

ASSEMBLY MENNONITE CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Marshall King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Main agenda item is the second reading of the proposed congregational spending plan for 2024.

Handouts: [Proposed 2024 spending plan](#)

[Everence mortgage](#)

Scott Coulter's [Sabbatical](#) Intro (May 20-August 19, 2024)

1. Proposed Spending Plan 2024: Larry Gautsche and Dancy Hirschler presented the proposed plan, including changes. Among them:
 - a. Missions Beyond Assembly:
 - Church Agency allocation was raised by 5%,
 - Discontinue separate line item giving to Bethany Christian Schools,
 - Postpone the Tithe of building project over 10 years until next year.
 - b. Assembly Life & Mission:
 - Pastoral Sabbaticals: There is no need for a separate line item since staff benefits include sabbaticals per MCUSA recommendations,
 - Reduce Annual Retreat budget by one day (\$3,000). There is a commitment to look at the cost of Church Retreat at Camp Friedenswald. Conversations will continue.
 - c. Mortgage Total (Everence & Member Loans)
What do we wish to happen regarding our mortgage with Everence? Finance Committee proposes obtaining member loans totaling \$60,000 at an interest rate of 4.25% or less. Information on this possibility will be available by March 1, and the Finance Committee will make the decision. We want to have 10 loaners willing to loan \$10,000 each and we would like to have the money by March 25.

A consensus on the revised spending plan was taken, with fours and fives predominating. There were 2 threes, who were invited to make additional comments on their reservations, but they declined. 2024 Spending Plan approved.

2. Pastoral Search Committee: Bethany Swope reported on the work of the Pastoral Search Committee. The focus has narrowed and there will be another round of interviews. The committee is optimistic about options.
3. Scott Coulter outlined his sabbatical plans (May 20-August 19, 2024). His aim is to nurture congregational leadership, continue his professional education and spiritual renewal, and spend time with his family. He will take an intensive course on Christian leadership at AMBS and attend family camp at Camp Friedenswald.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Judith Davis

Approved by LG on March 5, 2024