

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 19, 2021

Title	Council Meeting			President	James Arentson	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	October 19, 2021		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:45 pm	1 hr,45 min			
Council Members – Terms of Office				Present	Absent	Position
1.	James Arentson	2021-2022		X		President
2.	Mary Bliesmer	2021-2022		X		President-Elect
3.	Jason Bruns	2021-2022		X		Vice President
4.	Bob Ihrig	2021-2024		X		Secretary
5.	Jeremy Carter	2021-2024		X		Treasurer
6.	Jessica Auel	2019-2022		X		Member at Large
7.	Aaron Geringer	2020-2023		X		Member at Large
8.	Matt Drewitz	2021-2024		X		Member at Large
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Lead Pastor
10.	Pastor Kristen Venne			X		Transition Pastor
TIME	TOPIC					PRESENTER
7:00 p.m.	1. Welcome Pastor Kristen Venne & Council Introductions Transition pastor Kristen Venne was welcomed to BLC by the Council. She started her work with us on Monday. Introductions by Council members were made.					James Arentson
	2. Devotions & Balcony Question					Bob Ihrig
	3. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda Old Business B: Parking Lot Use was added. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve amended agenda with flexibility. Approved.					James Arentson
	4. Secretary's Report September 21, 2021 Minutes Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	5. Financial Report September 30, 2021 Report No September financial reports were provided by E. Ruiz due to 2022 budget work & time involved. She will be contacted to email this information to Council members. Finances are stable at this point. We are at expected budget levels.					Jeremy Carter
	6. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Call Committee</u> : 6 members have been identified with approval to be made at this meeting. First meeting is October 27. B. <u>Strategic Planning Committee</u> : 9 members, including the 2 pastors, have been identified with approval to be made at this meeting. First meeting is October 26. C. <u>Placement of Flags in the Sanctuary</u> : Background information was provided on the shift of flag location from the front to the back of the sanctuary. Recommendation is to develop a process for addressing this issue of concern raised by BLC members. D. <u>Pastoral Positions</u> : Pr. Jay will serve as an internship supervisor to pastor in Rapidan who is working towards ordination. He will also serve on the synod salary guidelines task force that prepares pastoral salary recommendations for the synod council/assembly. E. <u>New Members</u> : 8 individuals from 5 households have expressed interest in joining BLC. New member orientation to be held on 10/24 with official welcome to be made on 11/14.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>F. <u>Stewardship & Budget</u>: Has worked with Stewardship Board on annual pledge campaign and with budget committee on 2022 budget proposal. Appreciates BLC financial generosity.</p> <p>G. <u>Vacation</u>: Will be on vacation from 11/4-10. Pr. Kristen will lead worship during this time.</p> <p>H. <u>Pastoral Visits & Funerals</u>: Presided over 2 funerals and has burial scheduled on Saturday. Made 18 visits to BLC members at home and in care facilities since last report.</p>	
	<p>7. Transition Pastor's Report Pr. Venne is excited about her new position at BLC and work with the new strategic planning process. She has received training in this area. She will preach 2 Sundays each month. She will be at BLC all day on Wednesdays and on other days as scheduled in her part-time position.</p>	Pastor Kristen Venne
	<p>8. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>BLC COVID-19 Plan Update</u>: The health situation has not improved yet to allow for a relaxation of BLC COVID protocols. Minnesota now ranks 7th nationally for infections.</p> <p>B. <u>Parking Lot Use</u>: The city of Mankato has requested parking lot capacity information from BLC before it approves parking use by the new business in the old Mankato Ballet Company building. James will coordinate this process to facilitate use in return for an annual donation by the business involved.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>James Arentson</p>
	<p>9. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Pastor Kristen Venne Contract Approval</u>: Motion by J. Auel; Second by J. Bruns to approve transition contract. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Pastoral Call Committee Appointment</u>: Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by B. Ihrig to approve following members: Derek Brown, Jill Contreras, Amy Haigh, Evan Maclean, Liz Paul & Lori Ruthenbeck. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Strategic Planning Committee Appointment</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approve following members: Jason Bruns, Molly Butler, Shawn Clenson, Pr. Jay; Bob Ihrig; Marian Mallory, Sarah Morgan, Marie Slotemaker & Pr. Venne. Approved.</p> <p>D. <u>Placement of Flags in the Sanctuary</u>: Discussion of process to address this issue. A forum discussion will be scheduled in January with an outside facilitator (Greg Nelson or Emily Carson) to be contacted by Pr. Jay. Goal is to provide a conversation by BLC members about the appropriate flag placement in the future.</p> <p>E. <u>November 14, 2021 Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda Approval</u>: Proposed agenda presented. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve agenda with 2022 budget as main topic. Approved. Start time will be 10:15 am with meeting to be held in dining room. The meeting will be live-streamed but online members will not be counted in quorum or in voting due to constitutional requirements.</p> <p>F. <u>Revised Financial Committee Responsibilities Proposal</u>: Proposal to update current responsibilities for BLC Finance Committee shared. Council members asked to study proposal and share feedback prior to approval at November 16 Council meeting.</p> <p>G. <u>2021 Pastor Jay Performance Review</u>: Annual performance review conducted on 10/12 by J. Arentson, M. Bliesmer & B. Ihrig with positive outcomes. Summary report provided to Council as background.</p>	<p>James Arentson</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

