

**Myerstown Church of the Brethren
Council Minutes
Monday, March 6, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**

Devotions by: Ron Brubaker

- Article 1. Approval of Council Minutes from:**
Monday, November 7, 2016 (Pg. 1 - 15)
Sunday, March 5, 2017 (Pg. 16)

Approved by motion, second & aye vote

- Article 2. Treasurer's Report**
- a. Budget – January to December 2016 (A1 – A4)
 - b. Building Fund - January to December 2016 (A5)
 - c. Budget – January 2017 (A6 – A8)
 - d. Building Fund - January 2017 (A9)
 - e. Annual Financial Review (A10)
 - f. Approval of Treasurer's Report & Financial Review

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

There was a motion that we transfer \$6,000 from our General Fund to the Building Fund.

This was approved by raising of hands.

Article 3. Church Board Reports (B1 – B12)

a. Ministry & Evangelism – Steve Krick

The Ministry & Evangelism Commission met as scheduled for November, January and February. The highlights are as follows:

During this time, the ongoing work of the Pastoral Search Committee has been reported by our Commission member, Nicole Hauck, who chairs the search process. Nicole and the Committee have been in close contact with our District Representative, Kay Weaver. We are grateful for their strong commitment to this work.

Our Commission will help coordinate the "Transition Team" to help our new pastor get acquainted with our church family and the local area. Allison Kline will represent our Commission.

For many months, our Commission had been planning the Praise & Worship service for March 4, 2017. This was strongly supported by many components of our church family, including the Music Ministries, the Youth, the Praise Team, Missions & Fellowship and individual church members. The event was well-attended and was an uplifting "Faith Lift." It was particularly inspiring that so many people requested to be part of the program. To God be the glory!

Another responsibility of our Commission is to ensure the pulpit is filled every Sunday. Pastor Jack Harpold has been graciously providing faithful interim service to our congregation since March, 2016.

Looking forward, on April 9, 2017, we will have Kris McFadden, President and CEO of Teen Challenge, along with their Choir.

Ron Brubaker, our Moderator, will preach on April 23rd.

We will also be arranging for a speaker for the Easter Sunrise Service.

Our Commission is excited to work with our new Pastor to explore new avenues to enrich the “ministry & evangelism” of our church family.

b. Missions & Fellowship – Janet Dubble

As we enter into this most important Lenten season, the Missions and Fellowship Commission strives to lead our congregation in missions to honor our Lord and serve our community.

As the New Year began, our Commission members reviewed and edited final draft of 2017 church directory. The completed directory was designed and printed in-house this year, thus saving the cost of outside printing. A heartfelt THANK YOU to Toni Noll for printing, binding, and distributing the directories to the congregation.

The labels on the congregational mailboxes were updated, so that all new members now have assigned mailboxes.

The trip to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center on November 28th in Maryland was very well attended and a highly rewarding experience for all. It was an emotional day of hard work, prayer, and fellowship with fellow Christians. We thank God’s Missionary Church for partnering with us to provide the bus transportation.

The “Souper Bowl” project that we conducted during the month of January was very successful in collecting soup and other food items for the Sharing Cupboard. We are blessed to be able to serve so many families in our community through the Sharing Cupboard.

Our Commission worked with the Pastoral Search Committee to provide light snacks for the Question and Answer session with the pastoral candidate and his family on Friday, March 3rd.

We also worked with the Ministry and Evangelism Commission to provide snacks following the Praise & Worship event on Saturday, March 4th.

We organized a congregational carry-in meal following the worship service and pastoral vote on Sunday, March 5th.

Plans are underway for the Easter sunrise breakfast on April 16th. Tickets will be on sale March 26th, April 2nd and 9th. All proceeds from the tickets sales will be donated to the 2017 Vacation Bible School.

