

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Agenda

November 17, 2020

Title	Council Meeting			President	Wendy Keenan	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	November 17, 2020		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Zoom Online Meeting
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	9:03 pm	2 hr/3 min			
Council Members				Present	Absent	Position
1.	Wendy Keenan			X		President
2.	James Arentson			X		President-Elect
3.	Mary Bliesmer			X		Vice President
4.	Bob Ihrig	2018-2021		X		Secretary
5.	Diana Olson	2018-2021			X	Treasurer
6.	Derek Brown	2018-2021		X		Member at Large
7.	Jessica Auel	2019-2022		X		Member at Large
8.	Aaron Geringer	2020-2023		X		Member at Large
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Lead Pastor
10.	Pastor Collette Broady Grund				X	Associate Pastor
TIME	TOPIC					PRESENTER
7:00 p.m.	1. Devotions					Wendy Keenan
	2. Dear Church Book Study: Chapter 4: pp. 50-62					Council
	3. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda New Business: Evangelism Board Name Change; Youth Board Update Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve amended agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Wendy Keenan
	4. Secretary's Report Approval of October 20, 2020 Minutes Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Brown to approve printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	5. Financial Report A. October financial reports to be sent to Council by E. Ruiz as written reports. B. Slight growth in the monthly deficit reported.					Wendy Keenan
	6. Lead Pastor's Report - Written B. <u>Semi-Annual Meeting</u> : Appreciative of positive meeting with approval of RIC welcoming statement. Sanctuary & drive-through balloting effective in also approving 2021 budget, 2018-19 financial reviews & 2020-21 Council/board/committee members. B. <u>Worship Services</u> : Received feedback from BLC members supporting continuation of in-person worship but also concern about increasing COVID-19 cases. Council to decide future. B. <u>Clergy Antiracism Statement</u> : Mankato-area clergy statement on antiracism signed by both pastors with expectations of signature by A. Wencl. To be published in Free Press.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang
	7. Associate Pastor's Report – Written A. <u>Family Faith Formation</u> : Positive family participation in LIGHT & confirmation. Likely to move to on-line programming. B. <u>Connections</u> : Working through renovation of new shelter space and staffing changes including new shelter manager. Positive fundraising efforts with donations & grants. C. <u>In-Person Worship</u> : Concerned about increasing COVID-19 cases and impact on BLC in-person worship. Prefer live-streaming of staff-only worship services.					Pastor Collette Broady Grund

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In-person meetings & phone calls held by Pr. Jay & B. Ihrig with BLC staff to communicate 2021 position status based upon 10/10 Council action. Positive & understanding response from staff. 	
	<p>9. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Racial Justice Ministry Team Update/Clergy Statement:</u> Antiracism statement by area clergy shared with Council. Signed by 20 clergy members. Minutes of BLC Racial Justice Ministry Team meeting #2 on 11/9 shared.</p> <p>B. <u>2021 Stewardship Pledge Update:</u> 162 pledges received thus far. 7.38% increase in total giving. Stewardship Board to make phone calls to encourage additional pledges to meet goal of 200+.</p> <p>C. <u>Housing Allowance Designation for Pastors:</u> Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve \$26,000 of annual salary for Pr. Jay and \$25,000 of annual salary for Pr. Collette as housing allowance for IRS tax calculation. Approved.</p> <p>D. <u>Evangelism Board Name Change:</u> Board has recommended name change to “Welcome & Inclusion Board” to reflect new focus. B. Ihrig will check BLC constitution & bylaws to determine how to proceed and report at 12/15 Council meeting.</p> <p>E. <u>Youth Board Update:</u> Board seeks to continue Fat Tuesday fundraiser in the spring with group baskets to auction. An online option would be provided. Details to be finalized.</p>	<p>Pr. Jay, A. Geringer, B. Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Wendy Keenan</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p> <p>Wendy Keenan</p>
	<p>10. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Derek Brown</p>	
	<p>11. Adjournment Motion by D. Brown; Second by B. Ihrig to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Approved</p>	

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