

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren Church Board Minutes

Monday, August 12, 2024, 6:45 PM in Room 102 & via Zoom

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

I.	<p>Opening Devotions Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin opened the meeting at 6:46 pm and shared a devotion reflection on the theme of extravagant abundant love inspired by Sunday's sermon.
II.	<p>Acceptance of Previous Minutes Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 11 Minutes: Peggy Shaffer motioned to accept the minutes accepted as presented. Lynn Hockley seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
III.	<p>Report on Results of 7/24 Vote via Email Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: The Resources Commission recommends proceeding with a "deed of consolidation" to merge the two existing church lots and constitute a single property. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The motion received unanimous support and was approved via an email vote.
IV.	<p>Budget Reminder Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin reminded everyone that the budget process is coming up soon and asked that everyone be prepared to review the budget at the October meeting. Finance committee members have agreed to join commission meetings if that would be helpful for the process.
V.	<p>Treasurer's Report Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kendra presented the year-to-date financial report, income statement, cash flow, balance sheet, conduit activity, and Eder statements through July 2024. Dave Leiter motioned to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Karen Ungemach seconded the motion and the report was accepted unanimously.
VI.	<p>Commission & Deacon Highlights Commission Chairs</p>
	<p>Christian Ed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacation Bible School begins tomorrow! With reduced summer numbers, classes have been consolidated; K through 5th grade is meeting together in the Blaze program, and Jr and Sr High youth have been meeting jointly. Considering a new cohort for 5th through 7th grade - working through logistics with volunteers. Faith formation hour resumes 8/25 A new book study is beginning: The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg. The group will meet on Sunday afternoons via Zoom with Pastor Naomi.
	<p>Expressions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation about the cameras will be forthcoming. Need to look at the budget for which line item the expense should come from. September 13 concert is upcoming. The committee has been doing a great job with programming.
	<p>Nurture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On an ongoing basis, the Nurture Commission has planned events such as the Church Picnic, Coffee and Conversation, and a Faith Formation program on the Food Hub. In addition, members of the commission participate in other church activities, such as the LGBTQIA working group and the Child Protection Policy Committee. We hope these events bring people together to nurture their bodies and their souls! In the near future, activities are likely to include Christmas Caroling. We are also planning to form "Let's Talk" small groups in 2025; these groups would be focused on current issues in the light of our faith.
	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We signed a service contract with Brubaker, Inc. for system maintenance and regular filter replacement. We continue to have false fire alarms. We are waiting on Siemens for a quote to replace our fried (electrical) computer board in the attic. The strobes in the sanctuary aren't working. Nolt Electric to run new wiring to the point where the board is to be installed.

- HVAC system:
 - 4 thermostats were replaced; waiting to see if they work properly.
 - Amy still can't set a schedule on her computer; all thermostats have to be set manually. New computer panel is to be installed this week, which is supposed to rectify this problem. If this doesn't work, then what? Financial remuneration?
 - The new system went live in March of 2023.
- New outside sewer trap and sewer line repairs are complete. We had three sewer backups over a couple month period.
- Pavilion update:
 - Board approved the move for a "deed of consolidation" to combine the separate church lots.
 - We received Dave Christian's final feasibility study to project initial project costs. We are awaiting an estimate for detailed building-ready plans from two architects. Jeff Mummau has updated some preliminary building plans and is getting estimates from various contractors for various phases of the project.
 - Plan to present this information in a congregational meeting to discuss the project (September-October). Hope to have a proposal ready for the fall council meeting.
 - Concerns include financing (facility fund, other existing funds, fundraising, loan?) and how this benefits the church and fits into our mission and core values.
 - Resources feels a pavilion would give us another place for small groups or the whole church to gather: church picnics, pot lucks, weekly meetings, Sunday morning coffee or breakfast, VBS, funeral meals (weekdays the FH is occupied by ECCC), special events, church member use for family gatherings, rentals for private gatherings
- Tenant issues/concerns:
 - Leases have gone out with an agreed-upon 3.2% COL increase.
 - IU 13 has signed their new lease
 - ECNS has their new lease but has not yet signed (both of these are school year terms)
 - ECCC lease to go out by the end of the month.
 - Continued kitchen situation: it has been better, but the floor cleaning still needs improvement. We discussed the possibility of hiring an outside contractor and charging ECCC for this service by adding it to their lease agreement.
- Continued frustration as we try to justify the cost of subsidizing our tenants (mainly ECCC) when our Resources budget doesn't cover our operating costs. We feel this hamstrings us when we consider other needed building upgrades or projects.

