

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren

Church Council Minutes

October 9, 2022, 11:30 AM in the sanctuary and via Zoom

| | |
|------|--|
| I. | <p>Welcome & Call to Order Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Detrick called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. and opened with a prayer. |
| II. | <p>Review of Proposed Action Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim Hollinger of the Witness Commission presented background on the origin of the statement. <p>Action A: Jim Hollinger moved that the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren place a full-page ad (see Exhibit B) in Section A of the Sunday edition of LNP (Lancaster Newspaper) on October 23, the cost of which is covered by private donors. Motion seconded by Ken Kreider.</p> <p>Questions & Discussion on Action A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amy Carroll: If a member of the Christian Nationalist movement contacted this church for dialogue, what would happen?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Response: Don Kraybill spoke to Pastor Jason about the possibility of a response from the public. Pastor Jason will speak to the other Pastors about how to handle any such requests.• Duane Hernley: If a group of Christian Nationalists comes here, are we prepared? How will we respond as a church?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Julie Ann Keith: I think of Jesus' instruction to be as wise as serpents and as gentle as doves. We should welcome them with love.• Pat Leiter: How vulnerable does this statement make our congregation and what kind of security do we have in place?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Board Chair Response: This topic was discussed at the leadership meeting last week and a task force will be appointed for this purpose. Rich Nornhold will head up this effort and will work in conjunction with the Resources Commission to prepare a proposal for the Board to consider.○ John David Bowman: My understanding is that my security is in Jesus Christ. I think of early Christians who made a bold stand for Jesus knowing they would be killed. Because I am a follower of Jesus, I am to respond in love. I cannot control how others respond. I cannot have security that protects me; I have security that enfolds me. Not trying to speak for all, only speaking for myself.• Anna Belser: Speaking up in favor of the statement. To the question of security: grateful for the considerations being made. <p>Vote on Action A: The motion passes unanimously.</p> <p>Action B: Don Kraybill moved to amend the text of <i>The Perils of Christian Nationalism</i> per the distributed copy. Motion seconded by Bill Puffenberger.</p> <p>Question & Discussion on Action B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim Beckwith: Will this revision affect the Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness endorsement?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Don Kraybill: They have not seen the change yet (it's a very fresh change as of this morning), but they have been supportive of the process. This revision does not change the intent of the statement.• Craig Coble: Feels that removing the phrase "political ideology" from the statement weakens the impact.• Debbie Santiago: Expressing affirmation for the revised statement, particularly pleased to see the word political removed. Thinks it will make it more palatable and presents it as more of a faith statement than a political statement. <p>Vote on Action B: The motion to amend the text passes with a majority vote.</p> |
| III. | <p>Closing Prayer Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Detrick led the group in singing "Go Now in Peace" and the meeting concluded at 12:08 pm. |

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross, Clerk
October 9, 2022