

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 21, 2023

Title	Council Meeting			President	Mary Bliesmer	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	February 21, 2023		Time	7:00 pm	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:03 pm	1 hr, 3 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					Pastor Jay Dahlvang
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve printed agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Mary Bliesmer
	3. Secretary's Report January 17, 2023 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Drewitz to approve printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report January 31, 2023 Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : Balance of +\$1,278.10 with member giving at 106% of budgeted giving. B. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : \$860,721.62 after \$145,000 advance principal payment in January. Additional principal payment planned for Feb.					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Capital Campaign & Mortgage Reduction</u> : Celebrated a major reduction with \$100,000 candy bars for members. Thank-you notes written to BLC members who pledged to capital campaign. B. <u>Lenten Worship Planning</u> : Lenten series planning & promoted. Plans to involve pastors who are BLC members with special meditations. Will consider adding back noon services next year. C. <u>Men's Group</u> : Small turnout at last event with events scheduled for March & April. D. <u>LSS Lease</u> : See New Business C for details. E. <u>New Members</u> : See New Business B for details. They will be invited to the next orientation. F. <u>Financial Review</u> : Information received about what should be considered in an annual review. Committee scheduled to meet on Saturday to conduct 2022 review. See Old Business B. G. <u>Council Events</u> : Councils as Leaders synod event to be held on 3/19 at Albert Lea. Council members should contact Pr. Jay if interested. H. <u>Mentoring</u> : Serving as a school-based mentor for the YMCA.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>I. <u>40 Together for Lent</u>: Will request financial support from BLC Endowment Board to provide \$1 per member offering for Lent to support companion synod partners in Tanzania, Colombia, S. Sudan.</p> <p>J. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Made 27 care visits since last report. Hosted meeting with BLC Care Ministry Team who continue to provide good care to BLC members. Officiated one member funeral.</p>	
	<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Youth Ministry</u>: Working with BLC Youth Board to plan monthly gatherings for BLC high school youth with first event planned in March. Future events will be based upon identified needs by youth.</p> <p>B. <u>WELCOME Update</u>: Plans being made for fundraising by the 5 churches involved with sponsoring/supporting Nicaraguan family relocated in Mankato. Future Temple Talk & visit by the family to Bethlehem are in the works.</p> <p>C. <u>Continuing Education</u>: Attended mental health program at Gustavus to think about a church action plan dealing with mental health challenges of members & community visitors. Materials will be developed to support BLC youth. Willing to serve as resource person on mental health subject. BLC Adult Education considering mental health forum series next year.</p> <p>D. <u>RIC</u>: Pastors giving thought into how to acknowledge Reconciling in Christ (RIC) commitment at BLC at Wednesday night worship in conjunction with annual RIC Sunday recognition.</p> <p>E. <u>Wednesday Worship Service & Supper</u>: Based upon recent experience, thought is being given to occasionally integrating Wednesday night supper in dining room with worship service next year. Pastors will consider this in planning future worship.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond</p>
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Asylum Seeker Family Update</u>: Renovations completed on rental house with cleaning to be completed by church volunteers. Hope to move family into house in next month.</p> <p>B. <u>BLC Financial Review Format Approval</u>: Pr. Jay shared information from BLC members with accounting backgrounds on what is needed in the annual financial review. B. Ihrig shared Council-approved 2020 review process/timeline. What is needed is a standardized report form to be used each year to guide the committee. Two ELCA documents provide very useful information for this. Action: Bob offered to draft a proposed report form based upon this information for Council review at the March 21 meeting.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p>
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Personnel Committee: 6-Month Performance Review-Molly Nelson</u>: Review completed on February 6 by Pr. Jay, B. Ihrig & Ray Beckel of Congregational Services Coordinator with positive results.</p> <p>B. <u>New BLC Member Approval: Motion</u> by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approve new BLC members: Char Bezanson & Doug Tschann; Connor & Crystal Johnson and Oliver; Dennis Frank & Kristen Simon-Frank. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>LSS Lease Renewal</u>: Pastor Jay has communicated with LSS local director regarding office lease at Bethlehem that expires 8/31. Call to be held with statewide facilities director to extend lease.</p> <p>D. <u>May 6 SE MN Synod Assembly, Mankato: BLC Delegates</u>: BLC entitled to 3 adults & 1 youth/young adult as delegates to assembly at Mayo Clinic Event Center in Mankato. No Council members present expressed interest in being delegate. Action: Bob will contact absent members J. Auel, M. Slotemaker &</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

	<p>A. Geringer regarding possible interest. He will post delegate positions for BLC members to consider with deadline of March 20. Council will approve at March 21 meeting.</p> <p>E. <u>Nominating Committee & Annual Reports</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Board/Committee Ballot – April 23 Semi-Annual Meeting:</u> The ballot for Council/boards/committee for 2023-24 was reviewed. A total of 28 positions + 6 vacancies are open for election. Chairs requested to identify continuing and new members for election by March 15 to complete ballot. 2. <u>Council Vice-President & Member-At Large Positions:</u> 2 Council positions (V-President, Member-at-Large) up for election. Pr. Jay provided Bob with names to contact for ballot. 3. <u>Annual Reports for April 23 Semi-Annual Meeting:</u> Chairs of boards/committees contacted to complete annual reports by March 25 to present to semi-annual meeting. 	<p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:00 pm Devotions: Aaron Geringer</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment <u>Motion</u> by J. Bruns; 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.