

AMC Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 15, 2024

- Facilitator: Glenn Gilbert
- Opening reading
- Issue at hand: Discussion of Member' Needs Fund policy and purpose [[attached document](#)]
 - Sara Morris from Leadership Group presented the background related to the past policies and the reasons for making changes to the language of the policy.
 - The leadership group approved the new language at their December meeting. The new language is being brought to the congregation for discussion.
 - Feedback was given that this fund is not well known within the congregation and should be publicized more widely.
 - Another person suggested that the title of the fund might be more appropriately labeled as "congregational needs" since it is open to both participants and members.
- Issue at hand: 2025 General fund budget proposal
 - John Nafziger, Dancy Hirschler, and Larry Gautsche presented information about the budget
 - Jon pointed out that the pledges had increased but the number of people pledging had decreased slightly.
 - There were 82 households that pledged this year. It is unknown exactly how many households are represented in the congregation. The estimate of the number of households ranges between 120 and 200.
 - The budget committee attempted to formulate a budget that is 80% covered by pledges. The total budget proposes a total spending plan of \$560,599.
 - Larry Gautsche reviewed the line items from Missions Beyond Assembly. This currently makes up approximately 15% of the budget. Most items increased modestly. Mennonite Action was added as a \$500 contribution.
 - Doctrine of Discovery had been proposed as an item in this category. More discussion needs to take place on how the congregation will support this endeavor.
 - Larry Gautsche also reviewed the Assembly Life and Mission line items
 - This portion of the budget makes up approximately 85%.
 - By the end of the year, the church will still have 85,000 in debt related to the building project. The Everence mortgage has been paid off. The current debt is based on loans from members.
 - 1202 property tax on line 3m needs to be explored.
 - A participant asked about projects funded from the 2% fund. Committee members explained that restricted funds such as the 2% fund are outside of the general fund. These funds were not included in the handouts.

- A participant asked about the process for selecting organizations to support with the Missions Beyond Assembly. The recommendations come primarily from leadership group. Additional recommendations could be sent to members of the group.
- A participant asked about the significant increase in the funding toward church retreat. Scott Coulter shared that the actual cost of the retreat has increased between \$2-3 thousand each year. They plan to check with Friedenswald in January to see what the rates will be for the next year so that any increases can be incorporated into planning. They are asking people to contribute toward the retreat in their annual pledge.
- The student aid line item remains a point of concern. A participant pointed out that the conversation about our response to vouchers/support for public education/student aid has not been completed. Sara Morris responded that leadership group continues to have this on their agenda at every meeting. Ben Sywulka said the congregation will be presented with a menu of interim options for example moving the financial aid into a restricted category rather than originating from the general fund.

Minutes submitted by Wendel Landes