

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren

Church Board Minutes

August 13, 2018 6:45 PM Fellowship Hall

In Attendance: Rhonda Myers, Kevin Engle, Pastor Greg Laszakovits, Pastor Jason Haldeman, Pat Dennehy, Pastor Pam Reist, Dick Keeseey, Robert Hoffer, Bob Hollinger, Nancy Hivner (Chair), George Snavely, Frank Rhodes, Kristen Siler, Paula Burke, Sam Epps, Alyssa Cross (Clerk)

Guests: John David Bowman, Judith Gibble, Bob Hollinger

I.	<p>Welcome and Recognition of Guests John David Bowman and Judith Gibble are in attendance with regards to the drafted district response statement.</p>
II.	<p>Devotions (Pastor Pam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We've been focused on the 3 C's: Curiosity, Change, and Control ● Adding a 4th C: Courage ● Acts 10: Peter had great courage that made a difference in the world, and he shared his radical vision. ● The group shared examples of how ECOB has been courageous.
III.	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● July 9 - Approved. ● July 30 - Approved as corrected.
IV.	<p>Review of Action Items from Previous Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ANE District Policy Action Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nancy to form a committee of 3-4 individuals (with input/suggestions from the Board) which will explore our options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Completed ○ Inform the congregation of the policy, our options, and our thoughtful response. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Completed ○ Board to affirm our congregational stance on this issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ On the agenda for this evening. ○ Inform the District Office of our position. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scheduled for August 22 ● Building Project Action Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SKETCHES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Estimate the cost attributed to the separate childcare/nursery school space in the current sketches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pending new sketches. ○ TENANTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greg and Nancy to work with the Building Committee to identify the costs associated with the Child Care Center portion of the building project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Merge with action item above. ■ Pastors to engage with Commissions to identify areas of opportunity to strengthen relationships between tenant entities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hold. Development to be shared tonight. ■ Resources to work on lease provisions and nuts and bolts of our relationship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In progress. Pending. ○ OTHER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dick to approach Etown College with our proposal regarding shared parking spaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pending. Details in the Resources report. Carry forward. ● Community & Witness Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Board to consider involvement in the Community Place on Washington project for further discussion at the June meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Referred to the Witness Commission. ○ Re-gifting to Samara and UCEA: Witness to coordinate interaction with these two entities and to coordinate with the Pastoral Team and Worship Planning Team to fit these into the calendar as equitably as possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Referred to the Witness Commission. ● Additional Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nancy to determine a schedule for each Commission to be featured during a Board Meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Postponed.
V.	<p>ANE Policy Response Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Observations from the 8/12 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good turnout ○ Enthusiasm for support ○ Encouragement for individuals to share their thoughts, in addition to the congregational response, either by attending the meetings or writing personal letters ● Final approval of response statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last paragraph before “With this background”, change “feels punitive” to “seems punitive” ○ Second to last bullet point will replace reference of “pastors” to “ordained ministers” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Board is in approval of broadening the reference ○ Update LGBT to include Q ○ Statement will be from “Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren” (drop “Board”, it is from the entire congregation) ● Distribution process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal from Nancy and Carroll <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Will meet with District Executive on Wednesday, 8/22 to deliver the letter ■ District Board members will receive a mailed copy ■ Designated individuals in Elgen will receive a copy ■ Will be posted on the church website after the meeting with the District Executive, later that day (8/22) ● Do we need a vote on the statement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is a restatement of a policy of “openness to all” that was voted on in 2003 ○ What do we gain by voting? Do we have to alienate those who are in disagreement with a vote? Does it provide an opportunity for those who were not here in 2003 for the original vote to take their own courageous stand? ○ In the presentation of the statement, attention needs to be called to the line “we are not of one unanimous mind” ○ No vote will be taken. It is a continuation of who we are. Close the meeting in a way that signifies we are all together (hold hands, sing “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”) ○ Action Item: Nancy and Judith to work on drafting a communication to the congregation that there will not be a vote, as a result of the discussion at the August 13 board meeting.
VI.	Confidential Matter
VII.	<p>Board Chair Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jim Hollinger shared feedback from Sip N Chat regarding interest in a ministry component to the building ● A group is gathered to connect with our tenant leaders to determine what would be beneficial to them or address a need they have ● Pastoral compensation packet from the District has been received
VIII.	Building Project Updates

	<p>Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thoughts from Pastor Jason regarding our approach to faith aspect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to think how we can develop our ministry in the new spaces that available ○ Maintaining our identity throughout the building project ○ Action Item: Jason to provide an update on this at our next meeting
	<p>Sketches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update from the August 8 Building Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting was productive. They have heard us and are considering all of the items on the list. Trying to figure out how to cut back another 10,000 sf without compromising too many of the desired elements. ○ Still working towards final sketches in September.
	<p>Finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open to naming opportunities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are open to it, but need parameters defined for us to react to. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Action Item: Nancy to work with John Miller for guidance on a proposal for naming opportunities and parameters. ● Update on the capital campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work on the quiet campaign is being organized to begin within in the next 6 weeks ● The Board reviewed the John Miller contract and Statement of Work documents
	<p>Tenants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cost estimates are pending for the remodeled tenant spaces.
IX.	<p>Pastors' Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NYC and time spent with youth was significant ● VBS went well. Numbers were down from last year - thinking that is related to the date. More non-COB attendees this year. ● Grateful for those who have filled in with support over the past several weeks.
X.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>1. Review of Income Statement as of 07/31/2018 Through seven months of the year operating results continue to be very positive, with revenues exceeding disbursements by \$43,262, which compares the deficit of \$16,246 we had a year ago at 7/31/2018. Revenue to date at the end of July is over budget by \$15,404 (\$486,357 received versus \$470,953 budgeted). Revenue is \$78,147 ahead of where we were a year ago, which puts our operating finances in great position heading into the last five months of the year. Regular offerings, at \$453,557, exceed the budgeted offerings, including challenge, of \$426,853 by \$26,704, and are \$72,840 above last year's amount of \$380,717. This is a very encouraging trend. A month by month summary of offerings is provided in the graph entitled "ECOB 2018". A five year history of general fund offerings compared to budgeted offerings is also provided in the graph entitled "ECOB YTD 7/31 COMPARISON."</p> <p>Disbursements though seven months in 2018 are less than budget by \$27,858 (\$443,095 actual spending versus \$470,953 budgeted spending) and \$18,639 more than last year. With the exception of Administration and Witness, spending is below budget across all major expense categories. Spending is up in some categories and down in others compared to last year's amounts. The biggest increase in spending is in Resources. Also, please note that \$54,660 has been spent on the building project thus far in 2018 outside of the general budget.</p> <p>Overall, as of 7/31/2018 we have a solid net gain position of \$43,262, with income up significantly more so than expenses from a year ago.</p> <p>2. Cash Position and Long-term Investments with the BFI Our cash position at 7/31/2018 is \$143,194.55 (\$29,020.11 checking, \$114,174.44 money market).</p>

