

Pastor annual report

2025 annual meeting (redacted from verbal comments)

Another year has gone by quickly, and it is hard to believe that I've now been with you for a year and a half. My family greatly appreciates the welcome we have received and we look forward to deepening relationships at Faith Mennonite.

My day-to-day work includes worship planning, sermon preparation, collaborating with the deacons, church commissions, the Repair team and Mennonite Action MN; leading Christian Ed for youth or adults, coordinating church communications with Brianna, pastoral care, participation in church events or actions, connecting with area Anabaptist-related leaders, participating in Central Plains conference annual meeting, as well as leadership coaching. I am happy to connect with folks at any time.

This past year, a number of folks from FMC shared stories from their lives that relate to their faith – I counted 8, if I didn't miss anyone. We had several unique or special services, including a short worship service at the fall Day at the Lake, a visit from the choirs at Bethel College in Kansas, our Longest night service and Maundy Thursday services, and last June our Pride Sunday with Joanna Whaley.

As noted in the deacon report, I welcomed four individuals into membership a year ago, baptized Mercury Jones and Riley Lannon this past January, and led parent-child dedications for three children and their families in March.

I have been auditing an online class on my own time called "Truth in Troubled Times," which incorporates the perspectives of a number of contemporary liberation theologians.

I helped to restart a monthly pastors and leader's cluster that has begun to develop some momentum with representation from the local Mennonite churches, including the Hmong Mennonite church in St. Paul and MCC, as well as several Mennonite pastors on staff at congregations of other denominations.

I also am involved with an online leadership cluster called Companion Table with other Central Plains and Western District pastors. The project I am taking on through this program involves listening to one another in our congregation and the Spirit specifically around the deep uncertainty created by this second Trump regime, and the way this time challenges our witness and response.

I have coordinated adult ed times with Roberta's help and have also taught a small youth class on Sundays where several youth are available. I look forward to involvement with future adult ed series.

I have deep respect for folks from the congregation. We are people of integrity and we do a lot of coordinated work in the areas of worship, children's education, relationship-building, repair work and public witness.

We also continue to find our way in filling essential roles with the challenge of filling all the roles that we'd like to. We continue to work on creating a welcoming environment for families with children, and we have also made progress in the last year with the hiring of a nursery coordinator, family and friends nights, and other fellowship and small group opportunities.

Finally, I am deeply grateful for the concern and support the congregation has shown with my mother's illness and death. Thank you for entrusting the task of pastoral leadership with me. May we experience the blessing of God's Spirit as we work together.