

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Title	Council Meeting			President	Jason Bruns	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	February 20, 2024		Time	7:00 pm	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members/Guests
	7:00 pm	7:50 pm	50 minutes			
Council Members			Terms of Office	Present	Absent	Position
1.	Jason Bruns		2023-2024	X		President
2.	Marie Slotemaker		2023-2024	X		President-Elect
3.	Matt Drewitz		2023-2024	X		Vice President
4.	Bob Ihrig		2021-2024	X		Secretary
5.	Jeremy Carter		2021-2024	X		Treasurer
6.	Josie Lust		2022-2025	X		Member at Large
7.	Amanda Neubert		2023-2024		X	Member at Large
8.	Cynthia Zacharias		2023-2026	X		Member at Large
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Lead Pastor
10.	Pastor Jacie Richmond			X		Associate Pastor
	TOPIC					PRESENTER
1.	Devotions					Cynthia Zacharias
2.	Additions to & Approval of the Agenda: <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve the printed agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Jason Bruns
3.	Secretary's Report January 16, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Drewitz to approve printed minutes. Approved					Bob Ihrig
4.	Financial Report January 31, 2024 Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : The December 2023 deficit of -\$16,923.49 declined to a deficit of -\$4,701,80 by the end of January. Member giving in 2023 was 97% of projected income. B. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : The January 31 principal balance was reduced by another principal payment to \$483,337.13. Capital campaign donations are responsible for the mortgage balance from the original \$1.1 million. C. <u>Finance Committee</u> : Met in February and will meet again in April. A plan is being developed to address big expenditures in future months.					Jeremy Carter
5.	Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Finances</u> : Encouraged by reduction in mortgage balance under \$500,000 and reduction in general fund deficit from the end of 2023. B. <u>Synod Work</u> : Continuing to work with bishop to mitigate a synod congregational conflict as part of bishop's committee. C. <u>WELCOME Meeting</u> : Attended meeting with other area clergy to continue support for Cruz family. D. <u>Continuing Education</u> : Completed online class on the work of Parker Palmer that will support work with Life in Spirit group at BLC. E. <u>Men's Group</u> : 2 events held in January and February. F. <u>City of Mankato Strategic Planning</u> : BLC hosted listening session for local clergy with Mankato city manager and staff on strategic plan. G. <u>REACH Expansion Request</u> : BLC Facility Board representatives met with REACH/LSS leadership to discuss need for additional space to conduct confidential meetings with youth clients. BLC Youth Room being explored as possible site. More conversations to be held. H. <u>Lutheran Liturgy Adult Forum</u> : Enjoyed working with Pr. Jacie and leading February 18 forum. I. <u>Minnesota Valley Conference Meeting</u> : Attended with Pr. Jacie & B. Ihrig on February 18 in Waseca. BLC to host meeting next year.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>J. <u>Theft</u>: Worked with Amy Haigh and Mankato public safety to address donation theft at recent Wednesday night supper. Future trespassing provisions enacted for person involved.</p> <p>K. <u>Care Ministry</u>: Made 23 care ministry visits and officiated one member memorial & one non-member memorial service in January.</p>	
6.	<p>Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Youth/Young Adults</u>: Successful Fat Tuesday event held on February 13. Summer Youth Gathering plans continue to be made with youth and adult leaders. Young adults group still struggling to consistently connect with the group. Plans to conduct a trial run with social media Discord platform to enhance engagement.</p> <p>B. <u>Worship</u>: Will participate in round robin with other churches for Lent Wednesday night services.</p> <p>C. <u>WELCOME</u>: Cruz family continues to do well. Working to obtain driver's license as result of new state law. Family will attend May 5 adult forum update on WELCOME. Positive team meeting held in January with pastors from 5 congregations to discuss 2024 goals and activities.</p> <p>D. <u>Ecumenical</u>: New Mankato ministerial association met again in January. Discussed new Mankato strategic plan with city manager. Continuing weekly text studies on Tuesday mornings. Attended installation of Pastor Jenna Couch at Crossroads Campus Ministry on February 18.</p>	Pastor Jacie Richmond
7.	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Personnel Committee Update</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>BLC Employee Sick and Safe Leave (ESST) Policy Update</u>: Updated BLC Personnel Handbook with new sick leave details provided to all BLC employees. Paychecks to provide status of leave time available. <u>Weekend Janitor Benny Montalbo 6-Month Review</u>: Positive self-review completed along with Molly Nelson coordinator review of performance. <p>B. <u>2022-26 Strategic Plan Updates</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Strategic Plan Goal #2 Progress Report</u>: Goal #2 "We will empower our members to share the gifts God has given us" reviewed with updates on positive progress on 9 objectives/practices. <u>Community Leader Interview Report</u>: Interview conducted with Brendan Scheel regarding community needs. Emphasis on addressing youth and mental health issue aligning with United Way commitment <p>C. <u>MN River Conference February 18 Annual Meeting Update</u>: Held at Grace Lutheran, Waseca. Conducted elections, approved 2024 budget and heard synod reports. 2025 conference meeting to be held at BLC on February 16. Synod office to move from Rochester to Northfield in April.</p> <p>D. <u>2024-25 BLC Nominations Update</u>: 8 of 39 Council/board/committee positions have identified candidates for new or renewed terms. March 15 deadline for nominations from groups in preparation for April 21 semi-annual meeting.</p> <p>E. <u>SE MN Synod Assembly Delegate Approval: Bob Ihrig, Amy Haigh: Motion</u> by Pr. Jay; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve Amy & Bob as BLC delegates to May 11 synod assembly in Mankato. Approved.</p> <p>F. <u>Fat Tuesday Basket Council Contribution Update</u>: "Whipping Up Break-fast" basket and \$65 donation provided on behalf of Council members.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pr. Jay, Pr. Jacie</p> <p>Jeremy Carter</p> <p>Pr. Jay, Pr. Jacie, B. Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Marie Slotemaker</p>
8.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. <u>2024-27 Personnel Committee Members: Ray Beckel, Pru Gushwa: Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by C. Zacharias to approve Ray & Pru to new 3-year terms on committee; Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Stewardship Board Legacy Giving Dream List Review & Approval</u>: Annual legacy giving mailing planned for March. List of "Dream Projects" for BLC member planning reviewed and approved.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

