

**Myerstown Church of the Brethren
Council Minutes
Monday, November 7, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.**

Moderator Ron Brubaker opened the meeting and gave an update on his health journey and going forward. He asked for prayer for wisdom.

Devotions by: Grace Ziegler

Article 1. Approval of Council Minutes from:
Monday, June 13, 2016 (Pg. 1 - 7)
Sunday, July 24, 2016 (Pg. 8)

Approved by motion, second & aye vote

Article 2. Treasurer's Report
a. Budget – January to September 2016 (A1 – A5)
b. Building Fund, January to September 2016 (A6)

Treasurer's Report approved by motion, second & aye vote

Article 3. Church Board Reports (B1 – B12)

a. Ministry & Evangelism – Nicole Hauck

The Ministry & Evangelism Commission met as scheduled for June, August, September and October. The highlights are as follows:

The primary focus for our commission during this time has been the calling and support of the Pastoral Search Committee. We had solicited names from the congregation by ballot. The Commission decided to have the entire Search Committee selected from the names submitted.

The following people who were nominated agreed to serve:

Nicole Hauck	Andy Heisey
Janet Dubble	Dean Wagner
Krista Bender	Tim Fetzer
Earl Liskey	

On August 24, 2016, Craig Smith, District Executive, provided an orientation for the Search Committee and the Ministry & Evangelism Commission. This was helpful and informative. The Committee selected Nicole Hauck as Chairperson and Janet Dubble as Recorder. The group has completed the Church Profile for the District and is waiting for the profiles from interested pastors. In light of Craig Smith's impending retirement, it is a challenge to keep moving forward as the District makes the transition.

A schedule for worship leaders has been developed with the eight participants who volunteered. Nicole Hauck has graciously agreed to maintain this schedule.

For Conference Sunday, Shannon Horst provided the sermon due to a last-minute schedule change by Kris McFadden, President and CEO of Teen Challenge. It is our intention to invite Mr. McFadden for a future date.

For Spiritual Enrichment Sunday, the special program, “Answers in Genesis,” was held on November 6 for the Sunday School and Worship Service. The service was well-attended and informative.

The Commission approved the annual budget of \$125,105.

Other ideas are in the works for enhancing the quality of our worship and ministry as a church.

5th Sundays—Suggestion made to have the Youth participate on every 5th Sunday.

Praise and Worship Service – singing and testimony and prayer on March 4, 2017. Suggested speakers – Dale and Debbie Ziegler and their trip to Nigeria for the Sunday School hour.

For the Advent season, volunteers will be readers during the service. 1) Dave & Janet Dubble; 2) Hauck Family; 3) Steve & Breena Krick; 4) Youth representatives and 5) to be determined.

b. Missions & Fellowship – Susie Dundore

Another summer has passed and autumn begins.

Tuesday, July 26th, we had a great time in the Susan Dowhower House, celebrating “Christmas in July”, playing BINGO and fellowship with refreshments with the residents.

Saturday, August 27th, to start a new school year, we attended a “Prayer Walk” around the ELCO Middle School. We prayed to have a wonderful school year.

Sunday, September 11th, Rally Day/Funday Sunday. We had a great attendance for the “carry-in dinner” Nobody walked away hungry.

Our commission helped after church to stand at the church board table in the Gathering Place.

We reviewed and finalized the 2017 budget, relocated \$2,000 for special concerts fund to the Pastoral Search Committee for any costs they might have this year. It was approved by a motion & vote.

We are doing Operation Christmas Child, boxes are due November 13th.

Monday, November 28th, a bus trip to “Operation Christmas Child Processing Center” in Baltimore, MD is planned. Around 20 people from our church along with the Harvest Bible Chapel in Myerstown are going. We are allowed 40 people. The bus is provided by God’s Missionary Church in Lebanon.....we pay for gas and donation for the driver.

October 23rd – November 20th is a play-doh collection for “Caitlin Smiles” Play-doh is added to special bags to give to children, when they are admitted to the hospital.

An idea for the Reverse Advent Calendar has been cancelled till some other time.

Appointments:

Disaster Coordinator – Glenn Hassinger

Disaster Sale Rep. – Toni Noll

Lebanon Christian Ministries – Glenn & Lois Hassinger

Church Directory Committee – Janet Dubble and Susie Dundore

COBY’S Rep. – Jay and Brenda Lentz

Missions Coordinator – Christa Bender

For the 2017 Church Directory, 1 picture was submitted. A notebook for changes is in the Gathering Place.

We are having a "Souper Bowl" collection. Bring cans of soup for the Sharing Cupboard for the winter.

