

**Proposal:** The GCMS working group\* recommends to the congregation that Assembly become the sponsoring church for Goshen Christian Montessori School, a registered child care ministry with the State of Indiana.

**Why** adopt/partner with/sponsor the preschool:

- Assembly values ministry to children, and values sharing our resources with the wider community
- Assembly's meetinghouse has classrooms designed for early childhood education
- Assembly is blessed with a wealth of people with leadership skills, who could give needed leadership to the board of the preschool
- Assembly has an existing good relationship with the preschool based on a year and a half of experience in a building tenant-landlord relationship
- Many Assembly families have sent their children to the preschool over several years, and they have had and continue to have a positive experience with the preschool
- Assembly recognizes there is a need in the wider community for more preschool options, and recognizes that GCMS offers a quality preschool option to the community

**In short, sponsoring the preschool is one way that the resources Assembly has can be used to meet a need in the wider community.**

**What** adopting/partnering with/sponsoring the preschool would mean:

- The preschool will continue to operate as a separate nonprofit corporation, with its own governing board.
- The bylaws and articles of incorporation of the preschool will be revised to specify the relationship between the congregation and the preschool, including that:
  - the congregation **via Leader Selection Committee** will appoint a majority of the members of the school board, including the president of the board
  - the congregation will have the power to affirm/veto all school board members
- discernment at the congregational level would be primarily to identify / affirm preschool governing board members, with governance topics handled by the preschool board and program management handled by the preschool staff
- The preschool will continue to be registered with the state of Indiana as an unlicensed, registered child care ministry, and Assembly Mennonite Church will be the sponsoring religious organization for the preschool. The preschool will be identified in all of its literature as "a ministry of Assembly Mennonite Church".
- preschool employees would be employees of the separate nonprofit organization, not of the congregation;
- The preschool budget would be self-sustaining and not planning on contributions from the church budget;
- insurance for the church and the preschool is being reviewed and increased appropriately

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\*The GCMS working group is:

Scott Coulter

Sandy Fribley

Larry Gautsche

Anne Horst Hanby

Caleb Morris

Arden Shank