

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

October 12, 2020 6:45 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Paula Burke (Chair), Pastor Pam Reist, Pastor Josh Tindall, Pastor Jason Haldeman, George Snavelly, Carroll Kreider, Duane Hernley, Amy Karr, Beth DeGoede, Kathy Nornhold, Jordan Eberhart, Glenn Book, Frank Rhodes, Karen Ungemach, Alyssa Cross (Clerk)

I.	<p>Opening Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When I am Among the Trees</i>, poem by Mary Oliver, was read at a dedication ceremony for 6 trees planted by Karen Wenger’s children in her memory <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><i>When I am among the trees, especially the willows and the honey locust, equally the beech, the oaks and the pines, they give off such hints of gladness. I would almost say that they save me, and daily.</i></p> <p><i>I am so distant from the hope of myself, in which I have goodness, discernment, and never hurry through the world but walk slowly, and bow often.</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><i>Around me the trees stir in their leaves and call out, “Stay awhile.” The light flows from their branches.</i></p> <p><i>And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say, “and you too have come into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine.”</i></p> </div> </div>	Pastor Pam
II.	<p>Discussion and Approval of 09/14/2020 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved as submitted. 	
III.	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>1. Review of Income Statement as of 09/30/2020</p> <p>After nine months, operating results remain positive, with revenues exceeding disbursements by \$5,007 (at the end of last month the net position was \$17,899). Revenue to date at the end of September is under budget by \$109,381 (\$574,846 received versus \$684,227 budgeted). Revenue is \$28,396 behind where we were a year ago. Regular offerings, at \$521,349, fell short of the budgeted offerings of \$602,477 by \$81,128, and are \$34,738 below last year’s amount of \$556,087. A month by month summary of offerings is provided in the graph entitled “ECOB 2020”. September giving (\$41,448) was well below budget, and was much less than September 2019 giving (\$58,716). A 5 year history of general fund offerings compared to budgeted offerings is also provided in the graph entitled “ECOB YTD 9/30 COMPARISON.”</p> <p>Disbursements after nine months are under budget by \$114,388 (\$569,839 actual spending versus \$684,227 budgeted spending) and \$78,365 less than last year. Most notably, Resources spending is well under budget and significantly less than last year.</p> <p>Overall, as of 9/30/2020 we are in a net operating gain position of \$5,007, with income and expenses well under budget, and expenses much less than a year ago.</p> <p>2. Cash Position, Building Project, and LT Investments at BFI</p> <p>Our cash position at 9/30/2020 is \$1,384,423. This compares to our cash position a year ago of \$466,409. The large increase in cash is primarily due to Capital Campaign contributions. Just over \$1,231,000 of this cash is invested in a money market fund.</p> <p>Contributions to the building project at 9/30/2020 totaled \$1,419,405 (\$276,122 in 2020, \$61,937 in September). Total 2019 contributions through September were \$395,397. Non-operating budget building project costs to date are \$229,000 (\$101,869 in 2020).</p> <p>The market value of all long-term memorial funds invested with the Brethren Foundation as of 9/30/2020 was \$2,556,635, which is up \$85,169 from the beginning of the year market value of \$2,471,466, reflecting an investment gain, net of expenses, of \$85,169 (a total investment return for the year of approximately 3.4%). The investment return for September was -1.2%. As of 9/30/2020 our portfolio was</p>	Frank

