

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 19, 2021

Title	Council Meeting			President	Wendy Keenan	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	January 19, 2021		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Zoom Online Meeting
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	9:08 pm	2 hr/8 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					Jessica Auel
	2. <u>Dear Church</u> Book Study: Chapter 6: pp. 75-86					Council
	3. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved					Wendy Keenan
	4. Secretary's Report Approval of December 15, 2020 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve. Approved					Bob Ihrig
	5. Financial Report A. End of 2020 General Fund Balance: +\$13,600. B. \$100,156.20 positive balance overall in savings & checking. C. Discussion of proposal to allocate balance into a new general fund reserve, mortgage reduction, facilities, sabbatical leave, technology and other areas of need. <u>Action:</u> W. Keenan will develop & send summary of funding proposals for review and action at February 16 meeting. Other options can be suggested to W. Keenan & D. Olson. D. PPP paperwork filed for forgiveness of loan by E. Ruiz.					Diana Olson
	6. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>COVID-19 Worship & Policy:</u> Proposed discussion of resuming in-person worship & updating of BLC policy to address how to respond to situations involving positive testing or close contact with virus cases of staff and individuals in the building. B. <u>Fall Stewardship Campaign Update:</u> Increased \$ Pledges = 68 Decreased \$ Pledges = 9 Same \$ Pledges = 106 Total \$ pledged for 2021 = \$380,105 (\$372,155 for 2020) Total \$ increase for 2021 = \$7,950 = 2.14% C. <u>RIC Update:</u> Shared proposed language/policy clarifications to the BLC RIC resolution from the national RIC board. Request for annual contribution to support RIC work. D. <u>Sabbatical Leave Update:</u> Committee started planning Pr. Jay sabbatical with first meeting on 12/30. Reported on interim pastor options for summer.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>E. <u>Mortgage Reduction</u>: Need to develop plan this year to provide funding to carry on mortgage payments. 3 options presented for Council consideration in decision-making.</p> <p>F. <u>Financial Peace University</u>: Started during week of 1/11 with 5 participants.</p>	
	<p>7. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Family Faith Formation</u>: Programs & activities being conducted with leadership of A. Wencil. Staying connected to children with outdoor baptismal anniversary home visits. Plans being considered for outdoor LIGHT & confirmation if in-person worship resumes.</p> <p>B. <u>Lenten Plans</u>: Outdoor drive-up or walk-up activity planned in parking lot for Ash Wednesday for members to receive cross of ashes.</p> <p>C. <u>Connections</u>: BLC members filling volunteer roles for multiple shelter weeks. Shelter is full. Pr. Eric Koser is full-time director. Positive financial year allowed for adding staff and lengthening shelter season.</p>	<p>Pastor Collette Broady Grund</p>
	<p>8. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>COVID-19 Suspension of In-Person Worship Update</u>: Discussion held on resuming in-person worship with following points made: Rationale for resumption: Decline in area COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations & deaths along with return of students to school & desire of BLC members to worship in-person cited. Risk is acceptable now. Members can choose to attend or worship from home with live-streaming & radio broadcasts. Large sanctuary size provides safe worship environment. Concern expressed about continued virus threat, low vaccination rate, increase in youth virus cases, risks with return to in-person school participation and risk to BLC members. Motion by Pr. Jay, Second by Mary to resume in-person worship services on Sunday, February 7. Safety policies & remote options to continue. Wednesday Lenten service in-person worship to start on February 17. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Approval of 2020-23 Financial Review Committee Member</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve Kristine Rebelein as new member of BLC Financial Review Committee. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Sabbatical Leave Update & Approval of Leave Application</u>: Minutes previously shared of 1st committee meeting on 12/30. Second meeting planned for 1/27. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve Pr. Jay leave application approved and forwarded by committee. Approved.</p>	<p>Council Members</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p>9. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Approval of Jessica Auel to Welcome & Inclusion Board</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve Jessica Auel as new member of board for 2020-23. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Fat Tuesday Donation from Council</u>: Fat Tuesday meal and virtual silent auction plans presented. Request made by Youth Board for silent auction baskets from BLC boards/committees. Action: Council members support financial donations in lieu of a basket. W. Keenan will collect donations and send to Youth Bd.</p> <p>C. <u>RIC Update</u>: Communication from national RIC Board shared to clarify language of BLC resolution & provide annual financial \$\$.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig –Nominations Chair</p> <p>Wendy Keenan</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p>

	<p>D. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to charge the Welcome & Inclusion Board & the Racial Justice Ministry Task Force with the responsibility to review recommendations 1-3 and prepare action proposals for the Council & congregation. The Council is directed to make decision on national RIC funding at a later date.</p> <p>E. April Semi-Annual Meeting Plans: Action: Tentative plans made for April 18 semi-annual meeting at 10:45 am. In-person and/or virtual format to be determined.</p> <p>F. Facilities Proposals: Financial bids shared for replacement of worn carpeting in Grounds for Joy and tile in lower level hallway. Funding options reviewed including board accounts & surplus funds. Total cost projected at \$31,500+. Motion by J. Arentson; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve carpet replacement. Additional bids will be solicited for tile replacement. These will be shared at February Council meeting.</p> <p>G. Future BLC Mortgage Funding Plan: Brief discussion held on status of funding for monthly mortgage payments and options available to generate additional funds. Potential exists to have sufficient dollars to cover monthly payments through 2022. Suggestion made to incorporate mortgage plan into new BLC strategic plan for fall of 2022. Action: Decision made to table decision to February 16 Council meeting.</p>	<p>Council Members</p> <p>James Arentson</p> <p>Council Members</p>
	<p>10. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Aaron Geringer</p>	
	<p>11. Adjournment Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to adjourn at 9:08 pm. Approved.</p>	<p>Council Members</p>

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