

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

March 11, 2019 6:45 PM Discovery Room (101)

In Attendance: Karen Ungemach, Pastor Josh Tindall, Nancy Hivner (Chair), Pastor Jason Haldeman, Ann Pineda Ziegler, Kathy Nornhold, Pastor Pam Reist, Dick Keeseey, Paula Knudsen Burke (Chair Elect), Pastor Greg Laszakovits, Amy Karr, Frank Rhodes, John Over, Peg Over, Rhonda Myers, Alyssa Cross (Clerk)

I.	Welcome and Recognition of Guests			
II.	Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 11 - Approved as submitted 			
III.	Review of 2018 Action Items			
	Meeting	Action Item	Assigned To	Status
	12/20/2018	Commission Chairs to update the Handbook and draft a one-page job description by March 1	Commission Chairs	In progress. Nurture and Christian Ed to complete.
	12/10/2018	Re: Jim Hollinger and Future Ministry Investment with Capital Campaign -- How can we invest in a bold ministry that is aligned with our values and help define our future?	Witness Commission	Assigned to Witness Commission on March 11.
	12/10/2018	Move forward with the purchase of a new projector	Josh & Expressions	Done and installed. Close.
	11/05/2018	Nurture Commission to consider collapsing some of their budget line items for 2020	Nurture (and all Commissions?)	Close.
	11/08/2018	Commissions to go back to their original ministry requests for the building and evaluate the Scheme 18 sketches with these in mind. "Is anything missing?"	Commission Chairs	Close.
	10/01/2018	Discuss Naming Opportunities and Parameters for Building Project with John Miller	Nancy	Close.
	08/13/2018	Determine a schedule for each commission to be featured during a board meeting	Nancy	Close.
	06/04/2018	Coordinate discussions with Elizabethtown College regarding shared parking arrangements	Dick	Carry forward.
	05/22/2018	Greg and Nancy to work with the Building Committee to identify the costs associated with the Child Care Center portion of the building project.	Greg, Nancy, Building Committee	Close.
05/22/2018	Pastors to engage with Commissions to identify areas of opportunity to	Pastors, Commission Chairs	Close.	

	strengthen relationships between tenant entities		
05/22/2018	Resources to work on lease provisions and nuts and bolts of our relationship	Resources	Close.

IV.

Previous Board Meeting Action Items (February)

- Board Retreat Action Plan - Action Items

Meeting	Action Item	Assigned To	Additional Notes
02/11/2019	New channels to reach the public	Witness	
02/11/2019	Find a back-up person for Instagram	Witness	
02/11/2019	Small Groups for Sharing	Nurture, Pastor Jason	Reviewing surveys and identifying where the gaps are. Carry forward
02/11/2019	Enhanced Building Security	Resources	Carry forward.
02/11/2019	Expand Children/Youth Programs: Date Night	Pastor Jason	In development - carry forward
02/11/2019	Expand Children/Youth Programs: Conversations with ECC and ECNS	Pastor Jason	In progress - carry forward
02/11/2019	Expand Children/Youth Programs: Family Dinner Night	Pastor Jason	In development - carry forward.
02/11/2019	Welcoming Activities	Pastor Pam/Hospitality Committee	In progress - interviews with new members. Carry forward.
02/11/2019	Worship Evolution	Pastoral Team	Schedule is worked out and visits have begun. Ongoing. Close.
02/11/2019	Stop allocating time to denomination - includes staff time, attendance at Annual Conference.	Leadership Team	Leadership to explore further and come back to the Board with a recommendation.
02/11/2019	Revisiting roles and responsibilities of Commissions	All Commissions	Keep in mind as you go about your work as a Commission.

- Worship Team Plan - Communicate to the congregation in services and via a newsletter article
 - Announcement made and newsletter in progress. Close action item.

V.

