

*Dear MSMC Friends,*

*As a way of noting what life of the Spirit has been present at Boulder Mennonite, I submit this report that I recently wrote for our Congregational Annual Meeting. God has indeed been good! --Pastor Karen Cox, July, 2016*

“Let us always think how we can stimulate each other to love and good works. Don’t stay away from the meetings of the community, as some do, but encourage one another...”  
Hebrews 10:24-25a

The author of Hebrews gives us a good measure for evaluating Christian community... Are we meeting together and stimulating each other to love and good works?

As your pastor, I get to see you doing many things that show love. It is one of the big perks of the job for me. You care for each other in times of need. You connect with each other in ways that are supportive of a Christian walk. You pray for and worship with one another. You step forward when opportunities for serving arise. You care for people around us, around the nation, and around the world. Being a part of the BMC community is a wonderful and inspiring gift to those who are here and a part of the meeting of the community; I truly see it!

As this is an ‘Annual Report,’ I’ll note some of the significant happenings from the past year.

We bid farewell to Church Chair Bruce Fast after 2 two-year terms as faithful servant, and welcomed Terry Mast into this important role in the life of our community.

We ended Huong Tran’s employment as Building Administrator. BMCers and I worked together to streamline some administrative systems and find volunteers to take on needed tasks for a period of time where no hired administrator was in place. We functioned this way for 9 months. I am thrilled that a 10 hour administrator position is now filled by Carolyn Clement! And I continue to be grateful for the volunteers who stepped up and for those who continue to serve in various administrative roles.

During the fall, BMCers joined in a ‘Growing Together’ discernment process. Bill Knight offered leadership and was joined by Douglas, Teresa, Terry and I in walking BMCers through an Adult Ed series about our life together and our dreamings for our future as a congregation. Much good and honest conversation was had. Seven Core Areas of priorities for us as a community emerged. And a process for new initiatives was developed. Out of this work, we’ve started a youth mentoring program (led by Deb Falk), new fund drives for various building projects (led by Barry Cox), a new way of involving folks in worship planning (led by Terry Mast). Ministry of Financial Resources has taken seriously a call for distribution of more information and responded well. Eldon & Terry are running ads twice a month in Daily Camera. Eldon & friends will be serving coffee at the bus stop. Eight BMCers continued a tradition of service/learning (which was affirmed as still valued through ‘Growing Together’) by engaging with DOOR of Denver. More projects that meet ‘Growing Together’ goals may still yet come.

With Millie Unrau’s ‘retirement’ after many faithful years of playing piano for worship (Thanks, Millie!), we ventured into new territory by hiring a pianist for worship services once a month. Olga is doing well with us.

Our Adult Ed has usually functioned without using me as a teacher; yet Jan/Feb I ran a class inviting us to look at our relationship with scriptures. I have served as primary point person for scheduling leadership for Adult Ed; I'm thankful for those who have stepped up to teach.

New Small Groups were organized early in 2016 and began meeting in April. Once again, it's a nice variety of groups for our members to choose from as we encourage relationship building, caring for each other, growing in our faith, and serving.

In May, we bid farewell to Roxy Reimer as BMC's Youth Advisor. Roxy served wonderfully in this role for a year and a half, and moves on as she graduated from CU with a master's degree. I have worked with Youth Ministry Support Team to begin conversations about what BMC's youth program might look like in the future. We had a great meeting in June with youth and with parents, and are working together with ideas for the future.

BMC continues to 'share' me with Mountain States Mennonite Conference as I serve in the role of MSMC Moderator. This work keeps me integrally involved in the life of the Mennonite church at both district and national levels.

In addition to these notable activities, many 'regular' works of the community continued on... Fall Retreat, Christian Ed for children and adults, Worship each week, a Christmas Pageant, special services around holidays, meetings of a variety of committees, building upkeep, representative attendance by BMCers at district and national Mennonite Church activities... In all of these ways, we do indeed seek to stimulate each other to love and good works.

I continue to count it a privilege to be with you, to meet with you, as we encourage each other towards good works that demonstrate the love of Christ for the world! May we continue well on this journey of "Growing Together"!

--Karen Cox  
2015-16 Annual Pastor's Report  
Boulder Mennonite Church