

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 16, 2021

Title	Council Meeting			President	James Arentson	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig & Matt Drewitz	
Date	November 16, 2021		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:28 pm	1 hr 28 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. Devotions & Balcony Question					Jeremy Carter
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Carter to approve agenda. Approved.					James Arentson
	3. Secretary's Report October 19, 2021 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by M. Bliesmer; Second by J. Bruns to approve printed minutes. Approved					Mary Bliesmer
	4. Financial Report September 30, 2021 & October 31, 2021 Reports A. <u>Monthly Summaries</u> : 9/30 deficit of -\$5,598.89 at 93% of budgeted balance. 10/31 deficit of -\$9,500 at 91% of budgeted balance. B. <u>2022 Pledges</u> : Stewardship pledge deadline was 11/14. Totals being compiled by Elizabeth. C. <u>Budget Process</u> : Went smoothly this year in setting 2022 budget.					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Semi-Annual Meeting</u> : Pleased with the attendance, tone & leadership of the 11/14 semi-annual meeting. B. <u>COVID Policy</u> : Proposed removal of red/green seating cards in sanctuary pews to adjust to various circumstances. C. <u>Interim & Call Process & Strategic Planning</u> : Pr. Kristen becoming more involved with BLC including worship, Bible study, confirmation, strategic planning and call committees. Call committee has met with synod representative and elected co-chairs (Amy Haigh, Jill Contreras) & secretary (Derek Browh) & Council liaison (Matt Drewtiz). Lori Ruthenbeck resigned from committee. Replacement to be nominated at this meeting. D. <u>Strategic Planning</u> : Committee has met once to start process. Listening sessions being scheduled/held this month as first step. Day of Remembering to be held on 1/9 with congregation. E. <u>Laurie Rossow</u> : Laurie is resigning as BLC music director after 13 years of service. Reception to be held in December. F. <u>Worship Times</u> : BLC member request made to move back 9 am Sunday worship time. Discussion to be held with staff and survey of congregation planned. Further discussion at December meeting. No Christmas Day (Saturday) service planned. Pr. Jay to preach on Christmas Eve. Pr. Kristen to preach on 12/26.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>G. <u>Flags in Sanctuary Discussion</u>: Congregational forum planned for 1/23 to discuss issue of placement of flags in sanctuary. Synod being consulted for assistance in facilitating meeting discussion.</p> <p>H. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Made 12 member visits and presided over 3 funerals and committals since last report.</p> <p>I. <u>Staff</u>: Addressing K. Carter’s injury on the job.</p> <p>J. <u>2022 Housing Allowance</u>: Motion by A. Geringer; Second by J. Bruns to designate \$26,000 of 2022 compensation of Pr. Jay as housing allowance for tax purposes. Approved.</p>	
	<p>6. Transition Pastor’s Report</p> <p>A. <u>Orientation to BLC</u>: Getting to know the congregation & ministries. Learning names and meeting members.</p> <p>B. <u>Ministries</u>: Leading Wednesday morning Bible study & 9th grade confirmation as needed. Will work in other FFF areas in December.</p> <p>C. <u>Call Committee & Strategic Planning Committee</u>: Working with these groups. Collaboration on information & planning will be emphasized. Call committee process reviewed.</p> <p>D. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Provide care for one /BLC member this month.</p>	<p>Pastor Kristen Venne</p>
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>BLC COVID-19 Plan Update</u>: Discussion of current red/green signs for sanctuary seating. Challenges & confusion with seating presented. Discussion of BLC welcome cards to be returned to pews. Need to determine if update of information is needed. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Bruns to remove red/green seating cards in sanctuary pews. Approved. COVID policy will be updated by Pr. Jay and staff.</p> <p>B. <u>Call Committee Update</u>: Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by J. Auel to add Carrol Meyers-Dobler to Call Committee to replace Lori Ruthenbeck. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Revised Finance Committee Responsibilities Approval</u>: Motion by M. Blismer; Second by J. Carter to approve revision of BLC Finance Committee Responsibilities. Approved.</p> <p>D. <u>Congregation Conversation on Placement of Flags in Sanctuary</u>: Forum planned for 1/23 for congregational discussion. Council will follow up with more discussion & decisionmaking.</p> <p>E. <u>Interim Music Director & Choir Director Update</u>: Tabled to December meeting.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Mary Blismer</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>James Arentson</p>
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Semi-Annual Meeting Review</u>: Attendance was positive with quorum available to conduct business. Favorable responses received from members of congregation. Budget passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. <u>New Member Approval</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Auel to approve the following new members: DeAnn Bennett; Ashley Ganger and Dustin Wels; Malcom Ganger and Lilian Wels; Nancy Leonard; Lucy Vandervort; Todd and Zella Vandervort, Joe and Melissa Wagner. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Financial Review Committee Vacancy – Frank Larsen Position</u>: Frank Larsen’s term on the committee expires in December. Bob will contact Frank to determine interest in continuing. Tabled to December meeting.</p> <p>D. <u>Facilities Capital Savings</u>: Approximately \$26,000 is available in the capital savings account for facility maintenance. Discussion was held about the possibility of designating any 2021 general</p>	<p>James Arentson</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>James Arentson</p> <p>James Arentson</p>

	<p>fund surplus funds to this account. Future needs include repair of the parking lot which will require more funding. Discussion focused on establishing a target amount for this fund to meet future needs. The connection of this need to a future capital campaign and a new strategic plan was discussed and emphasized. The inclusion of the capital savings account in the overall church budget was explained.</p>	
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Jessica Auel</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment Motion by J. Auel; Second by M. Bliesmer to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Approved.</p>	

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