

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 20, 2022

Title	Council Meeting			President	Mary Bliesmer	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	December 20, 2022		Time	7:00 pm	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	7:42 pm	42 min			
Council Members – Terms of Office				Present	Absent	Position
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
TIME	TOPIC					PRESENTER
7:00 pm	1. Devotions					Jessica Auel
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda					Mary Bliesmer
	3. Secretary's Report November 15, 2022 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report November 30, 2022 Report A. November 30 report still to be completed by Financial Secretary this month upon return from personal vacation. B. Positive general fund balance of \$9,000+ reported as of 11/30. C. Plans being made to establish regular monthly meeting between treasurer & financial secretary to review financial information. D. BLC Finance Committee scheduled to meet 1 st Wednesday of January 2023.					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Capital Campaign</u> : \$850,000+ pledged so far to mortgage payoff. Thank-you congregational reception held on 12/18. Personal thank-you notes being sent to pledging members. B. <u>Refugee/Asylum Seeker Resettlement</u> : Pr. Jacie, C. Meyers-Dobler & A. Haigh representing BLC on Mankato church group coordinating this issue. More to be reported by Pr. Jacie at this meeting. C. <u>BLC Men's Group</u> : Good turnout for bowling tournament in December. Plans for January breakfast meeting to learn about YMCA mentoring program. D. <u>BLC Strategic Plan</u> : Will present updated plan at this meeting. See Old Business. E. <u>New Members</u> : Orientation scheduled in January with 5 individuals /couples/families invited to attend and join BLC. F. <u>Advent/Christmas Worship</u> : Planning in progress for worship services. Positive music contributions led by C. Leftridge. G. <u>Worship Issues</u> : Plans for returning to communion intinction at worship. Planning weekly printed event handout for worship. H. <u>Samaritan Fund</u> : Distributed \$2,500 to 6 BLC individuals/families to provide needed financial assistance. I. <u>Financial Reviews</u> : 2021 financial review held with report pending.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>Meeting planned to complete 2022 review involving Financial Secretary & 3-member Financial Review Committee.</p> <p>J. <u>Synod Meetings for Councils</u>: Scheduled on 2/12 in LeSuer & on 3/19 in Albert Lea for synod Council members.</p> <p>K. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Completed 33 pastoral care visits, officiated a member wedding and 2 non-member funerals since last report.</p>	
	<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Refugee/Asylum Seeker Resettlement Update</u>: Attended local meeting on 12/8 involving BLC, Calvary, Grace, Messiah & Christ the King churches. Welcoming Team formed from the church representatives. Amy Haigh & Pr. Jacie to represent BLC on Team. Group responded positively to 12/16 emergency appeal from synod to host refugee family of 4 from Nicaragua. Need for assistance from churches to purchase gift cards for grocery & other stores; provide local transportation & provide cash-paying jobs at \$15 minimum pay to accommodate refugee income procedures. Discussion held on providing a 2023 BLC adult forum with synod staff coordinator Kathy Chatelaine & local church reps. B. Ihrig will provide Pr. Jacie with available dates in January/February for forum scheduling.</p> <p>B. <u>Children, Youth & Family</u>: Met with Youth Board on 12/13 to begin discussion of how to reach out and connect with high school youth consistent with first goal of strategic plan. Goal to hold a youth meeting or event each month. Will continue working with Youth Board moving forward.</p> <p>C. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Will focus on youth & young adults. Plans to start one-on-one meetings with BLC young adults in January and to connect with high school students as well.</p>	Pastor Jacie Richmond
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Capital Campaign Update</u>: Campaign near completion with positive \$850,000+ pledged for \$1 million mortgage. Thank-you letters sent to pledging BLC members. Future pledges encouraged to move closer to mortgage payoff goal & 2023 annual funding. Positive results overall and significant volunteer commitment.</p> <p>B. <u>Shared Ministry to Welcome Refugee/Asylum Seeker</u>: See Associate Pastor Report.</p> <p>C. <u>2022-26 Strategic Plan Update</u>: 5 major Strategic Goals and supporting 37 Objectives & Practices reviewed. Goal is for Council to review work & progress on these on a quarterly basis. B. Ihrig will identify potential BLC groups to work on specific aspects of the plan & report to Council at January meeting.</p>	<p>Pr. Jay, M. Bliesmer, B. Ihrig</p> <p>Pr. Jacie Richmond</p> <p>Pr. Jay Dahlvang</p>
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Mortgage Payment Schedule</u>: Discussion of goal to make regular payments to mortgage principal as capital campaign funds are received during the next 3 years. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to maintain a one-year balance in the Mission Investment Fund to cover monthly \$8,187 mortgage payments. All funds received in excess of this balance will be applied in a timely manner to principal payoffs. Approved. Plans are to celebrate \$100,000 mortgage payoffs as they are made.</p>	Pastor Jay Dahlvang
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 7:00 pm Devotions: Matt Drewitz</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment Motion by B. Ihrig & Jason Bruns to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Approved.</p>	