

## 2017 Budget Information for Bethel College Mennonite Church

The preliminary expense budget for 2017 proposed by the Church Board is \$496,307, based on requests from commissions and board-appointed committees. This is about \$12,730 more than the 2016 budget when debt service is excluded.

Information from the intent forms will be combined to determine total commitments for 2017. Based on this, Church Board will recommend a final budget for approval at the congregational meeting on January 29, 2017.

Please consider an increase in your contribution for 2017 as we join together to support the ministry and outreach to which we believe God is calling us in the coming year.

The preliminary budget is divided as follows:

**DEACON COMMISSION (\$600)** responds to physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs within and beyond the congregation. Their budget includes membership and communion supplies, health resources, and recordings of worship services for those who are home-bound or in health care. They also sponsor the Visitation Team and the above-budget benevolent Caring Fund.

**FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION (\$7,750)** oversees educational programs and opportunities for Christian growth and discipleship. Their budget includes supplies for Sunday school (including the new *Shine* curriculum from Mennonite Church USA), catechism, children's clubs and youth group, youth mentoring, support for a Bethel College student ministry intern, and library supplies. They are requesting a small increase for additional support to Sunday School and college age activities in continuing support for Senior High Youth. They also sponsor the annual church retreat.

**HOSPITALITY COMMISSION (\$1,550)** oversees social activities and connections between BCMC members and with the wider community. The budget pays for the *Kaleidoscope* newsletter, publicity and special projects. They also manage the Kitchen Fund which includes Wednesday night suppers and memorial meals.

**WITNESS COMMISSION (\$86,060)** equips the congregation in ministries of mission, peace and justice, reconciliation and creation care. Their budget supports Creation Care Committee and Peace Sunday. The majority of their budget is for benevolences beyond BCMC:

- \$48,000 for Mennonite Church USA, plus \$2,860 to support health insurance access through the Corinthian Plan for MC USA congregations which cannot afford premiums.
- \$23,500 for Western District Conference (an increase of \$1,500)
- \$2,000 for Community Play School in the BCMC facility
- \$1,000 each for Kidron Bethel Village and Bethel College
- \$1,200 for Harvey County Homeless Shelter
- \$750 for Prairie View Chaplaincy
- Additional contributions for Camp Mennoscah, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite World Conference, Mennonite Disaster Service, Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Circles of Hope, Health Ministries, Newton Ministerial Alliance Community Assistance Fund, Offender Victim Ministries, and Peace Connections.

**WORSHIP COMMISSION (\$5,600)** assists staff to plan worship that is spirit-filled, holistic, and strengthens Christian discipleship. The budget supports organ and piano maintenance, bulletins, choir music, honorariums for guest preachers, worship decoration supplies, and art in the church facility.

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE (\$49,000)** supervises the stewardship of the building and grounds. Their budget provides for utilities, maintenance, custodial supplies, elevator, fire-alarm and lawn service contracts. The above-budget Living Stones II project is helping with other major improvements.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE (\$28,300)** monitors insurance and office expenses (copier lease, paper, postage, computers, website, etc.) that previously were under the Facilities Committee.

**GIFTS DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE (\$1,800)** identifies and nurtures skills, talents and passions of members for involvement as church officers, leadership on the Board, commissions or committees, as delegates to Mennonite Church USA and Western District Conference, and other forms of service and ministry. The budget supports leadership resources and registration for conference delegates.

**BETHEL COLLEGE RELATIONS TEAM (\$600)** strengthens the relationship between BCMC and Bethel College. Their budget provides for special events and activities that promote the college, support students, faculty and staff, and build connections with BCMC.

**EDUCATION AND SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (\$14,000)** oversees scholarship programs for young adults in Mennonite-related education and service programs. In 2017 their budget will provide for a potential of fourteen students attending Mennonite colleges. (Additional scholarship funds are provided to those attending Bethel College from a special fund. Service scholarships are paid for out of the Mission and Service Endowment Fund).

**STAFF EXPENSES (\$299,047)** provides salaries for 2.4 FTE pastoral staff, fulltime custodian and administrative assistant and part-time choir directors, music coordinator, organists/pianists, and assistant custodian. It also pays for mileage, conference attendance, health insurance and disability, payroll tax, professional growth/expenses, workers' compensation, and a sabbatical coverage fund. Staff expenses are overseen by the Staff Congregation Relations Committee.

**CONTINGENCY FUNDS (\$2,000)** are administered by the Church Board and pastors for expenses such leadership retreat, staff evaluation expenses, and other contingencies.

**DEBT SERVICE (\$0)** is not included in the 2017 budget. Above-budget giving will pay down the Internal loan used to clean/tuck point/seal exterior walls; install new ramp to the main entrance; exterior lighting; carpeting and painting of the offices, library and Room 14; and other repairs and improvements to the building included in Living Stones II.

For more information, contact BCMC Treasurer Richard Friesen at 316-281-9364 or [treasurer@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:treasurer@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org).

Finance Committee: Frank Stucky, chair; Diane Born, Marvin Holck, Melvin Voth, Doris Whillock  
Treasurer: Richard Friesen; Assistant Treasurers: Lois Goertzen and Nancy Hilty.  
Pastors: Dawn Yoder Harms, Susan Wheeler, John Tyson  
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