

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren

Church Council Minutes

August 4, 2024, 11:30 AM; Sanctuary and Zoom

I.	Welcome, Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">Joe Detrick welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 11:33 am.	Moderator
II.	Opening Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pastor Naomi opened with a prayer.	Pastor Naomi
III.	Introduction of ANE District Executive, Pete Kontra <ul style="list-style-type: none">Moderator Joe Detrick introduced Pete Kontra, District Executive, as the Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren representative for the official calling of a pastor. Pete offered a greeting and opening remarks.	Moderator
IV.	Introduction of the First Two Business Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kevin Engle, Board Chair, gave some background on the search process and introduced the first two business items.Pastor Liz remarked on her experience in serving and connecting with this congregation over her time here so far. ACTION ITEMS A. To call Liz Bidgood Enders to 2/3rds time pastoral ministry as Pastor for Congregational Care at the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren (Exhibit A). B. To approve the financial compensation package for Liz for the balance of 2024 upon the result of the first motion (Exhibit B).	Board Chair
	Discussion on the Above Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">John Stoltzfus expressed appreciation for the way that Liz raises scriptures in a meaningful way.Sandy Garman shared about a hospital visitation that she did with Liz and the great interaction and care she witnessed during that visit.Tom Longenecker voiced concern about the procedure of calling an interim pastor and the potential lack of vetting or congregational voice outside of a normal pastoral search process.John David Bowman expressed that interim pastors serve a particular purpose and a note of clarity at the beginning of the consideration process would have been helpful for the congregation.Kurt Sollenberger replied that he understood the concerns that have been expressed. From a Board perspective, we try to communicate to the congregation via various channels. He felt affirmed in taking this action based on observation and feedback from the deacon care teams, pastors, staff, and others.Frédérique Green (via Zoom comment) expressed that she felt supported and cared for by Liz after the passing of her husband.Pastor Naomi noted that she also served as an interim pastor and then received a call to serve this congregation beyond that role. This action is not done with the intention of setting a precedent for future interim pastors. With our congregational need and Liz's giftedness, this felt like a blessing to be able to proceed in this direction. She also mentioned the limited pool of pastor profiles available at this time.Peggy Shaffer asked for clarification on the inclusion of the housing allowance in the compensation package and how this compares to the interim contract. It was explained that the interim contract did not include a housing allowance, but the new contract for 2/3 pastoral ministry does include it.	District Executive and Board Chair
	Voting Instructions Paper ballots were distributed to be marked for voting. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Action A requires a 2/3 majority for approval.Action B requires a simple majority for approval. Pete Kontra, District Executive, offered a prayer before the ballots were marked.	Board Chair
	Report Results After a brief musical interlude to allow for the counting of the paper ballots and those voting online, Pete Kontra announced the results:	District Executive

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACTION A: To affirm calling Liz Bidgood Enders to $\frac{2}{3}$ time pastoral ministry at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The result was 91% YES (79 YES; 8 NO (87 ballots) ● ACTION B: To affirm the financial package for Liz Bidgood Enders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The result was 93% YES (81 YES; 6 NO (87 ballots)
V.	<p>Endowment Integrity Committee Report from Church Board to Council (Exhibit C) Board Chair</p> <p>Kevin presented the report and opened the floor for questions and discussion.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jim Hollinger asked two questions: 1) What is the purpose of the stewardship committee? 2) How will the various endowment funds be applied toward the reserve fund? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foresee the Stewardship Committee serving an educational purpose; to increase our knowledge of how to apply stewardship principles ● Jeff Eisenbise asked a question to clarify the reserve fund: Is it correct that we will not be removing any money from the funds for the reserve amount, but that the fund would not be depleted below the defined threshold? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is correct. <p>ACTION ITEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To accept the report of the Endowment Integrity Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The report was accepted unanimously.
VI.	<p>Elizabethtown Memorial Fund Paper Revisions (Exhibits D & E) Board Chair</p> <p>Kevin highlighted the changes to the Memorial Fund Paper and noted the importance of the timing for these changes as they relate to next year's budget process.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● John David Bowman expressed appreciation for the underlying rationale of this exercise and shared that he was moved by how spiritual and sound it seems. He thanked the committee for their dedication and work on this effort. <p>ACTION ITEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To adopt the revisions of the Memorial Fund Paper as written. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The revisions for the Memorial Fund Paper were adopted unanimously.
VII..	<p>Concluding Comments and Prayer Moderator, Board Chair, Pastor Liz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pastor Liz closed the meeting in prayer. ● The meeting concluded at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Cross, Clerk
August 4, 2024