Missions & Fellowship has been busy thinking of ideas to keep the spirit alive in different activities and for the community to work in peace and harmony.

c. Christian Education – Linda Zimmerman

Since the last Church Council meeting we have ordered, received and distributed the requested curriculum to the Sunday School classes.

Vacation Bible School held in July was again a success and we would like to thank all those who volunteered for that week.

Camp Swatara was well attended by children of our church and we are grateful that we as a church can continue to help those children financially with the Good as Gold Certificates. We also want to thank our Camp Swatara representatives, Mike and Crystal Liskey, for their help in promoting the camp to our congregation.

Rally Day was held on September 11th and went well. We had a positive response from many parents concerning the "Blessing of the Backpacks" and plan to continue that next year. Bibles were presented to children entering 2nd and 7th grades. Thank you cards and a gift of homemade cookies was given to all teachers as well. We introduced the "Walk to Bethlehem" challenge to the church by encouraging members to log their miles walked from now until Christmas to promote good health. After our portion of Rally Day a carry-in luncheon was enjoyed and well attended.

We are planning a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party, to be held on Sunday, December 11th during the Sunday school hour for the children followed by the children's Christmas program during the worship hour. We discussed Christmas gifts to be given to the children and youth as well.

Our commission would like to thank the youth and their advisors of the great job they did on Youth Sunday and we encourage you to consider the "Adopt a Youth" program if you haven't done so already.

Our commission is in need of 2 more members and would appreciate anyone willing to serve to please let us know. Also, we are asking you to prayerfully consider volunteering to be a Sunday school teacher to step in as the need arises.

d. Trustee & Property – George Nagle

Air conditioning was repaired in sanctuary.

Red Cross contact list was updated from the church for emergency shelter.

The air conditioning in the Kid/Youth Zone is not working. We have heat only. We are hoping to start a special fund to solicit money for this project. We are looking to update and have a more efficient operating system. We received an estimate of approximately \$22,000 and have approximately \$1,200 toward the project from our chicken BBQ in May. We are hoping to start the project in spring of 2017, so it is complete for the summer.

e. Finance & Stewardship – Mark Bomberger

Our commission works closely with the treasurer, count offerings each Sunday and meet monthly at commission and board meetings.

MCoB now has access to e-tithing through Fulton Bank since August 2016. The bank plan we joined allows up to twenty direct payments per month. There are seven families signed up.

There is a direct payment authorization form in the November newsletter for interested members. No service fee is charged to members for this service. It is quick and easy to sign-up.

f. Approval of Church Board Reports

All Board Reports were approved by motion, second & aye vote.

Article 4. Approval of Church Budget for 2017 (B12 Item 3)

Motion and second to approve the 2017 Church Budget as presented.
The total budget is \$263,433.

Motion approved by an aye vote.

The budget that was presented is attached to this report.

Article 5. Slate of Elections from the Church Board (B12 Item 2)

Board Chairman – Robert Noll
Church Clerk – Mark Landis, Sr.

Commissions
Ministry & Evangelism - 1.

Christian Education – 1. Lindsey Dimond
2.

Trustee & Property – 1. Dale Houtz
2. Mark Landis, Jr.

Finance & Stewardship - 1. Andrew Heisey
2.

Nominating Committee – 1. 3 year
2. 3 year
3. 2 year
4. 1 year

After no other nominations from the members present for Church Board Chairman, there was a motion and second to elect Robert Noll as Church Board Chairman.

Motion approved by an aye vote.

After no other nominations from the members present for Church Clerk, there was a motion and second to elect Mark Landis, Sr. as Church Clerk.

Motion approved by an aye vote.

Allison Kline was nominated to serve on Ministry & Evangelism Commission.

After no other nominations from the members present for Church Board, there was a motion and second to elect the following members to the appropriate commissions.

Ministry & Evangelism
Allison Kline

Trustee & Property
Dale Houtz
Mark Landis, Jr.

Christian Education
Lindsey Dimond
Vacant

Finance & Stewardship
Andrew Heisey
Vacant

Motion approved by an aye vote.

There was a motion to give the Church Board permission to fill the vacancies on the commissions.

Motion approved by an aye vote

After no nominations were received for a Nominating Committee it was decided to have the Church Board continue to act as the Nominating Committee.

**Article 6. Recommend to change By-Laws
Article VI, Item 2 (B12 Item 1)**

After some discussion on this item, we will be voting on this at the March 6, 2017 meeting, as per guidelines in Constitution for changes.

**Article 7. Election of Delegates for Annual Conference
Grand Rapids, Michigan. June 28 – July 2
Election of Alternates for Annual Conference**

After some discussion as to whether we are permitted to have 2 or 3 delegates to represent our church, the following action was taken.

