

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

**Monday, October 17, 2022, 6:45 PM in Fellowship Hall & via Zoom**

**In Attendance:** Alyssa Cross (Clerk), Jeff Eisenbise (Chair), Jim Hollinger, Donna Hollinger (Vice-Chair), Rich Nornhold, Carroll Kreider, Pastor Pam Reist, Frank Rhodes (Treasurer), Lynne Hockley, Ann Pineda Ziegler, Sandy Flanagan, Don Ziegler, Pastor Jason Haldeman, Pastor Naomi Kraenbring, Craig Coble, Kurt Sollenberger

**Via Zoom:** Gina Strouse, Jim Hoffer, Joe Detrick (Moderator), Kendra Gottshall (Treasurer Elect), Rachel Bucher Swank

I.	<p><b>Opening Devotions</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeff opened the meeting with a devotion reflecting on the two streams of the pietists and anabaptists that influenced the COB. We need both perspectives to be able to discern effectively. Likewise, in this body, we need to be open to one another's wisdom and differing perspectives.</li> </ul>
II.	<p><b>Acceptance of Previous Minutes</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Approval of the September 12 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approved with a revision to the pastoral search question. This should be noted as the music search committee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
III.	<p><b>Progress Report from Safety Task Team</b> <span style="float: right;">Rich Nornhold</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Safety Task Team assembled to address potential safety and security issues in response to the publishing of the Perils of Christian Nationalism statement in LNP.</li> <li>• Rich reviewed the team's recommendation.</li> <li>• Motion from the committee to implement the proposed safety plan as presented. Seconded by Jim Hollinger. The motion was approved unanimously.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should consider the children's program and talk with teachers about procedures. Christian Ed to come up with a plan and communicate this with the leaders.</li> <li>• Be aware of the conservative event happening at Spooky Nook the same weekend that the ad will be running.</li> <li>• Recognize that this was drafted as a response to this event, but some of the provisions should continue indefinitely. Following the completion of the building renovations, a further review of safety procedures should be planned, with an emphasis on addressing our communication channels and procedures. Ushers are a critical link in these processes and also need to make sure that the tech/sound team is informed.</li> </ul>
IV.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report (Exhibit A)</b> <span style="float: right;">Treasurer</span></p> <p><b>1. Review of Income Statement as of 09/30/22</b></p> <p>After nine months in 2022, preliminary operating results are negative, with disbursements exceeding revenues by \$87,824. Revenue at the end of September is under budget by \$97,792 (\$606,586 received versus \$704,378 budgeted). Revenue is \$33,573 ahead of where we were at the end of September last year, due to greater transfers from the Eder Financial funds. Regular offerings, at \$466,628, fell short of the budgeted offerings of \$562,500 by \$95,872, and are 53,633 below last year's amount of \$520,261. September offerings at \$56,323 were more than August offerings of \$53,996 but less than September 2021 offerings of \$77,778. A month-by-month comparison of offerings for 2022 and for the last 5 years is provided in the graph entitled "ECOB 2022" and the graph entitled "ECOB Offerings History", and a 5-year history of general fund offerings compared to budgeted offerings is provided in the graph entitled "ECOB YTD 9/30 COMPARISON."</p> <p>Disbursements at the end of September are under budget by \$43,677 (\$694,409 actual spending versus \$738,086 budgeted spending) and \$83,984 more than last year. Please note that both actual and budgeted spending includes Special Capital Improvements approved by council. Spending is below budget, but up significantly from last year.</p> <p>Overall, as of 09/30/2022, we are in a preliminary net operating loss position of \$87,824, with income well under budget and more than a year ago, and expense under budget and more than last year. A year ago our net operating budget had a \$37,412 net loss.</p> <p><b>2. Cash Position, Building Project, and LT Investments at BFI</b></p> <p>Our cash position at 9/30/2022 is \$227,809. This compares to our cash position a year ago of \$1,623,441. The decrease in cash is primarily due to Capital Campaign expenditures. Approximately \$113,000 of this cash is invested in a money market fund.</p> <p>Contributions to the building project at 9/30/2022 totaled \$2,787,658. Total 2022 contributions are \$110,870. Non-operating budget building project costs to date are \$2,646,704. Total 2022 expenditures</p>

