ASSEMBLY MENNONITE CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

MINUTES TAKEN BY JEANNETTE HUGHES

Safe Church: Beck Unternahrer

- Safe church policy is undergoing revision. Education and training are being offered for the entire congregation, and there will be more specific training for people working with children. Hope is for this plan to be fully in place by fall of 2026.
- One-hour training will offered at the Assembly retreat in October. Childcare will be available.
- There will be another training for the whole congregation during second hour one Sunday. And there will be another training for folks who will volunteer with young people.

More Solar Panels: Glenn Gilbert

- In 2018, solar panels were installed. There are 80 panels on the building.
- During COVID-19 years, we were producing more electricity than we were using. We used net metering through NIPSCO and got a full credit for the surplus.
- Now that Goshen Montessori is using our building, we are now using more electricity than we are making. With heat pumps in multipurpose, space we can air-condition that space, and fresh air can be brought in.
- Discussed with green team how to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality. We propose that we increase solar panels by 25 percent. We applied for a grant from MCUSA, and we were approved. We received $5,000 from them. Due to the Inflation Reduction Act, credits can be had if we act this year. The project will cost a little under $14,000. Goal is to get to a balance—consuming energy what we make, which would include exporting energy to the EV station.
- We still need to raise $4,500 to do that. We have been fundraising by leaving envelopes on cars that are charging, but we trust that people in congregation are also interested in supporting this initiative
- On online giving site on website, there is a place for EV charging donation. We hope that this that money is raised by the end of October. Construction could happen in November.

- If we cannot raise $4,500, then further conversation is needed.

Bethany Swope: Christian Ed

- Proposal for first reading: Update MYF coordinator job description. This is similar to a job description that brought Bethany to Assembly in 1998.
- Proposal is coming because this is a staff role, but there is no change in FTE or purpose.
- Trying to make existing quarter-time job more manageable.
- Too many things that we were asking of MYF coordinators.
- We are in second year of temporary two-year plan; it seems to be working.
- Current MYF coordinators are starting their second year; second year just began. It's a year-by-year commitment, but minimum of two years in coordinator role.
- Each of our four pastors will be a connection point to one of the grades; they will stay with that group.