

Assembly Mennonite Church
Congregational Meeting
Oct 23, 2022

Marshall King facilitated and opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement statement and a prayer

Reparations Task Force— presented by Bethany Swope

*see attached proposal

-First reading was June 6, 2022, changes suggested at that reading are underlined on this proposal

-Overview of changes in sec 2.2 and 4

-Section 2.2: 20% of the 2% fund will go to reparations in 2023, the percentage will increase over time with a goal of 45% of the fund going to reparations replacing the local needs portion of the 2% fund

-Section 4: Local needs giving will over a number of years move into our general budget

Reparations Task Force has met with members of the finance committee to work on how to make numbers work

*see attached information sheet

Responses and Questions:

--how was the \$5000 amount determined?...20% of the historical local distributions of 2% fund

-how will 2% committee be involved – they will distribute the funds for world needs

-will there be 2 committees, 2% and reparations?...Yes because there is a possibility that we can collaborate with other congregations on the reparations piece

-aspirational budget coming in November from Finance Committee will take church agencies back to an previous amount of giving to church agencies, reinstate the building tithe, and include \$5000 to local agencies

-where we are now on paying mortgage- Everence mortgage will be paid off in 2028 if paying regular payments then we will still have members loans. They are amortized over 10 years

Tested for consensus – **consensus was reached**

Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Ministry Team – presented by Norm Kauffmann

*see attached proposal

-Request that AMC join the Repair Network and form an ongoing group to learn about how to stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples

-Joining asks the congregation to commit to steps of engagement spelled out on the info sheet

Responses and Questions:

-thank committee for this work – curious if we will form connections with local indigenous people

-Camp Friedenswald is aligned with this group and there are also many connections with Central District Conference – excited about this coming from Mennonite roots

-ties in well with what we are doing with reparations, we have many local ties with indigenous people

Goshen Christian Montessori School – presented by Scott Coulter

*see attached Q&A sheet

- GCMS is in the process of changing its name to Goshen Community Montessori School
- an ad-hoc group has been formed to address the questions raised at the Sept 18 congregational meeting

Responses and Questions:

What is the difference between sponsoring church and sole operator?

Sponsoring requires completion of a state form signed by – GCMS would become a ministry of the church

Have you talked with the current sponsoring church?

No, that is a good idea – school has no debt and is currently financially solid
-the mission of GCMS is not to provide religious education but teaching will reflect the values of Assembly
Shouldn't we have a part in screening teachers?

No, screening in terms of religious faith statement but GCMS will select people who are competent

The words say we are the operators, what level of screening and staff will we have, can we come up with our own standards?

There is value in having members of the congregation on the board with a goal of 50% of the Board coming from the congregation. The decisions of hiring will not come to the congregation. Much of this was addressed in 2019 when we agreed to have them in the building as separate entities

- GCMS already many Assembly people involved on staff and the Board
- how is this different from Walnut Hill – WH was a five day a week licensed daycare, GCMS is a part-time registered pre-school
- GCMS will have much more accountability to us if we are “sole operator”
- what makes it Montessori - teachers are Montessori trained, using a Montessori model, Assembly's Children in Worship is a Montessori based religious instruction program
- In 2019 when we said yes to GCMS coming to Assembly they were operating as an LLC. At our request they incorporated as a non-profit
- what are the state licensure restrictions - state has several categories based on age groups and the number of children involved – daycares are licensed and pre-schools are registered with the State
- this fulfills a long time wanted mission of Assembly--to have our building used during the week

COVID Masking Policy Change – presented by Randy Roth

Leadership Group has invited feedback from the congregation and listened to professionals who are a part of the congregation and as of 10/16/2022 masks will be optional during worship. LG encourages the members of the congregation to stay up to date on vaccines and boosters and to join on Zoom when not feeling well. LG will continue to monitor the Elkhart Covid risk levels and masks may be required again in the future.

Respectfully Submitted

Barb Swartley

