

**Assembly Mennonite Church
Congregational Meeting 2/19/2023 7:00pm**

The meeting was facilitated by Jodi Beyeler and held via Zoom.

Zoom attendance was 23 devices.

-Single agenda item is the second reading and a consensus decision to accept the 2023 budget & Spending Plan ([2023 Spending Plan attached](#))

Larry Gautsche led the Budget discussion

- the Financial Summary as of 12/31/2022 was shared ([attached](#))
- additional funds paid against mortgage outside of budgeted amounts was \$194K+
- Finance Committee goal this year has been to reverse cuts that were made in 2019 to work in increased mortgage costs
- Total pledges for 2023 will support \$538,000 budget, budget is \$516,000

- Changes made to Assembly Life and Mission since first reading:

Annual Retreat raised, Hospitality put back to pre-lockdown spending levels, Health Insurance has budget increases and gas and electric budgeted amounts are increased

- Changes made to Mission Beyond Assembly since first reading:

MC USA amounts are returning to 2019 levels, Central Conference reversed to 5% of our budget (less mortgage and building tithe) as suggested by the Conference, some Local Community Needs spending is returned to the budget and this amount will be increasing yearly going forward, the Building Tithe is back in the budget, Supportive Communities Network and Anabaptist Disabilities Network spending has been returned to 2019 levels

-Questions, comments and affirmations:

-What percentage of the 2023 budget is for Mission Beyond Assembly (**18%**) and Assembly Life and Mission (**82%**) **Not quite where we want to be but an improvement over past years**

-I understand the budget constraints but given the war in Ukraine and the earthquake in Turkey I would like more to go to MCC **Additional funds will likely go to MCC through the 2% Fund**

-In terms of Retreat will it all be paid from budget or will individuals still be donating? How much did Retreat cost last year? **Last year's total was \$13,500, donations were \$2200 and that's how the budgeted amount of \$11,200 was arrived at for this year's retreat.**

-Has there been any discussion about putting some of Student Aid costs outside of the budget? **Some congregations are already doing that. There have been some questions raised specifically about the Bethany line item in the budget as it might relate to State Vouchers**

-Are there legal issues involved if we take Student Aid outside the budget and make it a separate fund? **People could not donate to a particular student. There would have to be a Student Aid Fund for donations.**

-Given inflation and rising costs has there been any discussion about raising salaries? **Wages are based on MC USA guidelines and include cost of living increases. These guidelines will be published in May and amounts in budgets are assumptions and adjustments will be made July 1st**

-A reminder that 83.7% of the 2023 budget is covered by pledges leaving room for some contingencies

-Are there enough people present – is there a quorum? **Quorum is whoever is at the meeting**

-General affirmations to Dancy, John, Larry, Finance Committee and to the congregation's attention to an aspirational budget

Tested for consensus: 93% were at 5, 7% were at 4

Budget is adopted

Respectively Submitted

Barb Swartley

Approved by Leadership Group on 3/7/23