The GoBeyond Week of service will be May 13th – 20th and will include a prayer walk, a community cleanup day, and other activities that will be conducted in partnership with Myerstown community churches. Our Commission will work to promote this project within our congregation so that we have a large number of participants in these activities.

c. Christian Education – Lindsey Dimond

Since the last Church Council meeting we finalized the annual Children's Christmas program, and held it on Sunday December 10th. Before the play during the church hour the kids had a "Happy Birthday Jesus" breakfast. Donuts and gifts were given to the kids. Christmas gifts were also given to the teachers of the classes.

Bible school is being planned for the week of June 25th 2017. Leslie Fuhrman and Jess Singer are the directors and will be seeking help from church staff as well as planning a kick-off Sunday and asking for donations of items that are needed.

The Easter Egg hunt is planned for April 8th. We are going to have a craft for the kids to do and light refreshments being offered. No lunch will be provided this year.

Easter gifts will look different this year, as we think we will be supplying the kids with things to plant flowers.

Our commission would like to thank all the teachers that are currently teaching the Sunday school classes. We are also looking to create a list of substitute teachers for the kids classes in the event that a teacher has to be away during their Sunday to teach.

d. Trustee & Property – George Nagle

Insulation was installed above the ceilings in Men's and Women's bathrooms to keep the heat and cold stable.

We replaced electric eye that controls the lights in car port and outside sign.

Comparing gas and electric bills from January to December in 2015 and 2016, we had a savings of \$5,500 for electric and \$2,708 for gas.

Update on air conditioning for the Youth zone:

Estimate for the project was \$22,000.00.

We have approximately \$16,000.00 toward our goal.

We are short \$6,000.00.

We were hoping to start the project in spring, so we would have air conditioning for the summer.

We have to delay the project until we can come up with all the funds to complete the project.

e. Finance & Stewardship – Andy Heisey

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 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.

On February 20, 2017, I met with Mike Liskey and Jill Fidler for a review of a portion of the financial transactions from 2016. No errors were found.

f. Approval of Church Board Reports

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

Article 4. 2nd Reading and Vote on Change to By-Laws, Article VI, Item 2, per the decision of November 7, 2016 Council Meeting, after 1st Reading of the proposed change.

The current reading is: There are no Board Meetings in July and December.
The proposed change is: The Church Board is to meet monthly. Special meetings of the Church Board may be called by the Board Chairperson.

This was approved by motion, second and aye vote.

Article 5. 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 balance as of our February 23, 2017 meeting was \$4,447.98.

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

Officers of the Spiritual Nurture Board for 2017 are as follows:

Chairman – Steve Krick
Vice Chairman – Earl Liskey
Treasurer – Breena Krick
Secretary – Mim and Ralph Ackerman

Held Bread and Cup Pew Communion on January 8, 2017.

Spring Love Feast and Communion will be held Sunday, April 9, 2017, and be led by Pastor Jack.

We attended the breakfast on Saturday, March 4, 2017 to meet with the new prospective pastor.

Received 6 new members – 2 by baptism (Michael Hughes and Pat Schott); and, 4 by Letter of Transfer – (Jess Singer and Megan, Derek and Austin Thomas).

Stephanie Ebling requested a Letter of Transfer be sent to Grace UCC Church of Richland.

Sylvia Beamesderfer requested a Letter of Transfer be sent to Crosspoint United Methodist Church of Harrisburg.

A request was made for Craig and Eric Beamesderfer to be removed from our membership list.

Dean and Vicky Lengel requested a Letter of Transfer be sent to Swatara Hill Church of the Brethren.

We are keeping the call open for new Deacons.

With approval from Council our Spiritual Nurture Board would like to sponsor a Compassion International Child.

This was approved by motion, second and aye vote.

Article 6. Search Committee

The vote on Sunday was 96% in favor of John Martin Moyer to be our pastor.

Article 7. Election of Alternates for Annual Conference

Jackie Dohner was approved by motion, second and aye vote as Alternate for Annual Conference.

Article 8. Pastor's Report – Jack Harpold

I have been “blessed” to have been serving Myerstown for nearly one year. As my time with Myerstown will be winding down my love for the people will continue. The congregation has been a great support and encouragement.

