

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

## January 17, 2023

<b>Title</b>	Council Meeting			<b>President</b>	Mary Bliesmer	
<b>Purpose</b>	Monthly Business			<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Ihrig	
<b>Date</b>	January 17, 2023		<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	8:03 pm	1 hr, 3 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			X		Associate Pastor
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>					<b>PRESENTER</b>
7:00 pm	<b>1. Devotions</b>					Matt Drewitz
	<b>2. Additions to &amp; Approval of the Agenda</b> Agenda approved as printed with flexibility.					Mary Bliesmer
	<b>3. Secretary's Report</b> December 20, 2022 Minutes <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to approve. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	<b>4. Financial Report</b> November 30 & December 31 Reports A. <u>November 30 General Fund Balance</u> : +\$4,152.72 B. <u>December 31 General Fund Balance</u> : +\$14,075.73 C. <u>Member Giving</u> : Member giving for November-December above budget by combined \$19,000 contributing to end of year surplus. D. <u>December 31 Mortgage Balance</u> : \$1,015,206.95 Major principal payments being made as member capital campaign pledges are fulfilled. \$145,000 payment made in early January. Plans to celebrate payoff milestones as payments made. E. <u>Offering Envelopes in Pews</u> : Need identified to replenish pew offering envelopes for visitors at regular & special worships.					Jeremy Carter
	<b>5. Lead Pastor's Report</b> A. <u>Capital Campaign Update</u> : Monitoring mortgage principal paydowns as funds received. Thank-you notes written to donors. B. <u>2022 General Fund Surplus</u> : 2022 ended with a general fund surplus. Decision needed how these \$\$ should be appropriated. See New Business 8B for action. C. <u>Fellowship Groups</u> : Men's group gathering at end of January and February. Meet & Eat Group has 20+ participants. D. <u>Strategic Plan</u> : Specific BLC groups & individuals to be responsible for specific goals, objectives & activities have been identified.. Need to review before posting online for members. E. <u>Lenten Worship Planning</u> : Pr. Jay will be the traveling minister at other local churches for Lenten worship. Ash Wednesday is February 22. F. <u>New Members</u> : Invitations for new member orientation sent to 6 potential families/couple/individuals. January 22 set for orientation. G. <u>2021 Financial Review</u> : Completed by committee & posted for Council review.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>H. <u>Council Events</u>: Annual conference meetings set for 2/12 in LeSueur. Councils as Leaders event set for March 19 in Albert Lea. Council members encouraged to attend.</p> <p>I. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: 15 care visits made since last report.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Associate Pastor's Report</b></p> <p>A. <u>Asylum Seeker Family Update</u>: See Old Business 7A.</p> <p>B. <u>Youth Update</u>: Youth Board is planning regular youth events/gatherings for high school youth with the first scheduled for March.</p> <p>C. <u>RIC Sunday</u>: Making plans for 1/29 RIC Sunday worship service.</p> <p>D. <u>Continuing Education</u>: Enrolled in Continuous Growth Pathway program for synod pastors. Focusing on participation in sponsored mental health awareness events.</p>	Pastor Jacie Richmond
	<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>Asylum Seeker Family Update</u>: WELCOME is the community 5-church group created to support refugees &amp; asylum. Positive efforts made to resettle 1<sup>st</sup> family with housing, ELL classes, enrollment in school and day care. \$1250 donated by BLC Endowment Board. Amy Haigh &amp; Carrol Meyers-Dobler represent BLC to facilitate resettlement, education &amp; fundraising efforts. Transportation and apartment renovation assistance are needed along with cash and gift cards.</p> <p>B. <u>2021 Financial Review Approval</u>: 2021 BLC financial review completed with all in order. <b>Motion</b> by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Bruns to approve report. Approved. Discussion held on the need for a standardized report template to identify key review topics each year for consistency. Pr. Jay will present topic to Finance Committee for discussion. W. Keenan and T. Dahlvang will also be consulted.</p> <p>C. <u>Strategic Plan Objectives &amp; Activities Update &amp; Approval</u>: Plan reformatted and primary BLC individuals &amp; groups identified to address objectives &amp; activities on an annual basis for accountability purposes. Approved plan to be posted on BLC website for member reference and future action.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p><b>8. New Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>Personnel Committee</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>6-Month Performance Review: Molly Nelson</u>: 6-month review being conducted for Congregational Services Coordinator position. Self-review to be completed by 1/31 with meeting scheduled for early February with Pr. Jay, B. Ihrig &amp; R. Beckel.</li> <li><u>Weekend Janitors/Nursery Attendant Performance Reviews</u>: Self-reviews to be completed in January with opportunity provided for in-person discussion of any issues of concern.</li> <li><u>New BLC Staff Orientation Guide</u>: Guide developed for new BLC lay staff to facilitate employment orientation with meetings &amp; essential personnel information. Recommendation to have Personnel meeting to review Personnel Handbook with new staff. Revision approved.</li> </ol> <p>B. <u>Appropriating 2022 Year-End Surplus</u>: <b>Motion</b> by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Bruns to transfer December 31 general fund surplus to a special reserve account for future use as needed. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Fat Tuesday Donation</u>: Council members approved \$20 personal donations to February 21 Fat Tuesday fundraising event. B. Ihrig will collect donations and submit to A. Wencil by 2/5 deadline.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p>
	<p><b>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 7:00 pm</b>  <b>Devotions: Aaron Geringer</b></p>	

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