Witness

- Affordable Housing Concerns
 - Affordable housing is an issue in this area. Some landlords will not rent to refugees, immigrants, or undocumented people. For some, the color of your skin is also an issue.
 - We checked with Chestnut Housing, a non-profit organization started by East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster to help homeless people (including immigrants and refugees) obtain housing, but they require a social worker to work with them, which makes working with undocumented people nearly impossible.
 - After much searching in the area, we found one landlord with an available apartment that was affordable and was willing to rent to a refugee family. The rent (including heat and trash services) is \$780/month. The available apartment was not in great shape, so we decided to partner with this landlord (who happens to be a member of our congregation) to make some updates to make it move-in ready, with the hope that this landlord will continue to work with us to rent to other refugee families in the future, too. We replaced carpet and flooring at our expense (\$2,000) and after some misunderstanding, also covered the cost of making some kitchen updates (\$3,500). A separate member of our congregation, after becoming aware of this situation, donated money to the refugee fund which covered a majority of these renovation costs. At that point, I hope we have established a good enough relationship with this landlord that they may rent to another refugee family in the future.
- Refugee Family updates
 - Paul and Sandy have been working hard with the Haitian family and CWS has been providing some legal support on completing some of the paperwork required. It is my understanding that the family has a SNAP card and has completed the paperwork for a social security number and working papers.
 - We appreciate everything this church has done to support both families that we sponsored this year. For any support you wish to offer, please remember to work through the point people who are coordinating care (Jim Beckwith for the Venezuelan family and Paul and Sandy Brubaker for the Haitian family).

- Our goal is to assist these families in acclimating to our country and culture enough to become independent.
- Update on O&M Fund Expenditures
 - O&M Funds spent this year so far:

Beneficiary	Use	Amount
Jason Haldeman	Bethany Seminary	\$1,044.59
PA Interfaith Power & Light	Membership Fee	\$500.00
Grandview Church	Embrace Ad (Pride Festival)	\$50.00
Lancaster Pride	Festival	\$750.00
Transfer of Funds	Chicken Barbeque	\$2,500.00
On Earth Peace	Peace	\$3,500.00
Jason Haldeman	God & Country film	\$300.00
Desiree Weaver-Spidel	Atlantic Northeast District	\$175.00
TOTAL paid to date		\$8,819.59

- Anticipated expenses:

Beneficiary	Use	Amount
On Earth Peace	Kingian Nonviolence Training	\$10,000.00

Deacons

- Continuing with caregiving ministry teams and working on a presentation for the Fall council meeting.

VII. Reports from Pastors Pastors

- Pastor Naomi
 - Lynne & Christian Ed have been doing a wonderful job filling in during Jason's sabbatical
 - Looking forward to the book study via Zoom and at a different time slot than the traditional Sunday school hour
 - Worship
 - Enjoying the summer worship theme and the amount of time we have given to exploring this topic
 - September worship theme will be focused on call: "Here I am"
 - Looking at a series focused on the 6 tenets of Kingian non-violence
 - Appreciating lay people involved in worship this summer.
 - College students are returning to campus: preparing to welcome them (table and banners)
 - Desiree Weaver-Spidel is interviewing at the district office for licensing.
 - Involved with the LGBTQ working group
- Pastor Liz
 - Thankful for the call to serve in ministry here
 - Enjoyed being a featured storyteller at The Festival of Biblical storytellers a few weeks ago. Open to mentoring others who may be interested in Biblical storytelling.
 - Planning on doing a 'Blessing of the Animals' service in September
 - Looking forward to VBS this week

VIII. Next Meeting

- September Board Meeting: Monday, September 9, 6:45 pm

IX. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Alyssa Cross, Clerk
 August 24, 2024