	<p>are \$1,309,654. The available cash for building project expenditures is \$140,953. Outstanding capital campaign pledges are \$859,630.</p> <p>The market value of all long-term memorial funds invested with Eder Financial as of 9/30/2022 was \$2,323,810, which is down \$289,394 from the beginning of the year market value of \$2,613,204, reflecting an investment loss, net of expenses, of \$289,394 (a total investment return for the year of approximately -11.1%). The investment return for September was -3.4%. As of 9/30/2022 ECOB's portfolio was invested \$1,285,646 (55%) in a Short-term investment fund and \$1,038,164 (45%) in a balanced fund (60% domestic stock fund, 40% bond fund).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Kurt Sollenberger. Seconded by Jim Hollinger. The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously.</p>
V.	<p><b>Preliminary 2023 Budget (Exhibit B)</b> <span style="float: right;">Treasurer</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frank reviewed the preliminary version of the 2023 budget.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion to re-convene the Expressions Commission in some form. Technology should be incorporated into this area.</li> <li>• Guidelines regarding the O'Donnell funds do not prohibit paying music-related salaries. However, there is a restriction to withdraw only 4% of the fund total on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Do we think the congregation is aware of where we stand financially? Is this deficit budget going to be a surprise? Is there more we can be doing to inform them about the current financial situation? We should be upfront with the congregation about how much of the revenue is coming from qualified required distributions and not regular offerings. Need to inform people ahead of time about the option for qualified required distributions.</li> </ul>
VI.	<p><b>Progress Report on the Building Renovation &amp; Finances</b> <span style="float: right;">Jim Hoffer</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building progress and invoices have surpassed the funds received.</li> <li>• Proposal to address the cash flow concern by withdrawing funds from the investment account to pay monthly invoices. The Finance Committee's suggestion is to replenish the short-term investment funds with any future pledges received.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently the project is projected to come in within budget.</li> <li>• What happens if additional unanticipated expenses occur? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We budgeted a 10% contingency and believe that any needed change orders will be covered by this contingency.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
VII.	<p><b>Progress Report on the Music in Ministry Search Committee</b> <span style="float: right;">Jim Hollinger</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music Coordinator position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committee is meeting with 2 candidates who are interested in chairing the coordinator position. Have asked them to detail how they would divide responsibilities. Meeting again in the next 2 weeks to review and determine if this will meet the needs of the congregation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Organist/Keyboardist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Karen has approached us about playing more, including on Christmas Eve service. Will approach her about next year and her interest in continuing on.</li> <li>○ Contacted college contacts for organist references. One potential candidate from Lebanon Valley College.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
VIII.	<p><b>Commission &amp; Deacon Highlights &amp; Concerns</b> <span style="float: right;">Commission Chairs</span></p>
	<p><b>Christian Education</b></p>
	<p><b>Nurture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsored the Ted and Company presentation in September. About 200 people were in attendance, many from the community and other churches. The event was well received. We thank Witness Commission for their support of this event.</li> <li>• Continues to work on sponsoring and facilitating a variety of small groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a new group on the issue of gun violence led by Chris Bucher</li> <li>○ a crafting group with Becky Eisenbise in leadership</li> <li>○ a book study on John Pavlovitz's book, If God is Love Don't Be a Jerk under Linda Hope's leadership</li> <li>○ a Trans Parent Support Group with Ellen Flury in leadership.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming groups include a book study on bias using the book Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People with Julie Heisey from the Racial Justice Working Group providing leadership. We welcome other ideas for small groups.</li> <li>Worked on our 2023 budget</li> <li>Reorganized in light of the resignation of Olivia Knight as a member and chair.</li> </ul>																								
	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Stairwells off sanctuary to basement plastered</td> <td>\$8,275.04</td> <td>John Martin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tree removal (church front)</td> <td>\$4,800.00</td> <td>Stone's Tree Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Restoration of floors upstairs and hallway</td> <td>\$9,322.50</td> <td>Newly Resorted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler Room, Nursery, and Bathroom-lower floor carpet/tile/paint</td> <td>\$14,000.71</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clogged Sink Drain</td> <td>\$140.71</td> <td>Hixon Plumbing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paving Trench/Patch work at the rear of Church</td> <td>\$6,290.00</td> <td>Wiggins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gas Stove Leak</td> <td>\$394.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Generator Service</td> <td>\$586.50</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Stairwells off sanctuary to basement plastered	\$8,275.04	John Martin	Tree removal (church front)	\$4,800.00	Stone's Tree Service	Restoration of floors upstairs and hallway	\$9,322.50	Newly Resorted	Toddler Room, Nursery, and Bathroom-lower floor carpet/tile/paint	\$14,000.71		Clogged Sink Drain	\$140.71	Hixon Plumbing	Paving Trench/Patch work at the rear of Church	\$6,290.00	Wiggins	Gas Stove Leak	\$394.00		Generator Service	\$586.50	
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	<p><b>Witness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Witness Commission thanks Don Kraybill for his fine work in drafting a statement on "The Perils of Christian Nationalism". This statement was approved unanimously by Church Council and will appear as a full-page ad in the October 23 edition of the Lancaster Newspaper. It will also be distributed via email to members of the Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness and the PA Council of Churches.</li> <li>The Immigration Support Group found an apartment for an immigrant family. The family had briefly resided at the Red Rose Motel, and prior to that, in the basement of a house with only a garden hose as a source of water. The family has two employed adults and is responsible for making monthly rental and electricity payments.</li> <li>The Witness Commission was asked to provide a service project as part of the Love Feast. Approximately 250 hygiene kits were assembled and will be taken to New Windsor.</li> </ul>																								
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IX.	<p><b>Pastors' Highlights &amp; Concerns</b> <span style="float: right;">Pastors</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The tent will be packed up at the end of the month. It fulfilled a great need this summer and fall.</li> <li>Dauda Gava will be here next month, Nov 13-15: speaking at the church, the college, and Brethren Village.</li> <li>The current Inquirers Class has just 3 attendees at this time. People may be thinking about institutional membership differently; many participate and consider this to be their home congregation without taking the step of official membership.</li> </ul>																								
X.	<p><b>Next Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Meeting: Monday, November 7, 6:45 pm</li> <li>Council Meeting: Sunday, November 20, 11:30 am</li> </ul>																								
XI.	<p><b>Word of Closure &amp; Adjournment</b> <span style="float: right;">Board Chair</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting concluded at 8:45 pm.</li> </ul>																								

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Cross, Clerk  
October 17, 2022