

## Assembly Mennonite Church: Congregational Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 23, 2022 7:00pm

All handouts are posted to church website here:

<https://www.assemblymennonite.org/minutiae/meeting-minutes/>

Jodi Beyeler: moderator

1. Welcome, Introduction (Jodi)
2. Discernment, first reading: [2022 Spending Plan](#) (Larry)
  - This is a first draft, no decision on it tonight
  - John showed us the pledge and giving history, and total giving
    - Note that we have thus far paid off the mortgage at a significantly faster rate than expected, so we will likely be able to pay it off 10 years early
  - Larry spoke about the budget/spending plan
    - \$40,000 in reserve fund
    - About \$5000 in balance at end of year
    - Safety Networks "healthy" balance of about \$15,000
    - Members Needs \$16,000 also healthy
    - Overall excellent giving in 2021 and we're in good shape
    - 85% inside Assembly expenses, 15% outside Assembly expenses (note that we prefer those percentages to tip more in favor of "outside" and as we pay the mortgage down, that is what's happening)
    - The amount planned for staff salaries seems unexpectedly low to some people, considering that we'll be hiring an administrative assistant
      - John will double-check that amount
    - There was some discussion about the fact that we have budgeted money for the Peace & Justice Support Network, which no longer exists
      - The Leadership Committee will look into that and resolve it, with the assistance of the Finance Committee (suggestions welcome)
      - One possibility is the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery
3. Information: [Updated Safe Church Documents](#) (Lora)
  - This is information sharing, no decision to be made tonight
  - Thanks to the committee that worked on the revision of these documents
  - We began this revision because our insurance company requested that we have a protocol for situations in which we have a registered sex offender at Assembly
  - Major change (new document in response to that request)
    - response to a participant credibly accused of sexual misconduct
      - note that this broadens the scope beyond just registered sex offenders
    - survivor-centered
  - Includes guidance on being safe digitally

- Essentially same as in person (example: children's group hosted on Zoom includes minimum of 2 adults)
- We will now review these documents on an annual basis

4. Information: [Update on Pastor Congregation Review process](#) (Lois)

- 2015 was last (regular) review
  - the gap between then and now is due to changes in the pastoral team
  - the Bridge Support Team completed work that counted as the review in 2018
- Purpose is to support and nurture relationships of trust among pastors and congregation
- 3 principles that guide the committee: curiosity, mutual care, humility
  - Congregation should use those principles as well as they review this
- Congregation response/participation
  - Feb. 10 deadline
  - Can be done online, in an in-person conversation group, or in hard copy
    - Let Lois know if you'd like to be involved in an in-person conversation group or would like a hard copy
- This review process is done about every 3 years

5. Information: [Anna Yoder Schlabach's Ordination](#) (Randy)

- Process: individual is called, then licensed, then walks in that ministry for a number of years, then recommended for ordination
- Anna is now being (highly) recommended for ordination

6. Information: Update on Hiring of [Administrative Assistant](#) (Scott)

- Two internal applicants were interviewed recently, both were excellent
- Becky Overholt has been hired as the new administrative assistant
  - Will likely begin in the beginning of February

7. Closing: Pastoral prayer (Scott)

Minutes submitted by Maria Wenger

**Approved by Leadership Group, Feb 1, 2022**