

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

## October 18, 2022

<b>Title</b>	Council Meeting			<b>President</b>	Mary Bliesmer	
<b>Purpose</b>	Monthly Business			<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Ihrig	
<b>Date</b>	October 18, 2022		<b>Time</b>	7:00 p.m.	<b>Location</b>	Grounds for Joy
<b>Meeting Time</b>	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:23 pm	1 hr/23 min			
<b>Council Members – Terms of Office</b>				<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Position</b>
1.	Mary Bliesmer	2022-2023		X		President
2.	Jason Bruns	2022-2023		X		President-Elect
3.	Marie Slotemaker	2022-2023		X		Vice President
4.	Bob Ihrig	2021-2024		X		Secretary
5.	Jeremy Carter	2021-2024		X		Treasurer
6.	Aaron Geringer	2020-2023		X		Member at Large
7.	Matt Drewitz	2021-2024			X	Member at Large
8.	Jessica Auel	2022-2025		X		Member at Large
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Lead Pastor
10.	Pastor Jacie Richmond To Start 10/23/22			--	--	Associate Pastor
11.	Elizabeth Ruiz			X		Financial Secretary
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>					<b>PRESENTER</b>
7:00 p.m.	<b>1. Devotions</b>					Marie Slotemaker
	<b>2. Additions to &amp; Approval of the Agenda</b> <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve printed agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Mary Bliesmer
	<b>3. Secretary's Report</b> September 20, 2022 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by Pr. Jay to approve printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	<b>4. Financial Report</b> September 30, 2022 Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : Deficit increased to -\$43,000+ from 8/21 deficit of -\$39,834.95. B. <u>Mortgage</u> : \$1,025,000 balance. C. <u>9/30 Financial Statements</u> : To be sent to Council after meeting. D. <u>Capital Campaign</u> : Leadership gifts still to be submitted to provide report at 10/23 congregational dinner. Reminders to be communicated. E. <u>Member Giving Statements</u> : Mailed to all members for verification and make-up of pledged contributions. F. <u>Financial Review Committee</u> : Has not met yet to conduct 2021 financial review. Will set up meeting with Frank Larsen, Mark Larsen & Kristine Rebelein to complete review for approval by Council & congregation.					Elizabeth Ruiz
	<b>5. Lead Pastor's Report</b> A. <u>Refugee/Asylum Seeker Resettlement</u> : Met with local ELCA churches in September to discuss collaboration & support of refugee/asylum seekers resettling in Mankato. Next meeting 11/3. B. <u>Men's Group Lunch for a Buck</u> : Provided/served meal on 10/4 with positive results at Crossroads Campus Ministry. Group will Rake the Town with BLC youth on 11/5. C. <u>2023 Budget</u> : Met with Budget Committee on 11/5 with budget proposal developed for Council review tonight. D. <u>Capital Campaign</u> : Leadership Event held on 10/8. Meets via Zoom with GSB team and BLC steering committee each Tuesday for campaign updates. Hopeful that \$1 million goal will be met.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>E. <u>Pr. Jacie Update</u>: Moved into BLC office. Will start on 10/23. Computer has been donated by BLC member.</p> <p>F. <u>Continuing Education</u>: Attended suicide prevention for faith leaders workshop by MN Dept of Agriculture. Will attend the Fall Theological Conference in LaCrosse on 11/13-15 as a required event for all pastors.</p> <p>G. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Made 36 pastoral care visits and officiated 2 funerals/memorial visits since last report.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Associate Pastor's Report</b> No Report</p>	
	<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>Capital Campaign Update</u>: Leadership Event held on 10/8 with positive outcomes for financial commitments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Congregational dinner scheduled for 10/23 with 113 RSVPs thus far. Members who do not attend dinner will receive prospectus &amp; intent cards in the mail.</li> <li>•Intent cards to be submitted on 10/30 Sunday service and 11/3 Wednesday service.</li> <li>•Response Team will meet via Zoom on 10/25 to finalize plans for follow-up on pledges.</li> </ul> <p>B. <u>Wednesday Night Supper Update</u>: All has gone well since resumption of suppers in September. 75 meals being ordered each week. 4 serving groups scheduled through December. Amy Haigh coordinating menu selection, scheduling servers &amp; processing free-will donations and payments to JD Truffles.</p>	<p>Pr. Jay, M. Bliesmer, B. Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p><b>8. New Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>New BLC Member Approval</u>: <b>Motion</b> by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approve as new members: Sara Masklakow, Mitchell Skluzacek, Ben Johnson, Bev Mathison, Carol Peterson, Wayne Lubbert, Isabella Thul &amp; Pr. Jacie Richmond. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Resettling Refugees/Asylum Seekers Meeting of Area Churches</u> See Lead Pastor report for background. 4 local ELCA churches involved in potential sponsorships coordinated by Catholic Charities or Office of the Bishop. Local task force will be set up. To meet again on 11/3. BLC Community &amp; Global Mission Board is supporting Christ The King sponsorship of a Ukrainian family in Shakopee.</p> <p>C. <u>November 20 Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda</u>: <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve meeting agenda. Approved.</p> <p>D. <u>2023 BLC Annual Budget Review &amp; Approval</u>: All BLC boards &amp; committees submitted 2023 requests by deadline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Budget Committee (E. Ruiz, Pr. Jay, J. Carter &amp; Diana Olson) reviewed Personnel &amp; other proposals to prepare 2023 budget proposal. A status quo budget with a negative balance of -\$20,553 was advanced for Council consideration.</li> <li>•Changes involving pastoral (1% raise for Pr. Jay) and lay staff compensation (4% raise), Music Scholars (Cut \$3,000 request with replacement by Endowment Fund) and Adult Education &amp; Stewardship budget proposals (\$200 cuts) approved on <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns.</li> <li>•Revised budget will be updated and sent by E. Ruiz to Council. Budget forum scheduled for 11/13 prior to semi-annual meeting on 11/20.</li> </ul>	<p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p>
	<p><b>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Devotions: Jeremy Carter</b></p>	

.	<b>10. Adjournment</b> at 8:23 pm on <b>Motion</b> by J. Bruns, Second by J. Auel. Approved.	
---	---	--

*Our Mission: Bethlehem is an inviting community that is growing in Christ, loving our neighbors and serving God's world.*