

First Mennonite Church of Denver 2016 Report

This year FMC-Denver has been in the middle of our transition period, and we called Rob Burdette as our Transitional Pastor starting the end of September, 2016. Pastor Rob spent three months doing interviews with about 100 people, as well as facilitating Church Family Meetings on “The Legacy of FMC” in November, “Values Audit” in January, “Asset Mapping” in April, and “Articulating a Mission” in May. Pastor Rob has also been working with a group to review our Governance and Structure and another group to update our Mission Statement.

Worship has included many guest preachers including Phil Ebersole, Barry Bartel, George Varughese, Ted Swartz, Sarah Thompson (CPT), Immanuel Sila, Todd Wynward (TiLT), Sharon Nelson (MCC), and Glenn Balzer (DOOR). Charlie Brown Christmas was our children’s program this year, and we hosted the Mennonite Society of Musical Heritage Choral event in June.

Adult Ed. has included many guests as well, and took a few months to reflect on “What it means to be a Mennonite in today’s world?” The theme for Women Bridging Borders this year was to learn about our current justice system, connect with those working in various roles with the justice system, and become empowered to act where we see injustices in the system. The series included viewing the documentary “Lost for Life” in April alongside a fundraiser for the Second Chance Center. Pastor Theda hosted an End of Life Workshop with Everence in February and Grief Workshops with Trinity United Methodist Church in the fall.

Five of our Mennonite Youth Fellowship, along with four adults, joined Beth-El Mennonite’s youth group in Alamosa working with Habitat for Humanity in July.

Facilities included a renovation of the Caretakers Apartment by Keith Mullett before welcoming Alyssa Bennett Smith and Joshua Smith as our new caretakers. Alyssa works for MC USA in their Communications department and Joshua is working on his Ph.D in religious studies at DU and Iliff. Also, after 50 years, Head Start moved out of our building as a result of new playground requirements. We celebrate the length of that relationship and ministry and are rethinking how to use our space. With the ongoing high cost of housing we are also working on what it means to be a good and faithful neighbor to all of our many types of neighbors. Residents, businesses, Denver Health, West High School, Denver Catholic Worker and the homeless population are all part of these conversations. Rent and utility assistance program distributed \$110,658 to 296 families, through funding from Energy Outreach Colorado and FMC budget and donations.

From our facilities to our structure to our mission, we are in an ongoing season of transition, and doing our best to listen for God’s voice.