

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 16, 2021

| Title | | Council Meeting | | President | Wendy Keenan | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Purpose | | Monthly Business | | Secretary | Bob Ihrig | | |
| Date | | March 16, 2021 | | Time | 7:00 p.m. | Location | Zoom Online Meeting |
| Meeting Time | | Start | Stop | Total Time | | Council Members & Guests | |
| | | 7:00 pm | 8:45 pm | 1 hr 45 min | | | |
| Council Members | | | | Present | Absent | Position | |
| 1. | Wendy Keenan | | | X | | President | |
| 2. | James Arentson | | | X | | President-Elect | |
| 3. | Mary Bliesmer | | | X | | Vice President | |
| 4. | Bob Ihrig | 2018-2021 | | X | | Secretary | |
| 5. | Diana Olson | 2018-2021 | | X | | Treasurer | |
| 6. | Derek Brown | 2018-2021 | | X | | Member at Large | |
| 7. | Jessica Auel | 2019-2022 | | X | | Member at Large | |
| 8. | Aaron Geringer | 2020-2023 | | X | | Member at Large | |
| 9. | Pastor Jay Dahlvang | | | X | | Lead Pastor | |
| 10. | Pastor Collette Broady Grund | | | | X | Associate Pastor | |
| TOPIC | | | | | | | PRESENTER |
| 1 | Devotions | | | | | | Pastor Jay Dahlvang |
| 2 | Dear Church Book Study: Chapter 8: pp. 99-109 | | | | | | Council |
| 3 | Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by M. Bliesmer; Second by D. Olson to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved. | | | | | | Wendy Keenan |
| 4 | Secretary's Report Approval of February 16, 2021 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to approve minutes as printed. Approved. | | | | | | Bob Ihrig |
| 5 | Financial Report A. February 28 general fund balance: +\$2,150 B. Monthly financial reports to be completed & sent to Council for review C. Mission Fund Balance for mortgage payments: \$209,120 = 2 years covered (This includes the \$86,600 applied from 2020 budget surplus) | | | | | | Diana Olson |
| 6 | Lead Pastor's Report – Written A. <u>Sabbatical Leave Interim Pastor</u> : Kristin Engstrom has accepted our offer to serve Bethlehem as 2/3 sabbatical interim pastor beginning May 3. She will be paid according to synod guidelines based upon years of experience, and has health insurance provided by the ELCA. Kristin may be called away at some point to her new church-wide position, depending on COVID. She accepted our offer based on this understanding. B. <u>Internship</u> : LSTC, our seminary in Chicago has contacted us about hosting an intern (a student, who learns in a congregation and from a supervisor, how to serve Christ and the church in a congregational setting, and begins developing a call as a pastor). Will have a conversation with the seminary to learn more details. C. <u>Holy Week Schedule</u> : 2 Easter Sunday services planned with cleaning between 8:15 and 10:15 worship times. D. <u>New Member Class</u> : 8 individuals participating. New members to be approved at April 20 Council meeting. E. <u>COVID-19 Plan</u> : Need to review current BLC plan and consider possible changes based upon new health situation and governor guideline changes. | | | | | | Pastor Jay Dahlvang |
| 7 | Associate Pastor's Report – No Report | | | | | | Pastor Collette Broady Grund |

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| <p>8</p> | <p>Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>BLC COVID-19 Plan Update</u>: Need to review current church COVID plan to determine appropriate changes. How do we address reopening of church? Other community-area churches have different operations in place. Action: Pr. Jay will send out current plan for Council review and more discussion and possible action at April 20 meeting.</p> <p>B. <u>Sabbatical Leave Update: Interim Pastor</u>: Kristin Engstrom has accepted the invitation to serve as interim pastor during May 3-August 1 Pr. Jay sabbatical. Details are being confirmed with synods involved.</p> <p>C. <u>2021-22 Nominating Committee Update</u>: Starting with 29 positions to be filled, 17 remain as of this date. Boards/committees working to fill positions with support from Nominating Committee. 6 boards complete; 9 boards incomplete. Vote scheduled for April 18 semi-annual meeting.</p> <p>D. <u>Facilities Update: GFJ/Hall Carpeting Replacement & Tile Replacement</u>: New carpeting installed in Grounds for Joy & hallway. Facilities Board still working on finalizing plans for basement floor tile replacement.</p> <p>E. <u>40 Together Synod Lenten Initiative Funding – Endowment Board</u>: Board meeting rescheduled to March 22 with funding proposal to be considered for synod global mission initiative 40 Together.</p> <p>F. <u>2020 Financial Review Update</u>: Meeting of committee with E. Ruiz still to be held. Action: D. Olson will visit with E. Ruiz to schedule this meeting.</p> <p>G. <u>Fat Tuesday Report</u>: Fat Tuesday fundraiser was financially successful with following details reported: 1. Number of Adult & Youth Volunteers: 16 2. Total Meals Prepared & Sold: 100 3. Total \$\$ Raised from Meals Sold: \$800 4. Total \$\$ Raised from Contributions: \$605 5. # of Silent Auction Basket Donations: 21 6. Total Silent Auction \$\$ Income: \$1888</p> | <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>James Arentson</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> |
| <p>9</p> | <p>New Business</p> <p>A. <u>LIGHT/NightLIGHT Coordinator Job Description Approval</u>: Personnel Committee recommendation for creation of new Family Faith Formation support staff position reviewed. This would replace current Children’s Ministry Coordinator I position with redefined focus. Discussion held on 15 hours and \$15 hourly pay recommended by Personnel for the position. Concern about increased costs for required health insurance if position is 20 weekly hours. Action: B. Ihrig will collect and develop information for the Council regarding potential cost of various hour/pay options. He will visit with Anna about needed hours. The Council will review information and make email decision this month to finalize position.</p> <p>B. <u>Summer/Fall Lay Staff Review Teams & Performance Questions</u>: Revised questions for lay staff reviews developed by Personnel Committee reviewed and approved. Review teams of pastors & committee members established and presented.</p> <p>C. <u>April 18 Semi-Annual Meeting (Procedure, Agenda, Reports, Ballot)</u>: Meeting will be held in sanctuary and via Zoom/Livestreamed at 11:00 am on Sunday, April 18. Major agenda topic is approval of Council, board & committee members for 2021-22. Approval of May 8 synod assembly delegates to be conducted. Annual printed reports to be presented. Drive-through voting to be provided. 75 members needed for official quorum</p> <p>D. <u>May 8 SE MN Synod Assembly Delegates</u>: Annual synod assembly scheduled online on Saturday, May 8 from 8 AM to 3:30 PM. Bethlehem entitled to 3 voting members + 1 youth/young adult + pastors as delegates.</p> | <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Wendy Keenan</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> |

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| | Action: B. Ihrig interested in serving as a delegate. He will send assembly information to E. Heinis for delegate promotion with BLC members. | |
| 10 | Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Pastor Collette Broady Grund | |
| 11 | Adjournment Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Approved. | |

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