

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

<b>Title</b>	Council Meeting			<b>President</b>	Dave Hageman	
<b>Purpose</b>	Monthly Business			<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Ihrig	
<b>Date</b>	December 17, 2019		<b>Time</b>	7:00 p.m.	<b>Location</b>	Grounds for Joy
<b>Meeting Time</b>	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:38 pm	1 hr 38 min			
<b>Council Members</b>				<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Position</b>
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
11.	Marcia Nagel – RIC Task Force Representative			X		Guest
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>				<b>PRESENTER</b>	
7:00 p.m.	<b>1. Devotions</b>				Jessica Auel	
	<b>2. Additions to &amp; Approval of the Agenda</b> <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Brown. Approved				Dave Hageman	
	<b>3. Secretary's Report</b> Approval of November 19, 2019 Minutes <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson. Approved				Bob Ihrig	
	<b>4. Financial Report</b> A. <u>General Fund Balance</u> : Deficit on November 30 increased to <b>-\$38,201</b> from October 31 deficit of <b>-\$29,499</b> . Hopeful that December giving will reduce this deficit. Discussion of monthly mission project giving vs. general fund giving. Wednesday supper costs not being covered by donations. B. <u>General Fund Offerings</u> : 88% of pledged/unpledged budgeted giving = <b>\$55,761 below budget</b> C. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : \$1,288,403 D. <u>Mission Investment Fund Account Balance</u> : \$177,779 (used to make monthly mortgage payments of \$8,187) E. <b>Motion</b> by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Arentson to use estate gift of \$15,750 to apply to general fund balance. Pastoral letter will be sent to all BLC members with this information and encourage them to catch up on pledges to further reduce deficit. F. <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by Pr. Collette to direct E. Ruiz & Finance Committee to explore the background causes of BLC financial situation and provide information to Council at January Council meeting.				Diana Olson	
	<b>5. Lead Pastor's Report</b> A. <u>Deficit</u> : Concerned about continued growth of general fund deficit from October through November. B. <u>Holiday Worship</u> : Staff is preparing for worship services in December. C. <u>Tanzania Trip</u> : Final arrangements being made for January trip. D. <u>Interfaith Work</u> : Meaningful Thanksgiving interfaith worship service. 9 <sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students to begin study of Islam, Judaism and other Christian traditions in January.				Pastor Jay Dahlvang	

	<p>E. <u>Financial Peace</u>: Registration open for winter class to start on January 6. Andy &amp; Roxanne Skane will lead class again.</p> <p>F. <u>New Members: Motion</u> by D. Olson; Second by W. Keenan to approve 3 families as new BLC members (Valentina Bey and Luis Meija, Amy Eischens and Sophie, Robb and Kelly Wock). Approved. To be welcomed at December 22 worship service.</p> <p>G. <u>Pastoral Care &amp; Acts</u>: Conducted 36 Care Ministry Visits and 1 funeral for a community member with ties to BLC.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Associate Pastor's Report</b></p> <p>A. <u>Family Faith Formation Ministry</u>: Successful Christmas program held. Staff has successfully integrated E. Heinis with roles clarified. Children's &amp; Youth Boards continue to discern their responsibilities in relation to staff. Families engaged and pleased with FFF ministry.</p> <p>B. <u>Connections Ministry</u>: BLC completed 2<sup>nd</sup> week of hosting this month. More difficulty encountered in filling volunteer spots. Need for help with coordinating team to recruit/train volunteers. Will host again in January. Connections developing business plan to move to a year-round shelter in a permanent location. This would include increased staffing and purchase/lease of a new site. Connections has been approved for IRS non-profit status. Current BLC account used for Connections finances to be closed with separate finances to be in operation by end of January 2020.</p> <p>C. <u>SE MN Synod</u>: Asked to serve on team that will re-envision synod assembly with changes planned for May 2021. BLC will host worship for assembly members in Mankato that year. Continues to chair Community Accompaniment Table that works on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in the synod.</p>	<p>Pastor Collette Broady Grund</p>
	<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>Strategic Planning Update</u>: Positive current developments with 52 Stories, RIC Task Force and care visitations with members. Discussion of need to do more to enhance BLC leadership by developing a model for recruitment and training of BLC leaders.</p> <p>B. <u>2018-19 Financial Review Update</u>: Meeting with E. Ruiz set for January 18 to review 2018 accounts and complete review.</p> <p>C. <u>2019 Stewardship Campaign Update</u>: Tabled to January Council meeting due to unavailability of information from E. Ruiz.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Wendy Keenan</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p><b>8. New Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>Financial Review Committee Member Appointment</u>: Tabled to January Council meeting when nomination will be presented by Finance Committee.</p> <p>B. <u>RIC Mission Statement &amp; Voting Procedures</u>:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Proposed RIC Welcome Statement for April semi-annual meeting approval by congregation presented for discussion and approval by Council. This is required to qualify for official RIC designation. Wording of paragraph #3 detailing who is to be included in welcome addressed as to whether it should be broad as proposed or more focused. With uncertainty about this language, task force directed to continue conversations and return to January Council meeting with agreed upon language as well as specific voting % proposed to approve by congregation.</li> <li>•January 13 Adult Forum scheduled for task force to discuss proposed statement with BLC members and make appropriate changes for presentation to Council.</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Dave Hageman</p> <p>M. Nagel, J. Auel</p>

	<p>•<u>Proposed straw poll</u> to be held prior to April semi-annual meeting explained.</p> <p>C. <u>Pastoral Housing Allowance Resolution:</u>  <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to designate \$24,000 of Pr. Jay's 2020 salary and \$25,000 of Pr. Collette's 2020 salary as housing allowance to comply with IRS tax policies. Approved.</p>	Council
	<p><b>9. Next Council Meeting: January 21, 2020 7:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Devotions: Pastor Collette Broady Grund</b></p>	
	<p><b>10. Adjournment</b>  <u>Motion</u> by D. Brown; Second by W. Keenan to adjourn at 8:38 pm. Approved.</p>	

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