

# Waymarks “Special Edition”

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

April 2023

## Founders and Finances—Moderator’s Message

As a member of the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee, I’ve been working on clarifying the list of Charter Members, who signed the “white book” in longhand and consist of couples and families. Those names will be engraved on brass plates on a plaque for the “Founders’ Room. In addition, I’ve been studying Plymouth “histories” to produce a few timelines for framing in the Founders’ Room.

Those devoted Christians who founded Plymouth Church were a remarkable group, whose vision was conceived in November of 1960 and whose hard work and generosity resulted in the purchase of land and subsequent ground-breaking for our church in 1963. We hope that a meeting room dedicated to those founders will be used and appreciated in future years, and that we can stop referring to the space as the “stockade room.”



During the March Council Meeting, we considered our annual building maintenance budget (utilities, insurance, etc.) of about \$63,000, versus our usage income of about \$51,000; and upcoming expenses in relation to our savings accounts. We discussed how we might prioritize and finance capital expenditures. Completion of the Fire Alarm System will deplete our current Building Reserves account, leaving about \$51,000 in one savings account and \$21,000 in Memorial Funds.

We have a few small building repairs that should be dealt with in the coming year, such as replacing stripped window cranks in the Fireside Room, new plumbing for the front spigot, and work on the front door threshold. At some point, we will need to replace windows in the day-care wing.

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The Council believes that building improvements should be funded through targeted grants (where feasible) and fundraising. To replace shingles (about \$14,000) and install solar panels (perhaps \$50,000) we will pursue grant funding and launch a fundraising campaign. Already, we have donations for new or improved signage on the North Forty.

Sixty years ago, our church's Founders realized an optimistic vision for Plymouth Church. On the first day, 76 people signed and 15 more signed as Charter Members on the following Sundays. Attendance at the first worship service was 50 adults and 35 children. Although the children have grown and many have moved, we still maintain a Sunday attendance of nearly 50 adults. We don't need to literally break ground and build, but we can continue to "break new ground" through vision and faith, maintaining and improving our church to "nurture our congregation and the wider community."

Blessings,

~ Jan Clinard



Please contact members of the Council if you have suggestions or questions:

Jan Clinard:	Moderator
Lynn Bolin:	Vice Moderator (Personnel Committee)
Jill VanAlstyne:	Secretary
Terry Tatchell:	Building and Grounds Coordinator
Pat Christian:	Treasurer/Financial Affairs Coordinator
Jennifer Jeffries-Thompson:	Outreach and Social Justice Coordinator
<i>and</i>	
Pastor Charles Wei	Worship Committee Coordinator

The next Council meeting will be April 13th at 4:00 p.m.