There have been challenges, mostly personal (motorcycle accident, extended headache, bad shoulder) deaths of family and friends. But God is still good – all the time.

I have preached most Sundays during this time. I have led Bible study most weeks. We are beginning a new Bible study on Wednesday evenings entitled Disciples Path, The Journey.

I want to affirm the people who planned and executed a wonderful Praise and Testimony service on March 4th. Keep up the great work for the Kingdom.

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

I attended Board meetings and Spiritual Nurture meetings.

Men's breakfasts at Dutchway have been going well with 10-12 in attendance. We still need to start men's service projects.

I have conducted 2 funerals and attended more funerals.

I have enjoyed the fellowship with members of the congregation through Pizza Hut Night and Raub's Twin Kiss Youth Fund raising.

12 membership transfers were issued, 4 transfers were received and 4 Baptisms were conducted.

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

With Pastor Marty Moyer arriving in June I have requested that my ministry is to finish the end of May to give me a couple weeks to prepare for my marriage to Judy Hostetter on June 17.

I pray for Holy Spirit's leading as the Myerstown Congregation moves to a new chapter in ministry in this community.

God Bless this congregation.

Approved by motion, second & aye vote

Article 9. Reception of other reports

Women's Fellowship – Lindsey Dimond

Women's Fellowship final report from Susie Auman, Treasurer

Over the years Women's Fellowship dwindled down to the Pumpkin Roll and Bazaar committee. As I was the only person holding an active office for the original Women's Fellowship, when decisions needed to be made about the financial disbursements, I sought instruction from Linda Strobel, (past secretary), Sharon Seldomridge and Sylvia Beamesderfer, (pumpkin roll) and Jean Bomberger (bazaar). Each year presented new needs as we continued to support our regular commitments, such as LVBH Bingo, Upper Room Devotionals, landscaping at the church, Golden Age dinner, Mother/Daughter banquet, VBS, our youth, and missions. This year was no different as there was a large financial need to help pay for a new air conditioning system to be installed in the youth area. We decided, unanimously, to give \$13,000 to the air conditioning fund, \$2,500 to the youth and \$2,500 to the Dominican 2017 mission trip.

To date, the balance in the account is \$7,632.38. If the newly formed Women's Fellowship wishes to continue supporting the same things we always have (listed above), and continue the pumpkin roll sale, there is enough money in the account to cover everything including cost of all ingredients for pumpkin rolls in 2017, with about \$1,100 extra.

It has been my pleasure to serve as treasurer for the past 7 years but it's time for someone else to take over. It has always been my opinion that no one should be holding a treasurer's office for more than 3 years. However, no one else was willing to take it so I continued. I still feel, in the best interest of the organization and the person holding the treasurer's position, it should be for a limited term but that will be up to the new officers.

It's good to see a younger generation taking over and bringing new ideas to the table. Praying God's wisdom and guidance for the new officers and a successful revival of the Women's Fellowship.

Susie Auman, Treasurer
Linda Strobel, Secretary
Jean Bomberger

Sharon Seldomridge
Sylvia Beamesderfer

Since the last meeting in November a group has met to start up the Women's Fellowship organization again. We talked about having a Christmas breakfast where we will each bring a \$1 gift item for an exchange and planned a cookie exchange. We also talked about doing a "Secret Sister" program, and Amanda Houser said she would get that started.

In December we met and had a Christmas breakfast on December 10th. We also had a cookie exchange that 12 women signed up for and had that on December 15th. We shared our cookies and enjoyed some light refreshments.

We met on January 19th to plan for the upcoming year and to elect officers for the new year. Officers were elected and they are: President: Leslie Fuhrman, Vice President: Jess Singer, Secretary: Lindsey Dimond, and Treasurer: Dorothy Nagle. There were 9 members who attended.

