



buzz

Pastoral Transitions

Timeline for New Pastoral Team Leader

We celebrate with the overwhelmingly affirmative vote for Pastor Cindy to be our next Pastoral Team Leader! We now wish to share with you a bit about the timeline for this significant Waterford transition.

Cindy has requested, and MLC has granted, a month long leave of absence out of her need to create opportunities for silence, solitude, and stillness to be better equipped and ready to move into her new role of leading and caring for us. In our conversations with Cindy, she has openly shared about the feelings of burn out that she has been experiencing over the past multiple months. She also named this reality during her Nurture Hour sharing on February 20. Cindy attributes this burn out to carrying extra heavy loads during the past several years. Some of the heaviness comes from pastoring and parenting in the pandemic, as well as serving on a pastoral team that has experienced significant transitions and grief. Part of this leave will include Cindy's inner work of laying down one pastoral role and identity that she has carried for 9½ years and preparing herself to take on her new leadership role and identity among us. Ministry Leadership Council has affirmed this time away to center herself, to become quiet before God, and to seek God's wisdom for herself and for our congregation as invaluable.

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Finances

A Look at 2021-22 Giving

Greetings Waterford friends.

I continue to rejoice in the ways that God has been faithful to us at Waterford in uncertain times! All the volunteers at Waterford in the various leadership groups have been working hard on your behalf over the past year, spending many hours both in and outside of meetings working to keep WMC healthy and functional during this very unique time in our history together.

As we near the end of our current fiscal year (5/1/21 - 4/30/22), we want to make you aware of where we stand financially for the current fiscal year. One of the results of the disruption in our normal patterns of the past two years is the change that the Pandemic has caused in church attendance and giving patterns. While some of these changes are in part temporary, there are some signs of the permanence that some of these changes have brought to Waterford's finances. Our average weekly giving in the current fiscal year has held steady at \$12,000 - \$13,000 per week with a bit of an increase recently over the holidays. In the past, our weekly giving averaged \$14,500 - \$15,500 per week.

Our spending plan for the current fiscal year called for \$800,000 of annual giving and \$800,000 of budgeted expenses. Both giving and

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Goodbye to the Berean Class



Bereans in 2008. 1st row: Willard Gingrich, Charlene Christophel, Ida Helmuth, Gladys Mast, Evonna King, Esther Yoder, Edith King; 2nd row: Esther Cender, Rosetta Mast, Eloise Schrock, Ursula Hess, Leona Yoder, Inez Culp; back row: Carol Bauman, Francis Schrock, Lester Bauman, Clarence Yoder, Gerald Yoder, Merle Yoder, Wayne Sommers, Lester Culp, John King

The Senior Adult Ministry Team (SAMT) has expressed interest in the history of the Berean Class. Research has been difficult, but searching the annual Directories, which started November 1, 1970, revealed the most consistent information.

The Berean Class name appeared for the first time in the 11/1979 Directory. The Senior Adult Class name disappeared in the same Directory, thus maybe the class was actually formed prior to 1970, but just had a name change. This idea was confirmed by Wayne Sommers and Ursula Hess.

According to Esther Cender, Joan Walsh and Ursula Hess this class had a history of being very active with celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, annual retreats, socials and helping one another. The class enjoyed studying the uniform lessons from the quarterly, singing together and sharing testimonies of faith.

Leadership came from within until around 2006 when factors made it more difficult for them, so at that point teachers were used from other classes. A very significant role was provided by Ursula, who gave leadership, friendship and assistance with activities and healthcare needs for many years. The pastor of adult ministries had a 20 plus year ministry and then the SAMT was formed to also help provide assistance, visitation and friendship as health care needs became more significant.

In 2020, the following persons were on the class roster: Esther Cender, James and Mary Christophel, Inez Culp, Esther Deal, Blanche Hartzler, Claramae Klink, Esther Landis, Jane Lehman, Rosina Litwiller, Alice Martin, Gladys Mast, Felton and Una Ross, Eloise Schrock, Joan Walsh, Leona Yoder, Mildred Yoder, and June Yordy.



