

# Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren Church Board Minutes

**Monday, October 14, 2024, 6:45 PM in Room 102 & via Zoom**

**In Attendance:** Alyssa Cross (Clerk), Kevin Engle (Board Chair), Pastor Naomi Kraenbring, Joe Detrick (Moderator), Kendra Gottshall (Treasurer), Pastor Jason Haldeman, Karen Ungemach, Vida Snavely, Peggy Shaffer, Sandy Bradley, Lynne Hockley, Don Ziegler, Kurt Sollenberger, Pastor Liz Bidgood Enders, Craig Coble, Kurt DeGoede

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| I.    | <p><b>Opening Devotions</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kevin opened the meeting with a reflection inspired by the District Conference Shalom Team regarding reconciliation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| II.   | <p><b>Acceptance of Previous Minutes</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peggy Shaffer motioned to accept the September 9, 2024 minutes, which was seconded by Kurt Sollenberger. The minutes were accepted.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| III.  | <p><b>Budget Review &amp; Discussion</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissions highlighted changes to their budget from the prior year.</li> <li>Revisions to the budget are to be made to reduce the deficit before the next meeting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| IV.   | <p><b>Fall Council Deadlines</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The budget is to be approved at the November 4 Board meeting.</li> <li>All council packet items are due to the office by November 5.</li> <li>Potluck meal planned for council meeting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| V.    | <p><b>Non-Pastoral, Pastoral Reviews</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review updates: The Expressions Commission has met with all music staff individually. The next step is to meet with all staff together.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| VI.   | <p><b>Board Retreat Discussion</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme suggestions: Money, Time, Volunteers</li> <li>Preparations: each commission is to have an assignment for contributing to the breakfast</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| VII.  | <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> <span style="float: right;">Treasurer</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kendra presented the year-to-date figures through September 30, 2024. Craig Coble motioned to accept the report and Peggy Shaffer seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| VIII. | <p><b>Commission &amp; Deacon Highlights</b> <span style="float: right;">Commission Chairs</span></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|       | <p><b>Christian Ed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|       | <p><b>Expressions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moving forward with the purchase of 5 cameras for the sanctuary. Meeting to find out what else is needed to accomplish the installation.</li> <li>Ron Bellamy is retiring at the end of the season (Spring 2025).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|       | <p><b>Nurture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer objectives completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To plan and manage the summer church picnic</li> <li>To review and revise the budget for 2025</li> <li>Hosted the Women's Coffee and Conversation with Pat Leiter and Marie Monville.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Budget Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced some expenses and transferred others to Education.</li> <li>Added a line for LGBTQIA+</li> <li>Prime Time resides in our budget as well, and it remained at the same level as in 2024.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Prime Time Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prime Time has recently planned a Stroopie Tour and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, and we hope members of the congregation will take advantage of those opportunities.</li> <li>Prime Time activities for 2025 include a Lunch and Learn with Jean Paul Benowitz on February 26th.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Looking ahead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reintroducing caroling in December</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prime Time is planning a Christmas Experience discussion evening as was done last year.</li> <li>○ Next year we hope to establish ongoing small group discussions and will be looking to the congregation for relevant topics, perhaps starting with book discussions but leading into longer-term group meetings. Anyone who has ideas about relevant topics or is interested in being a group leader of a small group should contact Lois Herr (herrlk@me.com).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|      | <p><b>Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building issues have been relatively quiet following the sewer repair.</li> <li>● The anticipated expense for the Pavilion project is \$450,000. There are options to reduce some costs. Considering holding another informational session after worship in the near future.</li> <li>● The deed of consolidation for joining the lots has been finalized.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|      | <p><b>Witness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Budget discussions and holiday celebration have been recent areas of focus.</li> <li>● Etown College has a student group (Best Buddies) that will be having their holiday meal here.</li> <li>● The district wants to host a children’s disaster training in 2025 at our church.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|      | <p><b>Deacons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of proposal for Deacon Caregiving Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggested revisions for Council meeting: name the 14 current ministry teams, give a count of how many people make up these teams, list the additional teams that you would like to add to the ministry, and remove the details regarding logistics of the sign-up genius.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Karen Ungemach moved to affirm the change of the term Deacons to Deacon Caregiving Ministry. Peggy Shaffer seconded the motion. The board affirmed the proposal unanimously.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| IX.  | <p><b>Reports from Pastors</b> <span style="float: right;">Pastors</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pastor Jason <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kingian NonViolence weekend was a positive experience. Got good feedback.</li> <li>○ Daniel Radcliffe met with Finance Committee to discuss ways for our Endowment funds to be invested in socially responsible and environmentally sustainable ways.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Pastor Liz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have been present with congregation members at LGH</li> <li>○ Working on being more active in engaging with online participants during the livestream on Sunday morning in the chat. Pastors are rotating this responsibility when not involved in leading worship that week.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Pastor Naomi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Started Inquirer’s Class yesterday with 11 attendees. Anticipating reception of new members on the 2nd Sunday in December.</li> <li>○ District Conference takeaway: Commissions opened their remarks by naming their purpose and let that framework guide their report and discussion. This could be something we wish to practice.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| X.   | <p><b>Result of Email Vote</b></p> <p>9/25 Email regarding Housing Exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Motion to amend Pastor Liz Bidgood Enders’ compensation package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From September 1 through December 31, after the pastor’s portion of benefits and pension contribution, all other salary is designated as housing allowance/exclusion. For IRS purposes, that amount equals \$14,000 for this timeframe.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Emailed responses were solicited from Executive Committee members and received approval and the motion passes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| XI.  | <p><b>Upcoming Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● November Board Meeting: Monday, November 4, 6:45 pm</li> <li>● Fall Council: Sunday, November 17, 11:45 am</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| XII. | <p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Cross, Clerk  
October 14, 2024