Ken and Joyce Wagner were nominated to be our delegates. Our interim pastor or new pastor will be sent and will be our 3rd delegate if permitted.

There was a motion and second to approve the above.

Motion approved by an aye vote

There were no nominations for alternates for Annual Conference. It was suggested that it be advertised in the bulletin if anyone is interested to be a delegate. This will be brought up again at the March 6, 2017 meeting.

Article 8. Election of Three Delegates for District Conference
Two (2 year term)
One (1 year term)

Election of Alternates for District Conference

No election took place. Joyce Wagner and Jackie Dohner still have 1 year remaining on their term, and it was decided that our interim pastor or the new pastor will be the 3rd delegate.

Article 9. Spiritual Nurture Board Report – Ralph Ackerman

The Deacon Body meets on a monthly basis or as the need arises to discuss the needs of the Church congregation.

The Love Offering as of our October 27, 2016 meeting was \$2,757.83.

Members of our Spiritual Nurture Board continue to make visits, make phone calls, send cards, and pray for members of our congregation and others in need.

We are keeping the call open for new deacons.

Held pew Communion July 10, 2016.

Fall Love Feast and Communion was held on October 2, 2016.

Baptism was held in our church September 18, 2016.

Duey Peiffer and Dale and Karla Brubaker have requested transfer of membership to Midway CoB. Bill Miller requested transfer of membership to Annville CoB.

After going over the church membership list, our church has 233 active members.

We thank Pastor Jack Harpold and the congregation for their continued support.

Approved by motion, second & aye vote

Article 10. Pastor's Report – Jack Harpold

I have been "blessed" to have been serving here for seven months. Time passes quickly.

I look forward to serving as long as necessary. The congregation has been a great support and encouragement.

I have preached most Sundays during this time. I have led Bible study most weeks. I am considering some alternative possibilities for Bible study. I have taught Sunday School on occasion.

Along with the choir we led Mid-Week service at LVBH in October.

I attended Annual Conference in Greensboro, N.C. and half of District Conference.

I attended Board meetings, Spiritual Nurture meetings, and Music Committee meetings.

We have started Men's breakfasts at Dutchway with the goal of starting some men's service projects.

I conducted Love Feast service.

I have conducted 2 weddings and 2 funerals.

I am working on fellowship with the congregation through attending VBS, Pizza Hut Night and Raub's Twin Kiss Youth Fund raising.

I have had the privilege of visiting in many of the homes of members.

In the community I have attended Myerstown Pastoral Assoc., and Go Beyond program meetings.

I have served as Moderator at the Long Run COB and have just concluded my service there.

I took 8 Days of vacation in September.

Approved by motion, second & aye vote

Article 11. Search Committee

Reported with the Ministry & Evangelism Commission report.

Article 12. Reception of other reports

Women's Fellowship – Susie Auman

Since the June 13, 2016 meeting, the following have been paid from our account:

VBS expenses
Children's day lunch
Upper Room Devotionals
Pumpkin Roll ingredients
LVBH Bingo
Bazaar expenses

Some receipts from the pumpkin roll sale have been deposited.

Checkbook balance June 13, 2016 was \$13,830.29
Balance as of November 7, 2016 is \$13,951.81

We made 1400 pumpkin rolls in 5 weeks. Thanks to all who helped.

The Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Women's Fellowship is in the process of reorganizing. All women in the church are encouraged to participate.

2 events are planned for 2016:

Dec. 10 – Christmas breakfast at Myerstown Dutch Way restaurant at 9:00 am

Dec. 15 – Cookie exchange at the church at 6:30 pm

Ladies Aid – Brenda Lentz

We are still quilting Tuesday mornings started at 9:00 a.m. We have from 1 to 4 quilters each week. There has been no income and no expense, so our checkbook balance remains at \$377.62.

Youth – Christa Bender

Since last council meeting our youth has continued to stay busy. Over the summer we enjoyed a hike through Bushkill Falls, with a picnic lunch and ice cream treat afterwards. We also went to Dutch springs water park. We tried to maintain regular meetings around vacation schedules!

At the start of school, we had a back to school ice cream party, and watched Gods Not Dead 2 in the gym.

Since, the kids have done a Raub's night fundraiser, participated in the 4-diamonds walk in Hershey, and the Schaefferstown Parade.

We have taken them to Seyferts Corn Maze and Knoebels as some fall activities.

We also created the random acts of kindness scavenger hunt which was loved by all. Those on the giving side and also those on the receiving side. We hope to be able to do something like this again in the future.

