

**Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren
Church Board Minutes**

Monday, August 14, 2023, 6:45 PM in Discovery Room & via Zoom

In Attendance: Alyssa Cross (Clerk), Karen Ungemach, Pastor Jason Haldeman, Pastor Naomi Kraenbring, Kurt DeGoede, George Snavely, Lynne Hockley, Don Ziegler, David Leiter, Duane Hernley, Kendra Gotshall (Treasurer), Kurt Sollenberger, Kevin Engle (Chair Elect), Joe Detrick (Moderator), Jeff Eisnbise (Chair), Liz Bidgood-Enders, Gina Strouse

I.	<p>Opening Devotions Board Chair</p> <p>Jeff opened the meeting with a reflection inspired by John Pavlovitz's book <i>If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk</i> and encouraged us to be open to the possibility of learning; if we stay teachable, we will be able to stay loving.</p>
II.	<p>Acceptance of Previous Minutes Board Chair</p> <p>Action: Approval of June 12 and June 19 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes accepted as presented.
III.	<p>Introduction of Liz Bidgood-Enders Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz has been appointed by the Executive Committee to a 1-year term as part-time interim pastor of congregational care to begin September 1 at quarter-time and moving to half-time beginning October 1. • The hope is to have the congregational survey and assessment completed and our needs defined at some point during the 1-year term.
IV.	<p>Treasurer's Report (Exhibit A) Treasurer</p> <p>Action: Approval of the Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up: Finance Committee to review conduits and make some recommendations for outdated conduits that could be re-allocated. • Report approved as presented.
V.	<p>Commission & Deacon Highlights & Concerns Commission Chairs</p>
	<p>Christian Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBS starts this week: August 15 – 18. Children age 4 – 10 are invited to participate in the "Changemakers Lab" which will be held on our church grounds each evening from 6:00 – 8:15. We'll have a family picnic kick-off on Tuesday and a campfire to wrap things up on Friday. • Move-Up Sunday – Will take place on August 27, a time when Kindergarteners move into Shine, and 6th graders move into the youth class. We begin a new curriculum cycle, with new Shine Bibles that accompany the lessons. • Kids' Club- Starting in the fall we will encourage kids' club to be for ages K-3. We're working on using part of this time to engage students with other topics like racial justice, environmental issues, etc. • Though numbers have been low in both the Blaze and Youth classes, we're hoping for an increase once the school year starts. We are currently working to find more leaders for the youth Faifo class. Offering in the fall will go toward New Community Project • A new post-high Faifo class is in the works. This would target college students and young adults and is planned to begin in the fall. • Adult Faifo classes are going well. Discovery Class continues with lectures of different topics of interest each week. Bible Exploration with David Leiter has been well attended with an average of 20-25 people per Sunday and a regular core of about 35-40. And Chalkboard chat seems to have a handful of people each week that engage in informal discussion.
	<p>Expressions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We sponsored the concert featuring Ben Detrick on July 15. The event was well attended and received. The Bucher Music Fund was used for funding the event. • We approved hosting organist guild events at our church on occasion - no event is currently planned, but the guild will be informed that we are interested in hosting. • We approved restarting a special concerts subcommittee. Joe Detrick and Craig Cobel agreed to serve on this committee and would seek additional membership from those interested in organizing an annual concert schedule. • Kim developed a congregational poll for surveying interest in participating in worship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ However, this was tabled to avoid over-polling the congregation this fall. ○ Instead, we will be soliciting volunteers for participating in the music program in the pre-worship slides, the newsletter, and at the bottom of the order of worship.

- We are exploring upgrading the video cameras for worship streaming. The cost will require the entire 2024 annual spend rate from the O'Donnell Fund (>\$15k).

Nurture

- Faith Markers: We are planning on the presentation of Bibles to third and fourth graders during worship on September 17th.
- Church picnic: We worked on finalizing plans for the picnic to be after the church worship service on Sunday, August 27, 2023. Details coming soon in announcements.
- John Pavlovitz weekend (October 20-22, 2023): We discussed plans for a book discussions prior to the weekend.
 - Glen Book has agreed to lead a small group book study (open invitation) in person.
 - Amy Karr & Ashley Haldeman will be leading a blog study via Zoom.

Resources

- The Resources Commission has been busy with many projects along with the normal daily upkeep of the church building. We're grateful to the board and congregation for supporting our upcoming big project—the Fellowship Hall and kitchen renovation that we hope to start later this year or early 2024.
- Here's a list of some of the many other fixes and projects we have in the works, or have recently been completed:
 - roof repairs on one of our rubber roofs on the side of the sanctuary
 - stairwell painting in four entrances and the area outside the ECCC office/toddler room
 - new flooring in the choir room hallway, bathroom, and stairwell landings
 - new stair treads in the education wing (parking lot entrance) and both sides of the kitchen
 - updated tenant lease agreements, along with a deep dive into the costs associated with the heavy use that our building sustains
 - repaired a parking lot sinkhole due to a break in an old concrete pipe
 - sealed cracks and striped the parking lot in coordination with the college (students use a portion of our lot during the week)
 - completed clean up of choir room items in the Fellowship Hall, organized tenants to finish their part of this so we can fully access this space
 - continued to organize the almost completed (waiting on hardware to hang doors) stage storage closet
 - major tree trimming across from the ramp side handicapped parking spots
- Thanks to all who keep us moving and organized—Amy Zimmerman, our Facilities Manager, our Resources team, Crystal and Brooke in the office, and Jeff and Naomi for their continued guidance.

Witness

- We have used this money from the O&M funds to pay for materials needed for our Fair Exhibit and welcoming back new and returning college students. Both of these events were planned to share more of who we are with the community. We also plan on using \$500.00 to cover the costs associated with the speaker on Christian Nationalism. We plan on using \$4000.00 or a little more to sponsor John Pavlovitz.

Elizabethtown Fair	Exhibit Space (Racial Justice)	\$248.50
Elizabethtown Fair	Postcards to hand out	\$380.00
Hospitality/Evangelism	Welcome Banner/College Students	\$90.56
Elizabethtown Fair	4 Banners for Fair	\$432.00
Planned Expense	Speaker on Christian Nationalism	\$500.0
Planned Expense	John Pavlovitz event sponsorship	~\$4,000.00

- We collected for the Community Cupboard during the month of July and a carload of goods was delivered in the beginning of August.
- We sent a check for \$6,400.00 to Church World Service/CROP. This was the bulk of what was in the conduit, which we had probably been collecting for a while.
- We are still looking to prepare for a refugee family.
- We are working on hosting a meal with Rebecca Dali.
- We are working on preparing for the weekend with John Pavlovitz in October.

Deacons

- Continued work on the deacon duties.

VI.	Reports from Pastors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jason <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking ahead to the fall and excited about all the upcoming events. ○ Sabbath rest will be coming up next summer. ● Naomi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date has been set for Fall Council (December 3) ○ Update on the assessment process. The survey window is open from September 17 through October 8. Everyone is invited to participate. 	Pastors
VII.	Next Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board Meeting: Monday, September 11, 6:45 pm ● Fall Council Meeting: Sunday, December 3, 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reports due November 13 	
VIII.	Word of Closure & Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting concluded at 8:12 pm 	Board Chair

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross (Clerk)
August 14, 2023