

Assembly Mennonite Church
Congregational Meeting, February 20, 2022 7:00 PM on Zoom
Facilitator: Karl Shelly, co-pastor

1. Opening - Karl Shelly gave welcome and introduction

- Agenda items:
- 2nd first reading of spending plan
- indoor worship coming
- involvement with larger church
- Main agenda whenever we meet how to love God and love one another

2. 2022 Spending plan (Larry Gautsche, Finance Chair) ([handout here](#))

- At last month's first reading there was a miscalculation of \$25K in salary line resulting in an approximately \$25,000 shortfall
- Finance Committee and Leadership Group have come up with some adjustments:

1. Mission Beyond Assembly

-Adjustment of **\$1600.00** A 5% inflation increase in most line items has been retracted taking those items back to the 2021 level

-Adjustment of **\$9000.00** Withhold building tithe contribution this year. The tithe is on a 10-year plan, we have \$27,000 in that fund currently, withhold that contribution this year and tack it back on later when the mortgage has been retired (i.e. year 11)

2. Assembly Life and Mission

-Adjustment of **\$7,000.00** There was an overbudgeting of \$5000 in MYF budget (now reduced to about \$7,000), other reductions come from Hospitality Supplies line item (reduced to \$1,000) and Christian Formation (reduced to \$5,000) which will delay the purchase of new materials for a quarter.

3. Reserve Fund

The Reserve Fund is currently at \$39,996.00. The recommendation is to keep 5% of the budget in a Reserve Fund which is **\$23,200**. Because the proposed Spending Plan represents a deficit (compared to pledges), the proposal is to keep an additional **\$8000** in the Reserve Fund (total \$31,200) in case we need reserves to cover the deficit. (The remaining **\$8700** in the reserve fund, together with the \$5000 surplus in offering-expenses from 2021 will be the subject of a separate proposal at a future congregational meeting). ($\$23,200 + \$8,000 + \$8,796 = \$39,996$)

- The adjustments were required because of a miscalculation in salaries which was pointed out at last month's meeting.
- Also, since the budget was first calculated, a decision was made to upgrade the telephone and technology line to a fiber connection so that line item has seen a significant increase.

- **Discussion of Spending Plan**

1. Q: What was the pledge amount for 2022? – A: Larry Gautsche, approximately \$364,000; goal is to keep budget at 80% of pledges
 2. Q: Member's need line jumped \$10,000? – A: John Nafziger, members needs fund currently has over \$16,000 in it; members contribute directly to member's need fund. This \$10K represents anticipated spending from the Members' Needs Fund; it is not included in the Spending Plan Totals.
 3. Q: Is it time to get rid of building fund? – A: Scott Coulter, still some projects outstanding, approx. 15K still will be needed; once those projects are completed, any excess funds will be used to pay down the mortgage
 - a. Comment: At some point building projects should be put into maintenance fund
 4. Q: Mission Network discontinued their Peace & Justice Support Network. What will happen with Mission Beyond Assembly Line 27 which is for PJSN?
 5. Q: Asked to repeat information about pausing building tithe for 2022.
 6. Q: Do we have \$13,000 left over from last year that can go toward this year's budget instead of making these cuts? – A: Larry Gautsche, there will be a separate conversation about what to do with any surplus from 2021 at a future meeting.
 7. Q: Proposal to add the 5% inflation amounts back into Mission Beyond Assembly, and take that \$1,600 from excess reserve funds. A – Larry Gautsche, could be done either way, some people would like to see some of the reserve fund used for local needs
 8. Q: What is changing about Custodial spending? A – John Nafziger, Custodial is going up because we are moving our janitor from employee status to contract employment-just moving the line item from one place to another, should be no change for the custodian's income. We are taking into account that she will be paying her own self-employment tax.
- Next month will be second reading, please address questions and comments before then to Larry Gautsche, Finance Chair

3. Return to Indoor Worship (Anna Yoder Schlabach, co-pastor)

- **Attachments:** [Letter from COVID task force](#); [email announcing indoor worship](#)
- Thanks to Covid Task Force!
- Important to note there are still risks even though COVID case/positivity numbers have gone down significantly.
- We will continue to offer Zoom as an option
- Masks are required, encourage vaccination but will not be checking vaccination status
- No coffee or food yet,
- No Sunday school on Carnival Sunday
- There will be Sunday school for children & youth for the season of Lent, starting on March 6, 2022.
- **Clarifications/Comments:**
 1. Bethany Swope (SS Chair): During Lent, Sunday school children will be dismissed from worship space during the worship service and the 45 minutes of Sunday school will begin at that point.
 2. Anna Yoder Schlabach: Note 9:30 AM starting time for worship, come early on Carnival Sunday to make name tags, greet each other and engage in revelry!

3. Q: Will musicians, speakers, etc. be masked or unmasked on the platform? A: Anna YS, worship leaders, preachers, song leaders, musicians etc. at the front will be unmasked, should be far enough away from others.
4. Comment: Thanks expressed for the Epiphany series just concluded, and the Cluster Zoom Worship format.

4. Mennonite Church USA Special Delegate Session (Anna Yoder Schlabach, co-pastor)

- **Attachments:** [Official Notice from MC USA](#); [Letter to Assembly from Anna Yoder Schlabach](#)
- The denomination is holding in person delegate sessions to consider several resolutions, in Kansas City, May 27-30, 2022.
- You are encouraged to read / learn about the resolutions.
 - For Justice resolution
 - Accessibility resolution
 - encourages churches to take steps to make facilities more welcoming to persons with disabilities
 - Retirement of Membership Guidelines
 - pastors will be able to perform same-sex marriages without reprisals and fearing loss of license
 - Repentance and Transformation
 - authored by Inclusive Pastors group
 - Assembly is named as a supporting congregation on this resolution
 - this is most contentious resolution;
 - there will be a vote whether or not to process the resolution, and if that passes, there will be a vote on passing the resolution
 - you are encouraged to pray for the delegate session
 - we will hold up “Yes and Yes” signs in support of this resolution and take a photo after worship on Carnival Sunday
- Our delegates are Anna, Karl, and Jamie Lake Rittenhouse.
 - There will be a meeting in March (details forthcoming) for interested people in the congregation to talk with the delegates about the resolutions.
 - We can also send a 16-21 year-old youth delegate; yet to be identified.

Scott Coulter, co-pastor closed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes submitted by Barb Swartley (notes) and Scott Coulter (editing)

Approved by Leadership Group on March 1, 2022