

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

May 10, 2021 6:45 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Alyssa Cross (Clerk), Joe Detrick (Moderator), Paula Knudsen Burke (Chair), Carroll Kreider, Amy Karr, Frank Rhodes, Pastor Josh Tindall, Pastor Jason Haldeman, Pastor Pam Reist, Duane Hernley, Kendra Gottshall, Jordan Eberhart-Bingeman, Lisa Rosenberger, Karen Ungemach, Craig Coble

I.	<p>Opening Devotions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pastor Pam shared a perspective from Brian McLaren on his transition from pastor or parishioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wanted and needed a church that would help me live a life of love with as little distraction as possible. ○ Seeking encouragement in loving God, loving myself, loving my family, loving my neighbors, especially people I might struggle to love, and in loving the earth. ○ Looking for community and regular gathering; without it I could too easily stagnate without intentional care and regular practice. ● Many of us are wondering what church looks like on the other side of a pandemic. Perhaps more pressing is “How do I learn to live in deeply loving ways so that I look, act, talk, and walk like Jesus?” and “What community can help me do that?” 	Pastor Pam
II.	<p>Discussion and Approval of 04/12/2021 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carroll Kreider moved to approve. Seconded by Duane Hernley. Approved unanimously. 	Board Chair
III.	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>1. Review of Income Statement as of 04/30/2021</p> <p>After four months in 2021, preliminary operating results are negative, with disbursements exceeding revenues by \$16,764 (at the end of last month the net position was a positive \$3,407). Revenue at the end of April is under budget by \$30,121 (\$273,980 received versus \$304,101 budgeted). Revenue is \$49,192 ahead of where we were at the end of April last year. Regular offerings, at \$249,773, fell short of the budgeted offerings of \$267,768 by \$17,995, and are \$46,425 above last year’s amount of \$203,348 (general fund giving is about 23% ahead of last year). A month by month summary of offerings is provided in the graph entitled “ECOB 2021”. Note that giving in every month this year has been below budget except for April. April 2021 giving (\$92,295) was well above budget, and more than April 2020 giving (\$55,914). A 5 year history of general fund offerings compared to budgeted offerings is also provided in the graph entitled “ECOB YTD 4/30 COMPARISON.”</p> <p>Disbursements at the end of April are under budget by \$18,303 (\$290,744 actual spending versus \$309,047 budgeted spending) and \$26,762 more than last year. Resources spending increased significantly in April due to a second payment on elevator repairs and is well above budget. With the exception of Witness and Administration, spending in all other categories is under budget and is less than a year ago.</p> <p>Overall, as of 4/30/2021 we are in a preliminary net operating loss position of \$16,764, with income and expenses both under budget. Income and spending is higher than a year ago. Last year at the end of April we were in a net loss position of \$39,194.</p> <p>2. Cash Position, Building Project, and LT Investments at BFI</p> <p>Our cash position at 4/30/2021 is \$1,857,877. This compares to our cash position a year ago of \$1,219,714. The large increase in cash is primarily due to Capital Campaign contributions. Just over \$1,631,000 of this cash is invested in a money market fund.</p> <p>Contributions to the building project at 4/30/2021 totaled \$2,063,577 (\$142,254 in 2021, \$41,107 in April). Non-operating budget building project costs to date are \$417,659 (\$12,497 in 2021). Net proceeds available for future building project spending is \$1,645,918.</p> <p>The market value of all long-term memorial funds invested with the Brethren Foundation as of 4/30/2021 was \$2,579,955, which is up \$63,524 from the beginning of the year market value of \$2,516,431, reflecting an investment gain, net of expenses, of \$63,524 (a total investment return for the year of</p>	Treasurer

