

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 15, 2020

Title	Council Meeting			President	Wendy Keenan	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	December 15, 2020		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Zoom Online Meeting
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:03 pm	1 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					Mary Bliesmer
	2. Dear Church Book Study: Chapter 5: pp. 63-72					Council
	3. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved					Wendy Keenan
	4. Secretary's Report Approval of November 17, 2020 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve. Approved					Bob Ihrig
	5. Financial Report A. Deficit reduced from -\$15,897.34 on 10/31 to -\$5,261.59 on 11/30 based upon lower monthly expenses. B. Member giving is at 84% of planned income. C. Positive year-end balance anticipated based on previous years. D. BLC members provided with mortgage pledge updates after two years. 2021 is 3 rd year of soft-giving campaign. Most members are current with these pledges.					Diana Olson
B	6. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : Anticipates positive year-end general fund balance. Plan will be needed for use of surplus funds in future. This could include reserve to respond to deficit situations and maintain mortgage payments. To be addressed by Council. B. <u>Future Mortgage Repayment</u> : New mortgage repayment plan will need to be developed in 2021. To be developed by Council. C. <u>Christmas Services</u> : Details of planned Christmas services shared.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang
	7. Associate Pastor's Report – Written A. <u>Connections Shelter</u> : Positive progress so far. Pr. Erica Koser will become full-time starting in January. Shelter is at guest capacity. Bethlehem hosting this week with positive volunteer response. B. <u>Faith Formation</u> : Focusing on virtual events. Planning on delivery to each family to celebrate baptismal birthday or provide a BLC logo blanket. Positive responses with families feeling connected. Thanks to Anna and Children's & Youth boards for creativity in ministry during pandemic.					Pastor Collette Broady Grund

	<p>8. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>COVID-19 Suspension of In-Person Worship Update</u>: Discussion of current health situation in Minnesota and impact on worship services. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to continue indefinite suspension of in-person worship services in 2021 pending new guidelines and information received from MN Health Department. Council will continue to monitor and adjust as appropriate. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>2021 Stewardship Pledge Update</u>: 180 pledges totaling \$380,105 thus far. Goal of 200+ pledging members still to be met. B. Ihrig will solicit additional pledge information from E. Ruiz and communicate to Council</p> <p>C. Evangelism Board Name Change: Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by J. Auel to change name of Evangelism Board to <u>Welcome and Inclusion Board</u>. Approved. B. Ihrig will update the board responsibility page to reflect change and approval date.</p>	<p>Council Members</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p>
	<p>9. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Financial Review Committee Member Selection: 2021-23</u> Position current held by W. Keenan is up for election. She has chosen not to assume another term. BLC member names proposed for consideration: J. Bruns, J. Erdman; K. Rebelein, D. Hageman. Action: B. Ihrig will contact and report to Council.</p> <p>B. <u>Care Ministry - Connection with BLC Members</u>: Review held of current pastoral, staff and member efforts to formally and informally connect with BLC members during the pandemic. Pastors are making weekly phone calls to members. Council members encouraged to participate with future contacts. Family Faith Formation is also engaging children and young people to connect with older members with letters and pictures.</p>	<p>Wendy Keenan</p> <p>B. Ihrig, M. Bliesmer</p>
	<p>10. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Jessica Auel</p>	
	<p>11. Adjournment Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Approved.</p>	

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