

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

## November 15, 2022

<b>Title</b>	Council Meeting			<b>President</b>	Mary Bliesmer	
<b>Purpose</b>	Monthly Business			<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Ihrig	
<b>Date</b>	November 15, 2022		<b>Time</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Location</b>	Grounds for Joy
<b>Meeting Time</b>	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	7:49 pm	49 minutes			
<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			X		Associate Pastor
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>					<b>PRESENTER</b>
7:00 pm	<b>1. Devotions</b>					Jeremy Carter
	<b>2. Additions to &amp; Approval of the Agenda</b> New Business 8C: Pastoral Installation Gift <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve amended agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Mary Bliesmer
	<b>3. Secretary's Report</b> October 18, 2022 Minutes <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	<b>4. Financial Report</b> October 31, 2022 Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : October 31 budget balance of +\$6,229.45 compared to September 30 deficit of -\$43,147.77. Member giving is at 94% of 2022 budgeted income. October offerings were \$40,208 above budget. B. <u>Mortgage</u> : October 31 principal balance is \$1,020,043.48. C. <u>Mission Investment Fund</u> : October 31 balance is \$125,385.16 available for monthly mortgage payments. D. <u>Current Month Mortgage Reduction Receipts</u> : \$151,865.98 to be used for principal payments. E. <u>Advance Mortgage Principal Payments</u> : \$67,462 applied to principal balance as advance payments.					Jeremy Carter
	<b>5. Lead Pastor's Report</b> A. <u>Capital Campaign</u> : Encouraged by congregation response with over \$700,000 in pledges thus far with hopes of more to come. B. <u>Financial Deficit</u> : Received \$38,000 in general fund offering as special gift from BLC family. Hopeful of positive general fund balance at end of 2022. C. <u>Refugee/Asylum Seeker Resettlement Project</u> : Pr. Jacie attending meetings of area ELCA churches to sponsor refugee or asylum seeker in the future. BLC Community & Global Mission Board is supporting this initiative. Next meeting is December 8. D. <u>Men's Group Rake The Town</u> : 6 BLC men committed to 11/12 event with BLC youth. E. <u>Continuing Education</u> : Will attend Fall Theological Conference in LaCrosse along with Pr. Jacie & other synod rostered leaders.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	F. <u>Pastoral Care</u> : Made 26 pastoral care visits and officiated 1 funeral & memorial service and 1 wedding since last report. Another wedding scheduled on November 12.	
	<b>6. Associate Pastor's Report</b> A. <u>Welcome from Bethlehem</u> : Appreciative of the warm welcome from BLC members. Looking forward to getting to know everyone and doing ministry together. B. <u>First 3 Weeks: Preaching &amp; leading worship</u> . Becoming familiar with different worship liturgies used at BLC. Has led both youth and adult education activities. Working with A. Wencil with youth activities. C. <u>Future Role at Bethlehem</u> : Call committee identified priority of working with and developing ministries for high school youth and young adults (18-30 yrs old) in alignment with strategic plan. Other pastoral needs and roles being worked out with Pr. Jay.	Pastor Jacie Richmond
	<b>7. Old Business</b> A. <u>Capital Campaign Update</u> : As of 11/15/22, a total of 125 pledges totaling \$720,936 received for mortgage payoff. 151 pledges totaling \$322,798 also received for 2023 annual fund. Response team contacting BLC members who have not yet submitted financial commitments. December 18 thank-you reception planned after worship service for campaign supporters. B. <u>Budget Forum Review &amp; Semi-Annual Meeting Preview</u> : Positive meeting held on 11/13 with good member attendance. Discussion of proposed deficit budget and impact of lay staff salary increases.	M. Bliesmer, Pr. Jay, B. Ihrig  Mary Bliesmer
	<b>8. New Business</b> A. <u>Pastors' Housing Designation</u> : <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to designate \$30,000 of Pr. Jay's salary as a housing allowance for tax purposes. Approved. <b>Motion</b> by J. Bruns; Second by J. Auel to designate \$13,000 of Pr. Jacie's salary as a housing allowance for tax purposes. Approved. B. <u>Financial Review Committee Member Replacement</u> : <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve a new 3-year term for Mark Larsen on the 3-member committee along with Frank Larsen and Kristine Rebelein. Approved. Committee responsible for annual internal review of BLC finances. C. <u>Pastoral Installation Gift</u> : <b>Motion</b> by J. Bruns; Second by B. Ihrig to approve \$156.43 for gift to Pr. Jacie as gift at December 4 installation reception in dining room after worship service.	Pr. Jay Dahlvang Pr. Jacie Richmond  Bob Ihrig  Mary Bliesmer
	<b>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 7:00 pm</b> <b>Devotions: Aaron Geringer</b>	
	<b>10. Adjournment</b> <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to adjourn at 7:49 pm. Approved.	

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