

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

## March 15, 2022

<b>Title</b>	Council Meeting			<b>President</b>	James Arentson	
<b>Purpose</b>	Monthly Business			<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Ihrig	
<b>Date</b>	March 15, 2022		<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	8:40 pm	1 hr, 40 mn			
<b>Council Members – Terms of Office</b>				<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Position</b>
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
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>					<b>PRESENTER</b>
7:00 p.m.	<b>1. Devotions &amp; Balcony Question</b>					Pastor Jay Dahlvang
	<b>2. Additions to &amp; Approval of the Agenda</b> <u>Motion</u> by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approved printed agenda with flexibility. Approved.					James Arentson
	<b>3. Secretary’s Report</b> February 15, 2022 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve minutes as printed. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	<b>4. Financial Report</b> February 28, 2022 Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : 2/28 balance of \$601.15. A number of members paid their total 2021 gifts in February. \$20,000 in gifts placed in savings account for disbursement to general fund at \$2,000 per month for next 10 months. B. <u>Mortgage Principal Balance</u> : \$1,121,310.13. Monthly principal payments of \$8,187.					Jeremy Carter
	<b>5. Lead Pastor’s Report</b> A. <u>Missionary Sponsorship</u> : Community & Global recommends the start of a sponsorship relationship with Pr. Kristen Engstrom, now deployed as a missionary to Zambia. This would be similar to our sponsorship of the Jacobsons – prayer, promoting awareness of her mission, connecting with her and providing financial support. To be considered as a New Business topic for discussion and decision. B. <u>Strategic Plan</u> : Committee members met with key community leaders to ask what the community needs and how our church can help meet those needs. Results will be shared at next meeting on 3/14 with proposed goals to be formed. Plans will be made to bring the committee and Council together to review and choose final goals for approval by congregation. C. <u>Public Safety Meeting</u> : Mankato Public Safety representative will meet with BLC representatives to review BLC safety protocols on March 30 at 3 pm in Grounds for Joy. All are invited. D. <u>Lunch for a Bunch</u> : Men’s Group served lunch in March to 30 MSU staff, faculty & students at Crossroads Campus Ministry with positive outcomes.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>E. <u>Capital Campaign Recommendation</u>: Stewardship Board unanimously recommends GSB company to lead us in capital campaign after interviews with GSB &amp; Walsh &amp; Associates. To be considered as a New Business topic for recommendation to the congregation at 4/10 semi-annual meeting.</p> <p>F. <u>Planned Meetings</u>: Will attend synod Councils as Leaders meeting with 3 Council members on 3/20. Will also be attending a 2-day Intern-ship Supervisor meeting online and a day-long Synod Global Ministry meeting.</p> <p>G. <u>Pastoral Ministry &amp; Care</u>: 21 care ministry visits made. Prepared for an adult baptism and meeting with 3 couples planning to be married at BLC in 2022. Officiated a member funeral service and planning Pr. Al Girtz memorial service on 3/18.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Transition Pastor's Report</b></p> <p>A. <u>Call Committee</u>: Working on the required Ministry Site Profile that includes the work of the Strategic Planning committee and congregational surveys. Shared common themes and goals resulting from community leader interviews by strategic team. Consensus exists on who BLC is and what we should be looking for in the next associate pastor. Town Hall meeting scheduled on 5/15 after Sunday worship to present Profile to congregation.</p> <p>B. <u>Confirmation &amp; Milestone Ministries</u>: Continuing to support these activities.</p> <p>C. <u>Book of Faith Bible Study</u>: Led the study on the book of Ruth.</p>	<p>Pastor Kristen Venne</p>
	<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>BLC COVID-19 Plan Update</u>: Majority of BLC members enthusiastic about the recent changes in masking protocols. Reinstatement of traditional communion &amp; offering being planned given positive health situation changes.</p> <p>B. <u>Flags in the Church Proposal</u>: Discussed tabled options from 2/15 Council meeting. <b>Motion</b> by M. Bliesmer; Second by B. Ihrig to approve option that calls for placement U.S. &amp; "Diversity &amp; Inclusion" flags on either side of the main door to sanctuary with explanatory text provided on pillars at entrance. Approved. Executive Committee will develop a statement to share with congregation.</p> <p>C. <u>Strategic Plan Update</u>: See Lead Pastor report for background. Committee will meet with Council on April 4 from 5:30-8:30 pm to review and finalize goals for congregation. Goals will be sent out in advance to committee &amp; Council members.</p> <p>D. <u>Call Committee Update</u>: See Transition Pastor report. May 15 Town Hall meeting after worship service planned to present &amp; discuss Ministry Site Profile. Council vote scheduled on May 17.</p> <p>E. <u>Anna Wencil Sabbatical Leave Update</u>: Sabbatical planning is continuing with BLC pastors, staff, Children's &amp; Youth Boards. Anna's leave will start on April 11 and conclude on May 22. Sending ceremony at worship is planned for April 10 and tentative welcoming ceremony is planned for May 29 at worship and after during coffee hour.</p> <p>F. <u>Lutheran Social Service Lease Renewal Update</u>: Waiting for communication from LSS Facilities staff to finalize proposed 1-year lease agreed to at 2/15 Council meeting.</p> <p>G. <u>LSS Meals on Wheels Update</u>: BLC interest in hosting this LSS program communicated to LSS. No update available yet on plans.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>James Arentson</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pr. Kristen Venne</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>James Arentson, Pr. Jay</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p>

	<p><b>8. New Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>May 7 Synod Assembly Delegate Recommendation: <b>Motion</b></u> by Pr. Jay; Second by A. Geringer to approve Jason Bruns, Bob Ihrig, Marian Mallory as delegates. Motion approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Stewardship Committee: Capital Campaign Company Proposal: <b>Motion</b></u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to recommend GSB Company to congregation at 4/10 semi-annual meeting for approval. Background information shared. Motion approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Missionary Sponsorship for Pastor Kristin Engstrom: <b>Motion</b></u> by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Bruns to establish BLC sponsorship of Pr. Kristin Engstrom for missionary work in Zambia. This will consist of establishing &amp; maintaining relationship with her, praying for her and providing annual financial support. BLC Endowment Board approved \$2,000 as support. Motion approved.</p> <p>D. <u>Nominating Committee Update</u></p> <p>1. <u>April 10 Semi-Annual Meeting Ballot Update:</u> Updated ballot reviewed. 12 positions on Council &amp; boards/committees still to be filled. Nominating Committee will continue to work on filling these positions.</p> <p>2. <u>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Nominations: <b>Motion</b></u> by M. Bliesmer; Second by J. Auel to approve Mark Woelfel &amp; Bob Ihrig to new 3-year terms on Finance &amp; Personnel Committees respectively. Motion approved.</p> <p>E. <u>Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda:</u> The proposed April 10 semi-annual meeting agenda was reviewed and revised. New Business topics will include: Election of Officers/Council, Board/Committee Members; Strategic Plan Update, Call Committee Update and Approval of Capital Campaign Company. <u><b>Motion</b></u> by J. Auel, Second by Pr. Jay to approve agenda. Approved.</p> <p>F. <u>2022 Council Annual Report:</u> The proposed 2022 Council annual report was presented for review and revision. Additional information regarding mortgage payments &amp; current status will be included. Council members encouraged to suggest edits. B. Ihrig will submit final report by 3/25 deadline for April 10 semi-annual meeting.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p><b>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 7:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Devotions: Pr. Kristen Venne</b></p>	
	<p><b>10. Adjournment <u>Motion</u></b> by Pr. Jay; Second by J.Auel to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Approved</p>	

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