

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

**July 12, 2021 6:45 PM in the Parlor**

**In Attendance:** Alyssa Cross (Clerk), Joe Detrick (Moderator), Paula Knudsen Burke (Chair), Frank Rhodes, Carroll Kreider, George Snavely, Karen Ungemach, Duane Hernley, Kendra Gottshall, Wendy Neiss, Pastor Pam Reist, Anne Garber

I.	<p><b>Opening Devotions</b> <span style="float: right;">Pastor Pam</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The group shared things they've learned or discovered over the last year and a half.</li> <li>● Reflection on the vision statement and our calling to be innovative, adaptable, and fearless</li> </ul>
II.	<p><b>Discussion and Approval of 06/14/2021 Minutes</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approved as submitted.</li> </ul>
III.	<p><b>Report of Gifts Discernment Committee</b> <span style="float: right;">Anne Garber</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to work on filling the vacancy for Board Chair</li> <li>● Numerous openings coming up - July/August Newsletter will call for nominations</li> <li>● What can we do to make sure people know that they are invited and welcome to participate and that there are needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commission table event</li> <li>○ Video during service</li> <li>○ Identify individuals and approach them personally</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
IV.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> <span style="float: right;">Treasurer</span></p> <p><b>1. Review of Income Statement as of 06/30/2021</b></p> <p>After six months in 2021, preliminary operating results are negative, with disbursements exceeding revenues by \$53,858 (at the end of last month the net position was a negative \$33,750). Revenue at the end of June is under budget by \$73,405 (\$382,747 received versus \$456,152 budgeted). Revenue is \$44,270 behind where we were at the end of June last year. Regular offerings, at \$346,924, fell short of the budgeted offerings of \$401,652 by \$54,728, and are \$42,586 below last year's amount of \$389,510 (general fund giving is about 10% behind 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. June 2021 giving (\$46,323) was well below budget, and much less than June 2020's giving (\$56,850). A 5 year history of general fund offerings compared to budgeted offerings is also provided in the graph entitled "ECOB YTD 6/30 COMPARISON."</p> <p>Disbursements at the end of June are under budget by \$26,964 (\$436,605 actual spending versus \$463,569 budgeted spending) and \$49,432 more than last year. Resources spending, mainly due to elevator repairs, is \$51,255 above budget and \$98,101 more than last year. With the exception of Administration, spending in all other categories is under budget and is less than a year ago. Ministry Salaries &amp; Benefits is significantly less than budget and a year ago, due mainly to Pastor Greg's departure.</p> <p>Overall, as of 6/30/2021 we are in a preliminary net operating loss position of \$53,858, with income and expenses both under budget. Income is significantly less than a year ago and spending is significantly higher than a year ago. Last year at the end of June we were in a net gain position of \$39,844.</p> <p><b>2. Cash Position, Building Project, and LT Investments at BFI</b></p> <p>Our cash position at 6/30/2021 is \$1,824,787. This compares to our cash position a year ago of \$1,315,393. 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 6/30/2021 totaled \$2,091,997 (\$170,674 in 2021). Non-operating budget building project costs to date are \$564,242 (\$159,080 in 2021). Net cash proceeds available for future building project spending is \$1,527,755.</p> <p>The market value of all long-term memorial funds invested with the Brethren Foundation as of 6/30/2021 was \$2,608,032, which is up \$91,601 from the beginning of the year market value of \$2,516,431, reflecting</p>

