

BMC Council Meeting

13 August 2026

Present: Barry Janzen, Becky Neumann, Bruce Fast, Paul Classen, Terry Zimmerly

Joining via Zoom: Karen Cox, Douglas Minter

Barry offered a meditation on leadership based on reading from the Epistle of Peter, then opened with prayer.

Treasurer's report: Bruce noted the current bank assets of the church, no exceptional expenses during July, but a couple of unexpected but welcome large donations in the past month.

Pastor Terry brought up several items.

* **Peace Concert request:** Global Peace Initiative plans a fundraiser for building a memorial dedicated to the children who lost their lives in the elementary school bombing earlier this year in Minab, Iran. Organizers request use of our building, and volunteer help including and audio/Zoom. Council unanimously approved.

* **Birthday/auction Sunday:** in light of the above, we will move the auction up one week, to Sunday November 15.

* **Parking lot resealing:** trustees and Peter Ingram are looking into this.

* **Planning Education Hour:** discussed how to organize the use of the 11-noon hour on Sunday. Council agreed on using that hour on a Sunday Real Soon Now to get congregational input and make specific goals. This includes what to do with kids when they attend.

* **Blessing of animals:** resuming this as a Sunday morning service event, now planned for October 4.

* **Pastor job announcement:** discussed but not written up during the meeting. Points of agreement by Council; 0.75-1.0 FTE, peace & justice orientation, starting time being as soon as February 2027. Not settled yet; how many expectations and details to include in the ad, vs. responding and adapting to actual inquiries. The task of actually writing the ad is sent back to the search committee.

* **Discernment vs Search:** there was some discussion about needing further discernment of what the congregation wants in a pastor, but Council agreed that this shouldn't be another thing put onto the shoulders of the search committee. (But they are welcome to suggest, with Terry, possible next steps.) The meeting left unresolved the question of whether to have another congregational meeting, form a Discernment committee, another Council discussion, or none of these. Developments/progress should be shared with the congregation.

Administrator: Susan requests feedback about the conference experience, anything that might be helpful to MSMC or Albuquerque Mennonite for next year's conference.