	<p>approximately +2.5%). The investment return for April was +1.8%. As of 4/30/2021 our portfolio was invested \$1,302,632 (50%) in a Short-term investment fund and \$1,277,323 (50%) in a balanced fund (60% domestic stock fund, 40% bond fund).</p> <p>Comments, Questions, and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Pastor Greg was still on staff at this time, would we be in the same position as last year (with regard to our deficit)? Yes, if we were still paying Pastor Greg this year, our position would be similar.
IV.	<p>Pastoral Reports Pastors</p> <p>Jason</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to be excited about how worship is going and looking towards reopening. • Christian Ed is exploring options for nursery, shine, and blaze to run during worship. • Wrapped up semester at Bethany Seminary • Will be serving on the Board for Camp Swatara <p>Josh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biggest thing on the horizon is reopening - working in consultation with the Reopening Committee. <p>Pam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have invited 1 guest preacher/month. Dave Sollenberger (Moderator Elect of the Denomination) will be preaching at the end of this month. • Planning a Fall picnic in conjunction with Lititz CoB. The Hospitality Committee is coordinating with Lititz. Planning for September 19 at Lititz. They have a pavilion and the new playground. • Changes in the life of our congregation: There have been 23 deaths since the pandemic has begun. <p>Comments, Questions, and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How was attendance at the in-person worship? No official count; approximately 80. • What is the plan for the Save the Date for the picnic? Will look to get the word out very soon.
V.	<p>Procedure for Virtual Council Meetings Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 1 - What constitutes a quorum for members present? 25-30 people do not have internet and get the info and ballot by mail (bylaws do not allow for proxy votes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is possible for people to call in to the Zoom meeting by phone ○ Have non-internet participants join with another household that has access. • Issue 2 - We've been closing the meeting and then allowing a 3-hour window for voting to remain open. Bylaws require voting to take place during the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include an accountability checkbox along the lines of "I affirm that I participated in the meeting and am making an informed decision". <p>Questions and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a consequence for continuing the way we have been doing this, understanding that we were responding to a global pandemic and we would not have normally? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern regarding setting precedent for proxy voting. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put more emphasis and provide written directions for non-internet users to phone into the live meeting to hear the discussion. • Include an accountability checkbox. • Close the voting window at 3pm.
VI.	<p>Update on Search Committee Carroll Kreider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has completed interview procedures • Have received and screened available pastoral profiles provided by district office • Have several candidates that are discerning our request to them to submit their profile for our consideration as our Executive Pastor • Moving along with discussions • Will include a short written report for the May 23 council meeting and the June/July newsletter.
VII.	<p>Supportive Communities Network (SCN)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This group works in the Brethren Mennonite Council to promote a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ individuals in churches. • The Nurture Commission unanimously recommends that our church join the SCN organization. • A congregational vote of affirmation is required to join SCN. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Carroll Kreider seconds recommendation from Nurture. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The question will be presented to Council on May 23. <p>Question, Comments, and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a similar group that exists related to race issues? There are resources and learning groups that we have participated in. Not aware of any member-network groups that are fighting racism. • Suggestion to add a symbol or icon on our homepage showing support and our openness to the lgbtq community. This would visibly show those who visit our page (who are not members) without having to ask the question "is this church truly open to the lgbtq community".
VIII.	<p>Update on Building Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Zimmerman has been working on clearing out the Christian Education closet and the Senior High Youth Room. Some of the items will be put out at the "Buy Nothing Yard Sale" on May 22. That closet will be part of the area to be worked on for the bathroom renovations. • Meeting with contractors and tenants is taking place on Thursday, May 13. Work on the bathroom area and that wing of the building is starting Monday, May 17. Everything needs to be removed from that space prior to work beginning.
IX.	<p>Commission Reports</p>
	<p>Christian Ed Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending notice about Sunday School hour structure to volunteers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Classes to be offered during church hour when indoor services begin: Nursery, 1 Shine class, 1 Blaze class • Christian Ed Commission unanimously recommends that we purchase a video conferencing interactive-learning classroom system from Sage Technologies for \$6,000. This spending would come out of the Christian Ed Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Christian Ed has been talking about how to maintain connections with those who are not local, especially Adult Sunday School class. Would like to have a space that would allow for teleconference capabilities for in-person and virtual attendees and speakers. ◦ Sage Technologies can provide equipment that would allow us to turn any space into a Zoom-capable space. The cart would need to be hard wired into the room. Room 101 is currently not hard wired. Phase I would be a great time to run the cable down to the classroom. ◦ Seconded by Duane Hernley. The Board approved the request unanimously.
	<p>Expressions Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No written report.
	<p>Nurture Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith Markers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Nurture members will visit 4-year-olds and 5th graders to present their books and take photos for a slideshow in church as we did last year. We are aiming for a TBD June date. ◦ We will plan for HS senior gifts in coordination with Pastor Jason and his church service plans involving those students. • Social time/Movie night <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Scheduled for Friday, August 20 (with rain date on Saturday, August 21) ◦ We discussed sharing the event with Lititz CoB. We are investigating possible funding options in the form of sponsorships. • Picnic with Lititz CoB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sunday afternoon, September 19th, at Lititz CoB. Lititz is planning and hosting along with ECoB hospitality committee.
	<p>Resources Commission</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elevator is completed; waiting for the State Inspection approval. • The new Security System has been installed. • The Fire Panel is being replaced. • The hot water booster for the kitchen dishwasher was repaired • The generator was repaired. • The Church sign on Market/Arch Street will be replaced. • David Clemens has assumed caretaker responsibility for The Rider Cemetery. • Much work has been done with the Memorial Garden and the ECCC playground area; trees removed, trees planted, top soil added, repair/paint of ECCC fenced area. Kurt Sollenberger is acknowledged for his work and leadership with this project.
	<p>Witness Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk to Nigeria in the Month of May - currently 29 participants • May 22nd - Chicken BBQ Fundraiser for Haiti Medical Clinic • Community Cupboard Food Drive - moving to July to accommodate church activities and Community Cupboard • Looking for ideas for a 2021 service project
	<p>Deacon's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deacons continue with weekly visits through phone, text, email, and notes. • Likewise, the Benevolence Fund continues to be active.
	<p>Board Chair Elect Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is possible interest and consideration for co-chairs.
X.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Council Meeting: Sunday, May 23, 11:30 am • Board Meeting: Monday, June 14, 6:45 pm
XI.	<p>Closing Prayer Pastor Josh concluded the meeting in prayer. "God works through all things for good". Meeting concluded at 8:30 pm.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Cross, Clerk

May 10, 2021