

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren

Church Board Minutes

April 12, 2021 6:45 PM via Zoom

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

I.	Opening Devotions Pastor Jason <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pastor Jason opened the meeting with a devotion about geese flying in a V formation. This relates to our community being able to get where we are heading more easily as a result of sharing a common direction and relying on the thrust of one another. Additionally, this formation allows those who have been taking on the headwind to be able to take a step back to find rest, let others lead, and support from behind.
II.	Discussion and Approval of 03/08/2021 Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approved as submitted.
III.	Treasurer's Report Frank <ol style="list-style-type: none">Review of Income Statement as of 03/31/2021<p>After three months in 2021, preliminary operating results are positive, with revenues exceeding disbursements by \$3,407 (at the end of last month the net position was a positive \$2,016). Revenue at the end of March is under budget by \$51,708 (\$176,368 received versus \$228,076 budgeted). Revenue is \$8,879 ahead of where we were at the end of March last year. Regular offerings, at \$157,477, fell short of the budgeted offerings of \$200,826 by \$43,349, and are \$10,043 above last year's amount of \$147,434 (general fund giving is about 7% ahead of last year). A month-by-month summary of offerings is provided in the graph entitled "ECOB 2021". Note that every month this year giving has been below budget. March 2021 giving (\$52,501) was well below budget, but more than March 2020 giving (\$50,486). A 5-year history of general fund offerings compared to budgeted offerings is also provided in the graph entitled "ECOB YTD 3/31 COMPARISON."</p><p>Disbursements at the end of March are under budget by \$58,824 (\$172,961 actual spending versus \$231,785 budgeted spending) and \$30,538 less than last year. With the exception of Witness and Administration, spending in all categories is under budget and is less than a year ago.</p><p>Overall, as of 3/31/2021, we are in a preliminary net operating gain position of \$3,407, with income and expenses well under budget. Income is higher than a year ago while spending is less than a year ago. Last year at the end of March we were in a net loss position of \$36,010.</p>Cash Position, Building Project, and LT Investments at BFI<p>Our cash position at 3/31/2021 is \$1,842,760. This compares to our cash position a year ago of \$1,243,591. 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 3/31/2021 totaled \$2,022,470 (\$101,147 in 2021, \$44,783 in March). Non-operating budget building project costs to date are \$415,340 (\$10,178 in 2021).</p><p>The market value of all long-term memorial funds invested with the Brethren Foundation as of 3/31/2021 was \$2,534,804, which is up \$18,373 from the beginning of the year market value of \$2,516,431, reflecting an investment gain, net of expenses, of \$18,373 (a total investment return for the year of approximately +0.7%). The investment return for March was +0.8%. As of 3/31/2021 our portfolio was invested \$1,302,795 (51%) in a Short-term investment fund and \$1,232,009 (49%) in a balanced fund (60% domestic stock fund, 40% bond fund).</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Can you tell when we get offerings from online participants (not existing ECoB members)? Pam is sending thank you notes. Amy Carroll would know more of that detail as Financial Secretary. We are getting some, but the vast majority of giving still comes by physical check.Youth brought in over \$1,000 at their Bake & Soup Sale Fundraiser on Easter Sunday.

