

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 21, 2021

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| Title | Council Meeting | | | President | James Arentson | |
| Purpose | Monthly Business | | | Secretary | Bob Ihrig | |
| Date | December 21, 2021 | | Time | 7:00 p.m. | Location | Grounds for Joy |
| Meeting Time | Start | Stop | Total Time | | | Council Members & Guests |
| | 7:00 pm | 9:45 pm | 2 hr,45 min | | | |
| Council Members – Terms of Office | | | | Present | Absent | Position |
| 1. | James Arentson | 2021-2022 | | X | | President |
| 2. | Mary Bliesmer | 2021-2022 | | X | | President-Elect |
| 3. | Jason Bruns | 2021-2022 | | | X | Vice President |
| 4. | Bob Ihrig | 2021-2024 | | X | | Secretary |
| 5. | Jeremy Carter | 2021-2024 | | X | | Treasurer |
| 6. | Jessica Auel | 2019-2022 | | X | | Member at Large |
| 7. | Aaron Geringer | 2020-2023 | | X | | Member at Large |
| 8. | Matt Drewitz | 2021-2024 | | X | | Member at Large |
| 9. | Pastor Jay Dahlvang | | | X | | Lead Pastor |
| 10. | Pastor Kristen Venne | | | X | | Transition Pastor |
| TIME | TOPIC | | | | | PRESENTER |
| 7:00 p.m. | 1. Devotions & Balcony Question | | | | | Jessica Auel |
| | 2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Drewitz to approve agenda. Approved. | | | | | James Arentson |
| | 3. Secretary's Report November 16, 2021 Minutes Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to approve minutes. Approved. | | | | | Bob Ihrig |
| | 4. Financial Report November 30, 2021 Report A. November 30 general fund balance: -\$12,256 (Increase from October 31 deficit) B. 89% of estimated monthly giving received. C. Hopeful for positive December balance given previous years. | | | | | Jeremy Carter |
| | 5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Monthly Mission</u> : \$12,100 received thus far for God's Global Barnyard as monthly mission. Goal is \$12,000. B. <u>Laurie Rossow Celebration</u> : 1/9 celebration planned at 10 am to recognize Laurie for 12 years of music leadership service. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve \$500 congregational gift. Approved. C. <u>New Members</u> : Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Auel to approve Richard & Karen Bouquet as returning members to BLC. Approved. D. <u>Flag Conversation Moderator</u> : Unsuccessful thus far with 2 contacts for moderator for January 23 conversation. E. <u>Personnel</u> : Addressed E. Heinis request for 2022 salary change with Personnel Committee. To be discussed as New Business. F. <u>Strategic Planning</u> : Congregational listening sessions completed. Key insights and goals identified. January 9 Day of Remembering planned with congregation at 10:30 am. G. <u>Call Committee</u> : Working on BLC ministry site profile based on information gained from strategic planning process. H. <u>Community & Global Mission Board</u> : Approved 2 new monthly mission partners: House of Hope, Doctors Without Borders. Board is rovidng Lunch for a Buck at Crossroads Campus Ministry on 1 st Tuesday in February-May. | | | | | Pastor Jay Dahlvang |

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| | <p>I. <u>Supporting BLC Families</u>: \$4,500 distributed to BLC families experiencing financial challenges.</p> <p>J. <u>2022 Stewardship Pledges</u>: 152 pledges received thus far with +\$43,596 pledged over 2021 pledges. Follow-up letters being sent to unpledged members. Thank-you notes sent & reception held on December 5.</p> <p>K. <u>Worship Time Survey</u>: Prepared to share/discuss results of survey on future Sunday worship time.</p> <p>L. <u>Capital Campaign Planning</u>: Recommendation for Stewardship Board to assume responsibility for reviewing/recommending company to coordinate next capital campaign. See New Business.</p> <p>M. <u>Pastoral Care/Acts</u>: Made 28 care visits and presided over 2 non-member funerals during last month.</p> | |
| | <p>6. Transition Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Call Committee</u>: Waiting for information from Strategic Planning Committee listening sessions & Day of Remembering to complete ministry site profile. Profile will introduce BLC to synods and pastoral candidates. To be shared with congregation once completed. Congregational survey also to be developed regarding desired skills and priority areas for work for the new associate pastor. Scheduled to meet again on January 16.</p> <p>B. <u>Worship Activities</u>: Enjoyed working with Anna & Kaitlin on children's Christmas programs. Planning "Come As You Are" worship service on January 5.</p> <p>C. <u>Member Interaction</u>: Getting to know BLC members by name and involvement in the church.</p> | <p>Pastor Kristen Venne</p> |
| | <p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>BLC COVID-19 Plan Update</u>: Pew seating cards have been removed. Fewer comments being made by members about masks. Welcome cards to be updated and returned to pew pockets. Current practices for communion & offering to be continued.</p> <p>B. <u>January 23 Congregation Conversation on Flags in the Sanctuary</u>: Discussion of other moderators to contact. Follow-up to be done by Aaron, Jessica and James on suggested individuals.</p> <p>C. <u>Personnel: Music Director & Choir Director Update</u>: Review of interim music leadership with C. Leftridge & L. Rossow held on December 1. Positive experience was reported. Long-term posting of 2 music positions made with applications due by 12/17. Only application received from C. Leftridge. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to appoint him to 2 positions. Approved.</p> <p>D. <u>Financial Review Committee – Frank Larsen Nomination</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Drewtiz to approve Frank to another 3-year term on annual review committee. Approved.</p> | <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> |
| | <p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Personnel: FFF Director Sabbatical Planning Update</u>: Application developed by Personnel Committee & sent to A. Wencl for completion by 12/31. Meeting to be held on 1/11 to review application & develop plan for 6-week sabbatical in May/June. Personnel committee will coordinate sabbatical leave.</p> <p>B. <u>Sunday Worship Time Survey</u>: 80 members responded with positive support for change to 9:30 am. FFF activities & adult forums would start at 10:45 am. Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by B. Ihrig to approve worship time change to 9:30 beginning on February 6. Approved.</p> | <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> |

