

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

Monday, April 8, 2024, 6:45 PM in Room 102 & via Zoom

In Attendance: Alyssa Cross (Clerk), Joe Detrick (Moderator), Kevin Engle (Board Chair), Dave Leiter, Sandy Bradley, Peggy Shaffer, Pastor Liz Bidgood Enders, Pastor Naomi Kraenbring, Lynne Hockley, Lois Herr, Kendra Gotshall (Treasurer), Kurt Sollenberger, Kurt DeGoede, Craig Coble, Sandy Bradley, Duane Hernley, Pastor Jason Haldeman, George Snavelly, Karen Ungemach

I.	<p>Opening Devotions Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kevin opened the meeting with a devotion from James Finley from the Center for Action and Contemplation titled “A Moment of Divine Fire” which invited us to be present in moments of deep oneness.
II.	<p>Acceptance of Previous Minutes Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 11 Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peggy Shaffer moved to accept the minutes as presented. Dave Leiter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
III.	<p>Treasurer’s Report Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Year to Date Financial Report as of March 31, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kurt DeGoede moved to accept the Year to Date Financial report dated March 31, 2024. Kurt Sollenberger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
IV.	<p>CAT Survey Monthly Update Commission Chairs/All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Progress reports on any ideas regarding our main initiative in attracting young families are to be covered within regular Commission reports.
V.	<p>Endowment Committee Update Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finalizing the recommendation in time for the May Board meeting for review before the Council meeting in June. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A 36-page report with the discovery and detail ○ 2-page summary ○ Amendment to the Memorial Paper
VI.	<p>Pastor Jason’s Sabbath Rest (June 9 - Aug 24) Pastor Jason</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sabbath Rest Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A much anticipated week-long trip to Disney World with my brothers’ family and my parents, celebrating their 50th Anniversary! ○ Family trip to Annual Conference without formal church responsibilities. ○ Attending Wild Goose Festival with Ashley (Social Justice, Art/Music Festival) ○ Civil Rights Bus Tour With Drew Hart and the ‘Thriving Together Program’ ○ New Community Project Trip to Denali ○ Hiking on the Appalachian Trail ● Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sunday morning worship responsibilities are covered ○ Working with Christian Ed in scheduling line-up
VII.	<p>Commission & Deacon Highlights Commission Chairs</p>
	<p>Christian Ed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recent discussion and brainstorming topics geared towards attracting families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recent focus of brainstorming was on ideas that would attract parents ○ Looking for ways to build relationships with the nursery school and child care center. Want to ensure that we have a welcoming presence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Celebration and “Thank you” meal for the families for being patient during the renovation project. Extend an invitation for the May event. ○ An increased social media presence: Consider a committee or team responsible for generating a promotional or media posting schedule, centralizing the messaging, and being aware of what types of news or events should be posted. ○ Idea: Hour flip-flop (worship service and faith formation hour) - test on a 5th Sunday? Test for a season (summer?). Use the summer or a 6-week period to take a break from regular faith formation programming (informal gathering time only, or just worship at 10:00 instead)

	<p>Expressions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultant from Glick has come in to review the sound system. We are waiting on a report. May be recommending another resource. • Congregational participation in worship service is a continued focus. • Looking at how to manage events that take place outside of regular Sunday morning worship (ie. concerts)
	<p>Nurture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent events in Lancaster have raised the visibility of issues related to gender identity and the opportunity for a faith-based approach. The new LGBTQIA+ group is anticipating working in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Activism and education, including our visible witness to the surrounding community and our own internal work at broadening our understanding and offering opportunities for supportive resources; ◦ Coordinating safe places for persons who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community to be together, including possibly a space for youth; ◦ Creating intentional opportunities for queer-friendly events that provide intergenerational connections and increased appreciative understanding of one another without sexual or gender identity as the focus. • Worked hard to build a year's plan of activities in each season. Open to ideas, suggestions, and volunteers from others in our faith community!
	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen & Fellowship Hall Renovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 98.5% complete. Projecting ~\$15k over budget due to unforeseen infrastructure and mechanical updates (air conditioning repairs and duct cleaning, for example) • Maintaining the renovated spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is a delicate balance between maintaining the physical space and showing hospitality. There is a reference book of use guidelines who all who use the space. ◦ Our kitchen is now under the Department of Health purview and subject to inspections. New practices and procedures are to be followed to stay within the necessary guidelines regarding food safety and cleanliness. • Security System: Exploring a new security system with Ring after our current security contract expires this month. • Day to Day activities: Amy does a great job of maintaining the daily operations • Pavilion Feasibility Study: A feasibility study seems prudent to know what all would be involved in constructing a pavilion. Unable to know the total cost and scope of the project without taking this step.
	<p>Witness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to work with the Venezuelan family. They are doing well, sometimes having trouble with patience as it is difficult to understand our culture, the way we do things, our financial system, and looking for jobs. But we have very capable people assisting with all those things. It is exciting to know that they are eager and ready to move forward. Thank you to Jim Beckwith and the other volunteers for working with them. • The Haitian family situation seems to be changing daily. They are staying in touch with Paul and Sandy regularly and appear to feel positive about their chances of getting out. Their airplane tickets for this week were canceled at Port Au Prince with no end in sight as to the airport closures. So they were planning on trying to take a bus to go north where it is safer and airports are still open. However, it is a very dangerous, long trip and we put them on our prayer chain as we continue to try to support this family as much as we can. We are just waiting to hear any news about when they may or may not arrive. • We are planning a community event for November 23, from 10-2, mostly here in the Fellowship Hall. It is being designed to appeal to families with entertainment by a balloon artist, a buy-nothing exchange (focusing on children's clothes and Christmas presents), a Secret Santa opportunity for kids, food, cookies, candies, playing bells with the kids, and many more opportunities. More information will be coming out in the next newsletter. We thought we would call it a Holiday Celebration. • Last but not least, a reminder about the Chicken Bar-B-Que coming up on Saturday. It starts at 3, so come early so you don't miss out!! Thank you to Sandy and Paul Brubaker for taking on the bulk of the work planning this.
	<p>Deacons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication, collaboration, and interactions between commissions and deacon body are going well.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry Teams - preparing a background document/proposal for the Council Meeting. ● Upon review, the idea of our Benevolence Fund has expanded with line items such as Refugee and Immigration Support.
VIII.	<p>Reports from Pastors Pastors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pastor Naomi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jason led Taize and Easter Sunrise service - and both were done very well ○ Continuing conversations for pastoral care coverage during Jason's Sabbath rest period ○ Worship themes are planned through the summer ○ Met with group interested in LGBTQIA+ community concerns and ensuring that we are a welcoming and affirming congregation ● Pastor Liz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A pastoral mini-retreat took place after Easter to affirm open communication and a strong team atmosphere ○ Membership defining discussion and exploration is still ongoing
IX.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, 4/11, 7:00 pm ● May Board Meeting: 5/13/2024, 6:45 pm ● Spring Council Meeting: 6/2/2024
X.	<p>Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross (Clerk)
April 8, 2024