Bereans, March 2019

The Berean Class ceased in 2020 due to many factors: declining health, decreased membership, and church closing due to COVID-19 restrictions. Some former Bereans have blended into other classes. During the past many years this class has shown much leadership, strength, and wisdom. We ALL thank you for your contributions to Waterford Mennonite Church.

—Barb Landes,
for Senior Adult Ministry Team

Giving (cont. from page 1)

expenses are projected at this point to be well below the \$800,000 mark with giving trailing behind expenses. At this stage, our projected annual giving is set to reach \$710,000 - \$725,000 whereas our projected expenses are projected to be \$750,000 - \$765,000. That means we have a projected deficit currently of \$40,000 - \$50,000.

Waterford was blessed to enter this year in a strong financial position, however, our projected deficit would significantly reduce our reserves from prior years. WMC leadership teams (FFMT, MLC) are working on a spending plan for this coming year (2022-2023) that reflects our new attendance and giving patterns. We are so thankful for the ways in which all of you have continued to support the ministries of Waterford both financially as well as with your time and engagement in our community. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, we ask you to prayerfully consider whether you have the capacity to give towards reducing our current year's projected deficit. We also ask that you prayerfully consider your response to our Giving Plan correspondence (new electronic option or on the traditional giving cards) for the coming 2022-2023 fiscal

year. Your response in each of these areas (year-end giving to reduce the deficit and giving card responses) will help us better plan for the coming year.

May God continue to bless you as we continue on this faith journey together.

—Andrew Hartzler, Treasurer

Timeline (cont. from page 1)

Cindy's leave will be from March 17 to April 18. She will return to the office on Monday, April 18, and at that time will officially begin her new role of Pastoral Team Leader. Sharon Yoder, Conference Pastor of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, will be with us during worship on April 24 to install Cindy in this new pastoral role at WMC.

We invite your prayers for us all during this time of pastoral transition – for Pastor Cindy preparing to move into the new pastoral role; for Pastors Deron, Katie, and Frances ministering to and with us; and for MLC as we continue to discern the pastoral needs of WMC.

—Rachel Stoltzfus, Chair
Ministry Leadership Council

WMC People

MCC U.S. Board Chair

Gilberto Pérez, Jr. has been appointed board chair for Mennonite Central Committee US, effective this month. You can read the announcement in the March 4 edition of *Anabaptist World* on page 27.

—Rachael Hochstedler for MLC

Community Life

Waterford Mennonite Church



Look for Buzz updates of the 2022 WMC O-Lent-ics and keep up with which of the 4 teams of JYF and MYF students is winning the most points!!

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· Cindy Voth

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tion.

Janet Shoemaker,

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Thank You

La Posada Immigrant Aid

Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,500. It comes at a very key moment in our formation. Along with other gifts it will allow us to move forward to set up our office and hire staff.

We are also grateful for the presence of Waterford Mennonite Church . . . and your partnership in this ministry.

Please keep us in your prayers. Pray that we can hire staff who will make this ministry what we hope that it will be—a place where people will feel loved and respected as we help them navigate the U.S. immigration system.

May the people and ministry of Waterford Mennonite Church also be blessed.

—Naun Cerrato, president of the Board of La Posada Immigrant Aid, Inc.

Trees For Goshen

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$1000 to Trees For Goshen in 2021. Your gift will allow Trees For Goshen to continue planting and caring for the trees in Goshen. These trees will provide shade and other benefits for decades to come.

Mennonite Men

We express our sincere appreciation for your gift of \$4,000 to Mennonite Men, an integrated affiliate organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada.

Your contribution for *JoinTrees* will be used to plant trees to help mitigate climate change and restore God's creation. Thank you for participating in our mission of engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus.

—Perry Krehbiel, for Mennonite Men