

## **LETTER FROM ELDERS AND PASTORS**

It is June 2020 already, and this is our opportunity to look back with you on the 2019 financial year. Covid-19 has been keeping us all at home, so our audit team had a challenge performing the audit from a distance. We are very thankful that the team was able to rise to the challenge and check our books.

Our bookkeeper also had imagined his last audit to go differently. Cees has done an amazing job the last 13 years and this really is his last audit. We are so thankful for all his years of faithful service.

The year 2019 was a very special year for us as a community. In March 2019 we moved into our community centre. We have been making some renovations, but in order to realize all our plans, the members voted at the member meeting in November to get an extra mortgage to finance those plans. We are glad to share that those renovations are happening as you are reading this.

In November it looked like we would end the year with a small deficit, but in December the congregation really rose up together and we had a very good close to the year. At the end of 2019, we were able to add EUR 44,000 to our continuity reserve, EUR 25,000 more than budgeted.

The focus of 2019 was engaging the world. In March our community opened their homes to missionaries from around the world who came to a mission conference that we hosted in our community centre. In May we preached a series called "Love Comes to Town" and we all got involved in local projects during "Love Week". In the summer we sent a team to Zimbabwe to help with a school project called Crossover. We also took up several offerings through the year to help them with some projects, like building a water tank, getting school uniforms and sending some of their mentors on a teacher training. They have expressed deep gratitude for the support and we will keep supporting them in 2020.

There were just a few staff changes in 2019, and by the end of the year we found ourselves with a young and wonderful team, shaped around the three areas of our vision and ready to take on 2020 with our theme "Rise Up Together".

In the year ahead, may God give us grace to continue to encounter Jesus, embrace each other and engage with the world, all as a sign and expression of his Gospel of redeeming grace and transforming love!

Many thanks for your partnership in our Crossroads community.

The Elder Board and the Leadership Team