	<p>invested \$1,306,527 (51%) in a Short-term investment fund and \$1,250,108 (49%) in a balanced fund (60% domestic stock fund, 40% bond fund).</p> <p>3. Preliminary Budget Discussion</p> <p>As commissions are looking at 2021 proposed budgets, keep in mind the things that we must do to continue our work. Keep the budget tight to critical needs for ministry. Projections for next year's expected offerings are difficult given the unpredictable giving patterns this year.</p>
IV.	<p>District Conference Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask delegate Judith Gible to write a summary of the conference. Send an email and a newsletter update for the congregation along with a link to the conference booklet so that all can understand what our district funds are supporting. <p>Update on District Action regarding Pastor Pam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District meeting will be taking place tomorrow, October 13.
V.	<p>Reopening Review & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First outdoor service took place at the end of September and another coming up Sunday, October 18. ● Review of the Draft Recommendations from the work group dated June 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See value in making room for connection and for people to see each other in some manner versus trying to hold in-person services. ○ In-person services would not include congregational singing ○ Concern that some folks may have fallen off our radar without our knowledge since we don't know who is (or isn't) tuning into our services. ○ Suggestion to send out a survey to gauge interest and/or to solicit suggestions ● For the time being, focus on card connection, outdoor service, soup sales, etc.
VI.	<p>Pastoral & Programmatic Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Angela Hornberger is on-staff in the office and is onboarding very well. Crystal prepared well to bring her up to speed. ● Josh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conducted Alex Mora's internship review; it was a great experience and we are grateful for his ability to fill in during Josh's paternity leave. ○ Have gotten some quotes to upgrade cameras and other equipment for live-streaming. Due to our size we are in a unique position falling in-between options (too small for larger providers, too big for smaller shops). Current quotes that came in are beyond what we can do and it is unlikely that we will be able to move forward with major upgrades this fiscal year; may be able to do some smaller software updates at this time. ● Jason <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working on fostering community and connections within the congregation. We know who is attending adult Sunday School classes via Zoom and which families are participating in the activities for younger families. ○ Continuing classes with Bethany Theological Seminary. ○ Will be serving on the board for Camp Swatara. ○ Anti-Racism statement was sent out to the congregation. The team is collecting feedback to make any adjustments to the statement. The hope is to have a finalized copy prepared in time for the council meeting.
Commission Reports	
<p>Christian Ed Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are seeking to offer opportunities for all age groups to engage in Sunday School ● Whenever we know we will be back, we will be recruiting teachers and helpers. 	

	<p>Expressions Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report.
	<p>Nurture Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report this month.
	<p>Resources Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repaired church roof leak over sanctuary area. Will be repairing plaster in sanctuary and balcony. Memorial garden and other areas of property are having landscaping improvements. Major expense is either an elevator repair or a new elevator installed. Contracts are being reviewed. AED equipment is being serviced. The fire alarms, extinguishers, and generator have been serviced. Will be replacing all of the children's commodes hopefully before the end of the year.
	<p>Witness Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Card Connection - Volunteers will be helping to send a hand-written note to each active household (or anyone attending live stream recently that provided the church office with info) November - Community Cupboard Month (will do similar to May i.e. asking people to donate directly to ECHOS) Budget Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently do not consistently support any LGBTQ+ organizations. Based on our stance we should have this reflected in our budget (put our money where our mouth is) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering a few options for organizations, one of which is Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests Proposal: reduce the amount currently given to the district (\$16,500) and re-allocate those funds to an LGBTQ+ organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to consider what status we want to be within the denomination. If we are committed to being a part of the denomination, then we should support it relative to our position. The future state and make-up of the District is unknown at this time. Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add money to the Witness budget to allow us to support an additional organization. Take the \$2,000 from the Run for Peace and add an additional \$900 to make the giving consistent with the other organizations that we support.
	<p>Deacon's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing with virtual visitation and benevolence ministries
VII.	<p>Building Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building committee meeting on Wednesday, October 14. The architect will be in attendance and will review input, with focus on those who use the kitchen heavily. Targeting an informational Zoom presentation update to the congregation on October 28 at 6:30 pm Written report will be included for the council meeting on November 22, but nothing to be voted on at this time.
VIII.	<p>Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Meeting Change of Date (to allow adequate time to prepare for Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally scheduled: November 9, 2020 New date: November 2, 2020 Virtual Council Meeting: Sunday, November 22
IX.	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Pastor Jason</p>

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross (Clerk)
October 29, 2020