Board Chair Updates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Draft version of the Board Minutes to be sent out by the end of the week of the meeting to the larger full commission list. ● Building Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Campaign is just about at the halfway point - update will be given on Sunday, March 17 ○ Finance Committee considering use of available invested funds and looking at our operating budget to come up with a recommendation for financing the project. To be presented to the Board in April ○ Building Committee to come up with scenarios and options based on the total financial package presented by the Finance Committee. To be presented to the Board in May ○ ECC and ECNS Boards have been approached to consider undertaking their own capital campaigns towards the building project, considering they are community facing organizations
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VI.	<p style="text-align: right;">Pastor Greg</p> <p>Devotions - Biblical Reflections on Money; saving, spending and borrowing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Money is a spiritual issue; because of that, money/possessions/wealth are talked about a lot in the Bible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Gospels have 38 parables. How many of those parables dealt with how to handle money and possessions? (16) ○ Jesus talked more about money than he talked about Heaven and Hell combined ○ In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal with the subject of money. ○ The Bible as a whole offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. ● Our relationship with money and things matters. It is a matter of faith because it affects our relationships with others and with God. ● Money can mess up orientation to God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jesus in Matthew... ‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’ ○ ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ○ Mt 19.24 “...easier for a camel to walk through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” ○ 1 Timothy 6.10 warns us that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” ○ Money is dangerous bc we start counting on money more than God. It can ruin relationships, and can lead to self-ruin. ● What does the Bible say about Borrowing Money? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is no prohibition against borrowing money, but there is instruction that borrowing can be another form of slavery (Moses to Israelites). If you do borrow, you should pay back every penny. (Psalm 37) ○ Proverbs 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. ● What does the Bible say about Saving (vs Hoarding)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Old Testament notes the value of saving during fat times in order to have enough during lean times. ○ Proverbs 6:6-8 Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. ○ Luke 12.13-21--Cautionary tale against greed and thinking we’re rich because we’re geniuses
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The New Testament: consistent ethic of mutual aid and sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acts 4.32-35 “Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This is followed by the story of Ananias and Sapphira who drop dead because they held back the money from the sale of their property. ○ 1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ○ Parable of the Talent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Interesting because it is seen by some as a parable of good old fashioned capitalism. ■ However, it is more likely a critique of the wealthy man and a distorted economic system that abused the poor.
VII.	<p>Building Project - Financial Framework Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The group had wide-ranging discussion and reflection on the devotion as it relates to our building project. No decisions made at this time. ● To do: Continue to think on this subject in preparation for the April presentation from the Finance Committee
VIII.	<p>Commission Reports</p>
	<p>Christian Ed Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trailer is scheduled to come in March ● Planning Circles of Grace Curriculum for May ● VBS exploring curriculum <i>Who is my neighbor?</i> ● Continue to struggle with space for adult classes ● Requesting \$2,000 from the Christian Education Program Invested Fund to furnish the portable classrooms - approved.
	<p>Expressions Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report received.
	<p>Nurture Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taize-style, Lenten worship will begin Sunday evening, March 17 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. A dessert buffet will follow each evening. It will be a 4 Sunday event - March 17, 27, 31, and April 7. See Beth DeGoede if you would like to bring a dessert. ● Christian Education Commission has taken over the responsibilities for recognizing children with Faith Markers. ● An Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday after church.
	<p>Resources Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are working with Tim Byerly to reactivate the Safety Committee with the goal of developing a plan for dealing with emergencies such as fires or intruders. The projected plan completion date is the fall of this year. If this plan is something that would need to be brought to a Church Council Vote for approval, it should be available for the November Council Meeting. Our immediate goal is to recruit an usher team representative to serve on the Safety Committee. Tim Byerly has begun developing a plan based on his experience and resources he has available. ● Scheduled delivery date for the Classroom Trailer is thursday, March 14, 2019.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are continuing to work on the Facility Manager Job Description as well as take some immediate actions related to tasks assigned to the Facility Manager and monitoring the cleaning service we are using to improve the cleanliness of our building.
	<p>Witness Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for 275 bucket challenge for CWS. March 24 kickoff Discussing ways to share Etown COB on social media such as Instagram/Facebook SERRV workday in New Windsor, Md. on Wednesday, March 19 Receiving regular updates from Josiah Ludwick, COB in Rwanda, following our 2018 donation from O&M
	<p>Deacon's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report received.
IX.	<p>Report from the Pastors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visits to other congregations as part of the Worship Plan have begun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason and Josh made the first visit on Sunday, March 10 to Victory Church The most recent Pizzas with the Pastors was the largest one ever and hearing lots of positive energy and feedback Inquirers Class beginning in April, anticipating a good turnout
X.	<p>Treasurer's Report - February 2019</p> <p>1. Review of Income Statement as of 02/28/2019</p> <p>Through two months of the year, operating results are in very good shape, with revenues exceeding disbursements by \$8,457. Revenue to date at the end of February is over budget by \$807 (\$144,661 received versus \$143,854 budgeted). Revenue is \$23,550 ahead of where we were a year ago. Regular offerings, at \$137,336, exceed the budgeted offerings of \$129,688 by \$7,648, and are \$24,550 above last year's amount of \$112,786. A month by month summary of offerings is provided in the graph entitled "ECOB 2019". A 5 year history of general fund offerings compared to budgeted offerings is also provided in the graph entitled "ECOB YTD 2/28 COMPARISON."</p> <p>Disbursements through two months in 2019 are less than budget by \$7,650 (\$136,204 actual spending versus \$143,854 budgeted spending) and \$17,002 more than last year. With the exception of Witness/Outreach, spending is below budget in all major categories. The main reason for the increase in spending compared to last year is in Resources for janitorial services and equipment as well as the timing of an insurance payment.</p> <p>Overall, as of 2/28/2019 we have a solid net gain position of \$8,457, with income up more than expenses from a year ago.</p> <p>2. Cash Position and Long-term Investments with the BFI</p> <p>Our cash position at 2/28/2019 is \$143,781. This compares to our cash position a year ago of \$182,557.</p> <p>Contributions to the building conduit at 2/28/2019 totaled \$37,895 (\$18,617 so far this year). Total expenses to date have been \$152,470 (\$30,827 paid out of 2017 Resources budget, \$26,549 paid from 2018 surplus funds).</p> <p>The market value of all long-term memorial funds invested with the Brethren Foundation as of 2/28/2019 was \$2,277,763, which is up \$162,328 from the beginning of the year market value of \$2,115,435, reflecting an investment gain, net of expenses, of \$162,328 (a total investment return for the year of approximately 7.7%). Investment results were up in February, with an approximate return of +2.3% for the month. As of 2/28/2019 our portfolio was invested 81.9% in a balanced fund</p>

	(60% domestic stock fund, 40% bond fund) and 18.1% in a bond fund, resulting in an overall approximate portfolio mix of 50% domestic stock fund and 50% bond fund.
XI.	Upcoming Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 04/08/19 Church Board● Church Council Meeting - tentatively scheduled for June 23<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Action Item - notify the congregation that the Spring Council Meeting will not take place in May
XII.	Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross, Church Clerk
March 15, 2019