute them to the congregation by 7/5, so the congregation has a week to review them.
- Barry runs annual meeting.
- Judy and Carole have been the nominating duo that Barry has worked with.
- **Website** is important for people who are checking out our church. We don't know of anyone in our congregation with web skills. Flint Design, run by young Menno guys, could update it. They provide our hosting and our WordPress. **Bruce** can check with them about how much the cost would be to update our site.
- **BMC brochure** needs to be updated. Maybe just take out children and youth stuff for now. We can say that kids are welcome, and there are opportunities for camp, conference activities and service. All of the MSMC churches are struggling to have kids and youth. Terry adds that our intergenerational relationships are also a strength of our congregation.
- A group met last week with Kurt and some architects he has worked with who are experienced with co-housing developments. We have a great location. How do we find a way of keeping the church vibrant, maybe even improving our facilities, while earning money? How can we use the resource of our building and our lot? The architects suggested a co-housing development. Our social justice perspective fits Boulder folks well. This is not a short-term solution, however; it will take years to plan and execute. But, maybe we should get it going if we start draining our savings and still can't meet our budget. . . . A co-housing development could bring some vibrancy with common projects. Student housing could be another option. Maybe we give our property to a board of a housing project, and we have a perpetual lease. Barry will report on this discussion at the annual meeting. Conversations about this can also be part of the processing that Terry will do with us this fall.
- Lift elevator, which the architects suggested, is cheaper than a traditional elevator, but still expensive. Might be able to find some grant money, Terry thinks.
- Los Dos Bros food truck says they would need two parking spaces for their truck. RTD technically rents all our spaces, except 5 spaces next to the church. On our last contract we increased the number of spaces RTD rents. We used to have the spots along the back by the swings, but now those are technically rented to RTD, although we still have a sign there that says church parking (and there is no such sign by the 5 spaces we have). Susan is checking with the city to see what regs would apply for hosting a food truck. We earn \$1,150/mo from RTD now. This food truck offer could give us a negotiating tactic for higher rent. Or maybe we change the RTD contract to be two spaces less.
- ASSEMBLY: **Barry** will start to think about our congregation's 3-minute sharing on Saturday afternoon, but would be happy to give it up if someone else wants to do it. **Susan** needs to share more of schedule with congregation, and create signups for helping.
- Would Sundance provide any opportunities for fund-raising or connecting with our community? Brenda might have some connections to the film world?

- Bethel College chamber singers would like to perform here in January. Would include hosting the concert and giving ~20 people a meal. Susan is willing to lead this project, and council approves. Great opportunity to perhaps connect with some alums who may have Anabaptist leanings. . . .

Transitional Pastor:

Terry continues to be impressed with our congregation. Has completed about 30 interviews. We have a very committed group and unity to an Anabaptist vision. This is a very gifted congregation.

Interim worship committee, which was gathered for after Randy left, have completed their work. Terry would like to have congregational input on worship. He suggests having an ad hoc worship consulting group that meets once per quarter. Could meet early Sunday morning. Council supports this idea, and Terry will be responsible to call these meetings.

Barry is thinking about reconstituting the singing small group—maybe they could help with picking songs.

Worship guides are going away for now—it takes a lot of time to put those together. Very unusual for Mennonite churches to have them. Worship leaders seem to be okay with coming up with their own materials. We also found an old worship leader's guide that Randy had put together. Susan will distribute that. Some musicians are picking their own songs. Without a worship guide, we may see worship participants' personalities coming out more. We're giving up some control, and also creating less dependence on our pastor.

Becky asked about the possibility of the Admin sending out the upcoming schedule for worship roles, at least quarterly. Susan will add this task to the admin duties.

Indigenous Mission:

- Bruce F sent a check for \$2,000 to the Wind River land back justice fund—their land back work is a focus of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery this year. Bruce W feels this is a good use of the money, and Arapaho (tribe from CO) are involved. Perhaps going up to see their buffalo and work could be a service learning project? It is a long drive up there to mid Wyoming.
- Bruce W thinks he can continue to work on the comfort kits. Still has some things he needs to buy. Will send some bedding to the program.
- He does need notes for the kits—last time the youth did those. Maybe a small group could take up that project? Or maybe this summer some Christian Ed time could be used for this project. Maybe even writing notes during worship, Terry mentioned.
- We've doubled our commitment to indigenous mission work this year (due to a larger than expected donation).

Closing. Terry led us in prayer.

NEXT MEETING

Thurs, 7/9/26, 5:00, BMC/Zoom

Barry will send a link to the agenda for the next meeting.