

**Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren
Special Church Council Meeting Minutes**

August 19, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

I.	<p>Welcome Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carroll Kreider, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. and opened with a prayer. ● Carroll recapped the history of events that led us to the meeting today
II.	<p>Update from the Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanks given to John David Bowman and Judith Gible for crafting the response, at the request of the Board. ● Presentation of the response statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nancy and Carroll will present the statement to the District Executive on Wednesday, August 22 ○ Following the meeting on Wednesday, copies will be mailed to the District Board Members and select others at the denominational level leadership ○ Copy of the statement will be available on the church website
III.	<p>Pastors' Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nancy Hivner, Board Chair, read a statement prepared by the Pastoral team: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">We are grateful to be part of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, a community that practices peace, service and openness to all. Each of us have been called to serve in this congregation because of these values, including the 2003 Church Council constitutional amendment regarding the meaning of membership.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This statement, under consideration, clarifies these longstanding values and affirms our collective ministry that welcomes and ministers to all. As pastors we will continue to offer complete pastoral care and service to all who are part of our congregation including, but not limited to, baptism, parent/child dedication, wedding service.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">For those who may be concerned for us losing our credentialed status as licenced or ordained ministers, we are not afraid: credentials in a judicatory body that would deny full rights and services to all is out of step with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will not be threatened or bullied into submission.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">We look forward to continued ministry with you as we practice peace, service, and openness to all.</p>
IV.	<p>Congregational Response and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kevin Miller: Expression of gratitude, humbled, inspired by spirit and understanding and love. ● Debbie Sager: Question on footnote #2 ● Paula Burke: Expression of pride in this congregation and it's being a place of safe refuge, acceptance, and love ● Jim Beckwith: Called attention to last page, referencing 2017 - having loyal minority voices raising objections. District policy seems punitive
V.	<p>Closing Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carroll concluded by reviewing the next steps for response statement, as outlined by Nancy ● Meeting concluding in singing "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds" ● Meeting concluded at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross, Church Clerk
August 19, 2018