	<p>This compares to our cash position a year ago of \$132,231.43. The amount in the money market fund approximates our accumulated surplus as of 12/31/2017.</p> <p>The market value of all long-term memorial funds invested with the Brethren Foundation as of 7/31/2018 was \$2,327,469, which is up \$38,026 from the beginning of the year market value of \$2,289,443, reflecting a \$10,000 contribution from the Breneman Estate and \$10,214.34 from the Alma Espenshade Estate (split \$10,107 to the Facilities Fund and \$10,107 to the O&M Fund), and an investment gain, net of expenses, of \$17,812 (a total investment return for the year of approximately 0.8%). Investment results were up in July, with an approximate return of 1.1% for the month. As of 7/31/2018 our portfolio was invested 82.7% in a balanced fund (60% domestic stock fund, 40% bond fund) and 17.3% in a bond fund, resulting in an overall approximate portfolio mix of 50% domestic stock fund and 50% bond fund.</p> <p>Action Item: Commissions to have their budget numbers to Frank by the end of September.</p>
XI.	Commission Reports
	<p>Christian Ed Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to discuss the Christian Ed needs for the new building ● Continue to discuss best ways to share space ● Sip-and-Chat went well and will be continued
	<p>Expressions Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report received. ● Seeking volunteers. Anyone with an interest.
	<p>Nurture Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 28 youth and 10 advisors (of which 15 youth and 7 advisors were from our church) went on the NYC bus trip and had a fabulous time ● The all-church picnic is Sunday, August 26, immediately following worship. A bbq/hot dog meal with mac 'n cheese and homemade ice cream will be served, and bingo and lawn games will be played. ● The Women's Spirituality Retreat is scheduled for October 13 at Brethren Village. The topic is hospitality. ● Brethren Buddies and Post High Coordinators are needed. Many thanks for Karin Laszakovits, Annalie Heinz, Kris Strayer, and Amy Engle for leading these groups for many years!
	<p>Resources Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are adequate funds in the Resources Capital Budget to cover the cost of a new projector for use in the Sanctuary if replacement is necessary. ● Resources is involved in working toward getting a service provider in place to provide assistance in improving and maintaining technical services within the church. Cost of this solution is not in the Resources Budget for 2018, but there may be adequate funds in other budget categories to cover this expenditure. ● Resources is involved in working toward an agreement with the college to provide parking spaces to them through the week on our lot in exchange for us using spaces in their lot across Cedar Street on Sunday. This could provide them with spaces they need to satisfy land development requirements and it could reduce the number of spaces we would need to have as a result of our building initiative.
	<p>Witness Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At our July meeting we heard a presentation from Doug Lamb on "Community Place on Washington". We will discuss this further (including our congregations response) at our September meeting. ● CWS update - 61 hygiene kits were delivered to New Windsor, MD and \$216 (shipping and donations) were mailed to CWS. ● Etown COB has been invited to participate in a November 18 evening Brethren Global Missions Celebration to be held at Lancaster COB. Our choir will be invited to participate in a mass choir as part of the celebration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BHA will be holding a supporter appreciation event in our fellowship hall on Thursday November 8th. from 6:30 - 8:00. Crystal Brown, executive director, asked if we would host and we agreed. ● SERRV work day on Thursday, September 6th. in New Windsor, MD. Carpooling at 6:30 a.m. from Etown COB parking lot...sign up sheet on B.B. ● Damon Wagner Fields will be chairperson of the Immigration Support Committee. ● Play "Courage Rising" starring Gene and Barb Ellis to be performed in our sanctuary Monday September 24 at 7:00 p.m. followed by a discussion led by Pastor Greg. We will provide cookies and punch afterwards. ● We voted to begin implementing a yearly stipend (bonus) for Etown COB staff at Camp Swatara. The amount will vary each year depending on the number of staff from our congregation. We agreed on the amount of \$750 per staffer to be paid at the end of summer camp with the money coming from O&M. This is intended to thank the youth for their service to camp as well as to encourage youth to work as counselors at camp. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action Item: Witness is recommending \$750 to be sent to each of 3 (Nate DeGoede, Marina McDonagh, Alex Mora) Camp Swatara staffers this August to thank them for their service. This will be a total of \$2,250 from Outreach & Ministerial Fund. ○ Affirmed.
	<p>Deacon's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report this month. August activities will be included in the September report.
XIII.	<p>Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● August 19: Special Council Meeting ● September 10: Board Meeting
XIV.	<p>Adjournment</p>

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross, Church Clerk
September 10, 2018