

## **Stewardship 2021: Where your treasure, there your heart**

**Matthew 6:19-21**

**Bethel College Mennonite Church**

In his sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes a connection between our treasure and our hearts: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” Not only do the possessions, money and property we accumulate tell the story of what we value; Jesus seems to suggest that the treasure we possess has the power to shape our values, priorities and lives.

Our congregation’s upcoming stewardship process provides us with opportunity to reflect again on the role of money and wealth in our lives. How might generosity—our willingness to share what we have with our congregation and beyond—help free us from the power that treasure holds over our lives? How might God’s liberating love set us free to pursue God’s kin-dom with all that we are, including our financial resources?

This year you’ll note that after over forty years, the name for BCMC’s stewardship process—the Pony Express—is “out to pasture.” In July, the Church Board discerned that because the historic Pony Express played a role in the genocide of indigenous peoples throughout North America, it was time to change its name to better reflect this congregation’s priority to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. The new name, ***bcmcXpress***, was chosen to signal that BCMC’s budget ***Xpresses*** BCMC’s values, priorities, and commitments.

The ***bcmcXpress*** process will look different this year because of Covid 19. To avoid passing germs, along with intent forms, to our neighbors, intent forms will be submitted online. Persons not connected to the internet or email will receive materials by mail, to be returned to the church office.

In the spirit of freeing generosity, **you are invited to participate in the ministry at BCMC by discerning a financial commitment for 2021.** To indicate the contributions you plan to make to the general budget and Living Stones in 2021, please complete the online intent form (<https://flintheillsdesign.wufoo.com/forms/bcmcxpress-2021-intent-to-give/>) **by November 24, 2020** . If you plan to give via the electronic transfer system in 2021, please make a request via email to Mike Claassen ([treasurer@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:treasurer@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)). This is separate from the online giving option found on the website.

Information from the intent forms will be combined to determine total commitments for 2021. Based on this, the Church Board will recommend a final budget for approval at the congregational meeting in January, 2021. (For your reference, a preliminary budget description is enclosed.)

### **Thank you for your participation in our stewardship process for 2021!**

Finance Committee: Al Peters, chair; Judy Friesen, Gwen Neufeld, Paul Harder, LaVern Stucky

Finance Manager: Mike Claassen;

Assistant Treasurers: Lois Goertzen and Nancy Hilty

Pastors: Dawn Yoder Harms, Renee Reimer, Nathan Koontz

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