IV.	<p>Pastoral Reports</p> <p>Pam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on developing a preaching schedule, sermon themes, and guest preachers for each month • The office staff has been working on coming up with new ideas to communicate all the events and information we have to share. Developed an interactive PDF. <p>Josh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lititz is now meeting in person, so we may see some of our online numbers drop down a little bit. Still anticipate seeing Eric every couple of weeks for a little while. Some Lititz congregants will remain as part of the live-streaming. • Entering into a Broadway series of preaching • Gearing up for our in-person opening and transition. Likely to see a few more outdoor services. • Personal notes: Passed final class and is on to ordination time. • Serving as music coordinator for Annual Conference <p>Jason</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoyed Easter service - was great to see families • Thinking about what reopening means for Sunday School - for all ages. Christian Education is putting our surveys to families to gauge interest and get a pulse of expectations
V.	<p>Board Chair-Elect Vacancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifts Discernment Committee is approaching people with the concept of serving as Co-Chairs • We would set aside the constitution for this scenario as a test to see if it could work • Would like to have this position lined up by June to give enough time to get everyone up to speed
VI.	<p>Reopening Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will continue to pursue outdoor worship as much as possible, as that is the safest way to gather. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Anticipating two outdoor services per month in May and June, similar to the schedule that was utilized for Easter (worship at 9 with the live-stream to begin at the usual time). ◦ Under this schedule, adult Sunday School may have to take a break on those weeks. ◦ Targeting July for re-opening to allow time to prepare for logistics and volunteer. • Under the initial reopening plan, not planning on having in-person Sunday School. The nursery would be available during the worship hour. What to do with Shine and Blaze kids during worship service? Children's Church? What opportunities can we provide for kids and families during this hour?
VII.	<p>Building Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregational meeting rescheduled for May 2 so that we can be as specific as possible in showing the impact of Phasing on the project cost. Still waiting on some bids and numbers to come in. • Trying to coordinate work on the Christian Education roof - concerns with placing new heating and a/c unit on our existing aging roof. Looking to remediate the roof at the same time. • A Grease trap is needed in the new kitchen area in order to meet code. • Planning a retreat-type meeting to re-evaluate and re-prioritize building needs following the return to in-person activities.
VIII	<p>Search Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have done some advertisements and releases through various services and publications • Members of this congregation have submitted qualified candidates, which have been reviewed and passed along to Pete Kontra • Committee members are following up personally with some of these candidates to see if they are willing to meet with us • Committee has worked on preparing questions to be asked of the candidates.
IX.	<p>Commission Reports</p>
	<p>Christian Ed Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to consider options for how we re-open safely and still meet Christian education needs of all congregants • Sending surveys to Shine and Blaze to get a feel for numbers upon reopening

	<p>Expressions Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No written report.
	<p>Nurture Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are looking into combining Nurture resources with Hospitality & Fellowship Commissions, discussions are underway. Blessing of the Children – scheduled for May/June for 4-year-olds, 5th graders & HS seniors. We are hoping to be able to distribute the Faith Markers at outdoor services. LititzCoB is planning its annual church picnic (date TBD) and would like to include EtownCoB. August 20th we will host a Family Movie Night outside. Movie title (TBD). Glenn Book has resigned from the Nurture Commission due to overwhelming work responsibilities. We thank him for all the hard work and dedication he gave the Nurture Commission. Olivia Knight has volunteered to step in as the Vice-chair of Nurture. The Golden Age Dinner, usually in October, is on hold for this year due to the pandemic.
	<p>Resources Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevator Project is on track and should be completed on schedule Security (Door) System is installed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the installation of emergency release buttons at the doors to meet code. A stand-alone desktop was purchased solely for the security system. Note: A few security swabs that do not work will have to be replaced for some persons. Resources is requesting a cost-benefit analysis of the building project (how much of the expense is a result of church needs vs tenant needs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount spent for just the ECCC What the cost avoidance would be if the ECCC wasn't a tenant Two off-site maintenance items need to be kept on the radar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider Memorial Cemetery ECOB sign on Market Street
	<p>Witness Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk to Nigeria to launch May 1 - all online. Refer to video that aired in April 11 service May 22 - Chicken BBQ dinner to benefit Haiti medical clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need volunteers for this event
	<p>Deacon's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Deacons continue with our weekly visitation contacts via phone, email, and notes. The Benevolence Fund has responded to a number of financial needs within and beyond our congregation.
X.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Council Meeting: Sunday, May 2, 11:30 am Board Meeting: May 10, 6:45 pm
XI.	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor Pam closed the meeting in prayer with a blessing for volunteers. Meeting concluded at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross, Clerk
April 12, 2021