

Assembly Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2022

Minutes Taken by Jeannette Hughes

Meeting Led by Karl Shelly

Second Reading of Spending Plan

- According to Larry Gautsche, no changes from the first reading; proposed line items are basically the same as 2021.
- Line 37 describes skipping a year paying on building project—Larry Gautsche said it can take 11 years instead of 10 years to achieve a \$90,000 tithe. “Since the mortgage was paid down earlier, we can do this,” he said.
- Line 25 is a change to accommodate an additional salaried position.
- Consensus was reached—approved.

New Proposal for Budget Surplus

- Clarification on amount of surplus (add details from document sent out to congregation)
- Randy Roth said that Assembly has extra money to use—\$13,741, to be exact. This comes from separate categories: left over from last year, as well as reserved.
- The proposal is to split this in thirds, using two-thirds to pay down the mortgage and one-sixth to local needs organizations and one-sixth to global needs organizations. 2% Committee will allocate this money and welcomes suggestions from the congregation.
- Commenter: sooner our mortgage is paid down, the faster that money is freed up in spending plans.
- Commenter: Global needs money should go toward MCC in Ukraine.
- Commenter asked the history of surplus and the Surplus History Document was shared.

COVID-19

- Scott Coulter said masking continues for public events (e.g., Sunday morning worship). CDC recently changed its recommendation system for counties, and Elkhart County is rated as low transmission.
- Scott said people need to keep wearing masks on Sunday mornings to protect the most vulnerable among us, but there are no other restrictions.
- The pastoral team made this decision in consultation with the COVID advisory committee.
- At some point this will be reconsidered, but it all depends on public health data, said Scott.