	<p>an investment gain, net of expenses, of \$91,601 (a total investment return for the year of approximately +3.6%). The investment return for June was +0.8%. As of 6/30/2021 our portfolio was invested \$1,300,457 (50%) in a Short-term investment fund and \$1,307,575 (50%) in a balanced fund (60% domestic stock fund, 40% bond fund).</p> <p><b>Discussion &amp; Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YTD giving statements going out via email next week. Paula will announce on Sunday to raise awareness for the email and call attention to the fact that we are short.</li> </ul>
V.	<p><b>Pastors' Reports</b> <span style="float: right;">Pastors</span></p> <p>Pastor Pam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focusing efforts on reopening and making services meaningful both in-person and online.</li> <li>• Participated as a delegate at Annual Conference (virtual) (along with Damon Wagner-Fields and Paula Knudsen Burke). Will be sharing more during the Sunday School session.</li> <li>• Started a New Friends Class (Inquirer's Class) with 10 participants. Meeting on Tuesday afternoons.</li> </ul>
VI.	<p><b>Update on Search Committee</b> <span style="float: right;">Search Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively interviewing. Began with 21 profiles and have completed 3 interviews so far. Two will be called back for further interviews in July. Will determine after that point if we will proceed with these candidates or if the search process will continue.</li> <li>• Interview Strategy: 6 committee members are focused on 6 categories. Each has 10 minutes to focus on their category.</li> </ul>
VII.	<p><b>Commission Reports</b></p>
	<p><b>Christian Ed Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoom Cart has been paid.</li> <li>• Children's Sunday School was a challenge this week with the stage area being flooded. Combined all kids age 2-Grade 4 and it worked out.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Expressions Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing guest preachers approx. once a month.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Nurture Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Pavlovitz Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Along with Witness, Nurture is interested in hosting this event, possibly in the spring of 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Faith Markers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gifts have been mostly delivered and the slideshow is in progress. This project should be finalized soon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Picnic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There will be a September 19 afternoon/early evening picnic at Lititz Church of the Brethren for both Lititz and Etown congregations. A committee of people from both churches has met. Sandy Garman shared plans to date. The committee meets again in late July and will share progress with Nurture, who will be sharing costs with Lititz.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• August Family Movie Night <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The event is canceled. It was planned as a possible way to gather while under COVID separation, which is no longer the case.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mission of Nurture Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revisited our mission statement and brainstormed innovative ways in which we could better fulfill our mission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Resources Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had some water issues with leaks with the recent heavy rainstorms. The insurance company is going to assess if there was an issue with the roof.</li> <li>• Now focusing on plaster issues in the sanctuary ceiling.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Witness Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community Cupboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Donations for June were good but lower than past drives</li> </ul> </li> <li>● CROP Table continues to be successful</li> <li>● Lancaster PRIDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The festival is being held on October 24th at Clipper Stadium. Looking to form a sub-committee to plan for the church to be a vendor and have a presence. If you are interested in volunteering for the event or being on the sub-committee, please let Amy Karr know.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Tindall CD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working with Jim Hollinger and Josh Tindall for CD compilation/CD release party</li> </ul> </li> <li>● John Pavlovitz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Possible virtual session in 2021 and larger event in 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Deacon's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The work of the deacons is beginning to return to a more normal routine. Our virtual visits of the past year and more are now a combination of virtual and in-person when and where allowed. It has been wonderful to see the faces of many of our loved ones once again. The Benevolence Fund continues to be active.</li> <li>● For the first time in over a year, the deacons met to bake bread on July 2 and then served bread and cup communion during the church service on July 4. The pastors asked us to prepare individual servings that were wrapped, thus not breaking bread with another person. It was meaningful to commune with one another, even if in a different manner.</li> <li>● At this time, we are planning to have our annual fall meal and meeting following church on Sunday, August 29. As is true with so many areas in our church community today, we will be discussing the role of the deacons as we move forward.</li> </ul>
VIII.	<p><b>Accountability Committee Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working on a revision and renewal of a covenant agreement. The draft is ready for leadership review and approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Copy of the document to be sent to the Board via email for review and electronic vote. Looking for this to be finalized and effective by August 31.</li> <li>○ As far as communication to the congregation, the committee recommends a brief written update.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
IX.	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Board Meeting: Monday, September 13, 6:45 pm.</li> </ul>
X.	<p><b>Closing Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pastor Pam closed in prayer. The meeting concluded at 8:45 pm.</li> </ul>

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Cross, Clerk  
July 12, 2021