At our most recent meeting, we welcomed the Damaskus Road youth group and did a combined youth. A good time was had by all discovering emotions in Psalms!

The Youth planned and delivered the youth service for youth Sunday. Kids did a fantastic job with the entire service leaving Andy and I feeling very proud☐

We have started the Adopt a Youth program which is starting of successfully. We have a few yet that need a mentor but we are off to a great start!

We are getting ready to leave for this year's trip to NYC. We will be serving in a salvation army, hanging drywall in a multi-use ministry room, and working in the soup kitchen feeding the homeless. We will also be attending a revival service as well as Sunday morning services in the First Church of the Brethren.

Our annual cookie bake is December 10th, so cookies will be available on the 11th. We will continue to hold meetings bi-weekly until the end of the year. Over the Christmas Holiday, we will be having our lock-in.

Please continue to pray for our youth, and please consider reaching out and being a mentor!!

Fellowship Hall Committee – Earl Liskey

2016 2nd & 3rd Quarters

April 1, 2016	
Opening Balance	\$ 8,148.96
Assets:	
0 Banquet	
0 Wedding Reception	
0 Funeral	
Sporting Events	420.00
Rentals	510.00
Total Assets	<u>\$ 930.00</u>
Sub Total	\$ 9,078.96
Check to Building Fund	
Check to Budget	
Expenses:	
Food	\$ 239.21
Paper Products	\$ 284.84
Misc.	\$ 1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,524.05
September 30, 2016	
Closing Balance	\$ 7,554.91

Sharing Cupboard – Anna Mae Snyder

Cupboard still doing good....we have great helpers.

Turkeys are coming this week. It is a blessing!

Time to go for groceries....so many help.

The people that need help always say thanks and when we are low in things, none complain and some say "every little bit helps".

Thanks for all that make it work.....God is Good!

Cupboard Bunch

Thursday – 6/9/16
Families – 20
Adults – 46
Children – 22
Items – 576

Friday – 7/29/16
Families – 18
Adults – 33
Children – 22
Items – 474
(4 new families)

Thursday – 9/22/16
Families – 29
Adults – 61
Children – 25
Items – 670

Friday – 6/10/16
Families – 15
Adults – 27
Children – 21
Items – 445

Thursday – 8/11/16
Families – 36
Adults – 71
Children – 34
Items – 820
(2 new families)

Friday – 9/23/16
Families – 22
Adults – 32
Children – 16
Items – 420

Thursday – 6/23/16
Families - 25
Adults – 60
Children - 28
Items – 717

Friday – 8/12/16
Families - 21
Adults - 36
Children -25
Items - 595

Thursday – 10/13/16
Families – 31
Adults – 67
Children - 31
Items – 723

Friday – 6/24/16
Families – 9
Adults – 17
Children –11
Items – 265

Thursday – 8/26/16
Families – 19
Adults - 39
Children – 16
Items – 504

Friday 10/14/16
Families – 23
Adults - 51
Children - 32
Items – 642
(1 new family)

Thursday – 7/14/16
Families – 29
Adults – 65
Children – 26
Items – 844

Friday – 8/27/16
Families – 22
Adults – 42
Children – 27
Items – 520
(1 new family)

Thursday – 10/27/16
Families - 25
Adults - 52
Children - 29
Items - 608

Friday – 7/15/16
Families – 21
Adults – 48
Children – 22
Items – 570
(1 new family)

Thursday – 9/8/16
Families – 35
Adults – 73
Children – 32
Items – 940
(1 new family)

Friday – 10/28/16
Families - 37
Adults - 74
Children - 37
Items - 973

Thursday – 7/28/16
Families – 35
Adults – 84
Children – 31
Items 979

Friday – 9/9/16
Families - 22
Adults - 42
Children - 23
Items – 548
(1 new family)

There was a motion and second to accept the above reports.

Motion approved by an aye vote.

Article 7. Interests and Concerns

The need for items for the Sharing Cupboard was addressed.

The Holiday Bazaar is November 19th from 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

Christa Bender shared her deep concerns regarding an email she received. It suggested that missions fundraising needed to be directed to sending our Youth to the Church of the Brethren (National Youth conference name 2018). Based on feedback from a previous youth conference, Christa stated that the liberal ideology presented there did not support the biblical moral values currently being taught to the Myerstown Youth.

Pastor Jack commented on the struggles at Annual Conference over past years when liberal versus conservative viewpoints clashed. The direction has been gravitating away from the conservative history of our denomination.

Article 9. Adjournment at 9:10

Prayer – Pastor Jack Harpold