

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Title	Council Meeting			President	Dave Hageman	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	January 21, 2020		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	7:50 pm	50 min			
Council Members				Present	Absent	Position
1.	Dave Hageman			X		President
2.	Wendy Keenan			X		President-Elect
3.	James Arentson			X		Vice President
4.	Bob Ihrig	2018-2021		X		Secretary
5.	Diana Olson	2018-2021		X		Treasurer
6.	Marie Slotemaker	2017-2020			X	Member at Large
7.	Derek Brown	2018-2021			X	Member at Large
8.	Jessica Auel	2019-2022		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					Pastor Collette Broady Grund
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by D. Olson; Second by J. Arentson to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Dave Hageman
	3. Secretary's Report Approval of December 17, 2019 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report A. <u>General Fund Balance 12/31</u> : +\$1,732 compared to 11/30 balance of -\$38,201. Major contributions received in December to offset deficit. Tax law changes likely affected this. \$15,000+ estate gift previously approved by Council to apply to deficit not needed & will be set aside for future undetermined use. 10-year history of giving requested from E. Ruiz to determine patterns during the year. Finance Committee will do more data analysis on budget. B. <u>General Fund Offerings</u> : 97% of all budgeted giving at -\$13,429 below budget. C. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : \$1,272,969. \$3,500 received in December to apply to additional principal payments. D. <u>Mission Investment Fund Account Balance</u> : \$117,050 to be used to make monthly mortgage payments of \$8,187 = 14 months.					Diana Olson
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Tanzania Trip</u> : Looking forward to travel on 1/23. Good group of fellow travelers to represent us. Community & Global Board has asked to extend invitation to 2 Iambi representatives to visit BLC again next fall. B. <u>Deficit</u> : In awe of generous response of congregation to overcome end-of-year deficit. Need for better data on monthly income & expense patterns to make more informed financial decisions in the future. C. <u>Christmas Worship</u> : Pleased with quality & attendance at Christmas Eve services and happy to participate on Christmas Day service at Messiah. D. <u>RIC Task Force</u> : Appreciates work of task force and 1/12 adult forum discussion. Positive expectation for passage of welcome statement at April 19 semi-annual meeting. E. <u>Lent</u> : No round-robin of churches planned this year.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>F. <u>Synod News</u>: Annual River Valley Conference meeting scheduled for 2/9 at Our Savior's in Cleveland for 2 hours starting at 2 pm. BLC entitled to 9 representatives. Contact Pr. Jay if interested in attending. New synod bishop Regina Hassanaly will preach at BLC and lead adult forum on 2/23.</p> <p>G. <u>Pastoral Care & Acts</u>: 20 Care Ministry visits and 1 wedding officiated in December/January.</p>	
	<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Family Faith Formation Ministry</u>: Positive developments with programming led by BLC staff members Anna, Sarah & Emily.</p> <p>B. <u>Connections Ministry</u>: BLC starting 3rd week of winter-hosting shelter. Slower volunteer sign-ups this year. Connections Board is reviewing/revising volunteer roles & scheduling. Close to finalizing new location for future seasons. Major fundraising plan to be launched to raise \$\$ to increase staffing.</p> <p>C. <u>Church Management Software Change</u>: New office management software adopted and being coordinated by E. Heinis. Designed to facilitate access/use of member information to aid church operations.</p> <p>D. <u>Lent</u>: BLC pastors working with Mankato churches to develop a common theme and resources around spiritual practices at Lenten services and for home. No multi-church Lenten round-robin planned this year.</p> <p>E. <u>RIC</u>: Proud of and inspired by work of task force. Supports the revised welcome statement developed after 1/12 forum.</p> <p>F. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Made 5 pastoral care visits in December/January and will officiate at 4 member funerals in January.</p>	Pastor Collette Broady Grund
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>2018 Financial Review Update</u>: Planned review meeting scheduled for committee and E. Ruiz on 1/18 postponed due to winter weather. To be rescheduled.</p> <p>B. <u>Financial Review Committee Member Appointment (2020-2023)</u> Dave is still working with F. Larsen (Finance Committee chair) to identify new member to serve 3-year term.</p> <p>C. <u>2019 Stewardship Campaign Update</u>: Total dollar increase in pledges for 2020 of \$21,700 representing 5.54% increase over 2019 pledges. 200 pledges made totaling \$413,272 with 75 pledge increases, 16 decreases and 109 remaining the same. This meets campaign goals of Stewardship Board. Follow-up phone calls effective in increasing submitted pledges.</p> <p>D. <u>RIC Welcome Statement & Voting Procedures</u>: RIC task force revised after 1/12 adult forum. Discussion by Council. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Arentson to endorse revised welcome statement. Approved. Motion by J. Arentson; Second by B. Ihrig to designate the task force-recommended 85% vote required for congregational approval at April 19 semi-annual meeting. Approved. Task force plans to conduct straw poll in February to get a sense of congregational support for welcome statement. A forum will be held on 3/8 for further discussion of statement. The 4/5 forum to cover semi-annual meeting topics will allow for discussion.</p>	<p>Wendy Keenan</p> <p>Dave Hageman</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Jessica Auel</p>
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>2020 Fat Tuesday Basket Donation</u>: FFF Ministry requested silent auction basket donations from Council, boards and committees. Members agreed to provide contributions to fund a basket. W. Keenan offered to coordinate theme & contents of basket.</p>	Bob Ihrig

	B. 2020 Synod Assembly Delegates: May 15-16, Rochester: BLC is entitled to 3 adults & 1 youth/young adult as delegates to annual assembly. B. Ihrig will publicize and collect names of interested BLC members with delegate names to be reviewed and approved at February 18 Council meeting.	Bob Ihrig
	9. Next Council Meeting: February 18, 2020 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Marie Slotemaker	
	10. Adjournment Motion by D. Olson; Second by J. Auel to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Approved.	

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