Amanda Houser got the "secret sister" program up and running and all names have been given out and hopefully people have been getting notes or small gifts. Once a month you are to remember your secret sister with a card in the mail or even in their mailbox at church, or even if you feel that you want to include a small gift that is also nice, but not needed. It is meant to lift us up and be a nice surprise that you are being thought of that day.

A paint party was held on February 4th. We had a 15 people present. We painted with the lady from "For Paint's Sake." We created a snowman picture and had a light breakfast before we painted. Everyone seemed to have a fun time and plan to have another one late spring time.

Other items that are planned for the upcoming year so far to date are a "PMS" night, which will be held on Friday March 24th. It is pajamas, movie and snacks. The Mother and Daughter Tea will be held Sunday April 30th. We also talked about over the summer picking a night and doing a "walk and talk" at the Jackson park, the area over by the soccer and football fields as there is a path to walk on.

We would like to have some fundraisers to help to raise funds to have activities that might cost some money. We are going to do the pumpkin roll sale again in the fall, and the bazaar. There has been mention of doing a clothing consignment sale and a tentative date of October 7th has been set for that.

Upcoming meeting dates will be March 9th, May 4th, June 1st August 3rd and October 5th. Months where there is no set meeting date we would like to plan activity. If you have any suggestions on activities that we could plan please plan to attend any of the meetings as that is where we will be discussing upcoming activities.

Since the November 7th meeting the following items have been paid from our account:

- Pumpkin roll ingredients
- Bazaar expenses
- Grumbine's Flowers
- Upper Room and Lenten Devotionals
- Christmas Breakfast for the ladies
- Paint Party

Donations were made to the following:

- Cookie ingredients for the youth cookie bake sale
- Dominican Mission Trip
- Youth of MCoB
- Air Conditioning and heat for Youth Center

Reported Income Was:

- Paint Party Profit
- Pumpkin roll profit
- Bazaar profit
- Christmas breakfast for Ladies profit
- Money transferred from the Sunday School account

Balance on November 7, 2016 was \$13,951.81

Balance on March 6, 2017 is \$7,541.33

Ladies Aid – Brenda Lentz

No Report

Youth – Christa Bender

*Went on our trip to NY, and stayed at First Church of the Brethren. We are continuing to build relationships back up with this church.

*Participated in both Schaefferstown and Myerstown Parades. Thanks to Whitey for letting us borrow his trailer for both of these!

*We did our annual Christmas cookie bake/Christmas party, Thank you to Ruthie who supplied us with the Sand Tarts!

*Went Caroling with praise team

*Had a Lock-in over Christmas break

*Took the kids to Winter Jam Concert

*had a game night at the church- and brought a game and a box of food for sharing cupboard

*Most recently hosted the ice cream social for the pastoral candidate weekend

Through all the activities we still and maintain bi weekly meetings so that everyone knows there is always youth every other Sunday.

Upcoming:

We will continue bi weekly meetings

Easter Flower Sale

Movie Night

Youth Service

Looking in to helping the camp swatara campaign by participating in the hiking day

Fellowship Hall Committee – Earl Liskey

2016 4th Quarter

October 1, 2016	
Opening Balance	\$ 7,554.91
Assets:	
0 Banquet	
0 Wedding Reception	
1 Funeral	
Sporting Events	
Rentals	
Total Assets	<u>\$ 5,403.53</u>
Sub Total	\$12,958.44
Check to Building Fund	
Check to Budget October 1, 2016	\$ 4,000.00
Expenses:	
Food	\$ 453.13
Paper Products	\$ 187.60
Misc.	\$ 572.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,212.73
December 31, 2016	
Closing Balance	\$ 7,745.71

Sharing Cupboard

No Report

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

Motion approved by an aye vote.

Article 7. Interests and Concerns

Grace Ziegler hopes to see the church continue in strength and unity.

Janet Dubble said this past weekend was a real sign of the strength and unity in our church.

Article 9. Adjournment at 8:15 p.m.

Prayer and closing by Pastor Jack Harpold