

Assembly Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting
Sept 18, 2022 - During Second Hour

Karl Shelly opened the meeting

Randy Roth, chair of leadership group

[*see attached green FAQ sheet "Getting to Know GCMS"](#)

GCMS is a registered but unlicensed child care ministry and follows the Montessori Sch model of mixed-age classrooms where children work at their own pace. They have been meeting at AMC for about the past year.

In order to keep status as a registered child care ministry with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration GCMS needs to have a sponsoring church or religious organization. Thrive Church in Goshen has been the sponsor but has diminished connection with the school and wishes to end its sponsoring role after the 22-23 school year.

As a part of a rental agreement with Assembly the Goshen Christian Montessori School currently uses 2 classrooms, the playground, the kitchenette, the all-gender bathrooms and the laundry.

There are many connections to Assembly past the use of the building. Assembly members Caleb Morris (Board Member), Ann Horst Hanby (Administrator) and Sara Phend Horst (Director)

Questions of clarification

Q: what was status of Walnut Hill when they were using our building

A: Walnut Hill was a fully licensed daycare. GCMS is a pre-school

Q: Why is GCMS not licensed? What license is required?

Questions of substance (from conversations of small groups in the meeting)

-everyone supportive because of the ongoing connections with staff and children of Assembly attending the school...what is the legal liability and is there adequate insurance in place?

- questions around governance--what are the implications of being a governor of an organization instead of just housing? what standards are childcare ministries held to? if we are the operator are we responsible for setting the standards?

-confusion about what is different from when we agreed to allow them to use our facilities

-as a parent of children who would be in the age range for GCMS we know the hassle of a search for child care in Goshen is very real; having a quality option is important

- what is the financial status of the school now? what does Christian mean in the name? Is there a Christian curriculum?

-if we say we are going to be the sponsor then we are also agreeing to be the operator? do we want to weigh into the structure or operation of the school? are the values of the school in line with the values of Assembly?

-our youngest attended GCMS, he has special needs and our experience was excellent

-are there scholarships available to low-income families? are there any plans to go to 5 days a week? which would also make it more accessible to low income families

-what is the difference between licensed and unlicensed? What all are we taking on if we agree to be a sponsoring church?

Q: what are next steps

A: we are gathering questions and will get answers and it will go to leadership group to decide on next steps for the congregational discernment process

Caleb Morris is open to questions as the AMC appointed Board Member

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Barb Swartley