

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Title	Council Meeting			President	Jason Bruns	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	March 19, 2024		Time	7:00 pm	Location	Grounds for Joy
MeetingTime	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members/Guests
	7:00 pm	8:12 pm	1 hr 12 mn			
	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					Pastor Jay Dahlvang
2.	Additions to & Approval of the Agenda Motion by C. Zazharias; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve printed agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Jason Bruns
3.	Secretary's Report February 20, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Neubert to approve printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
4.	Financial Report February 28, 2024 Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : +\$1,089.29 compared to -\$4,061.80 on 1/31/24. B. <u>Monthly Giving</u> : \$53,220.50 (\$12,622 above monthly budgeted total) C. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : \$480,454.99 D. <u>Mission Investment Fund Account</u> : \$67,875.93 (Designated for monthly mortgage payments) E. <u>Mortgage Reduction Receipts</u> : \$35,224.79 (To be used to make early principal payments) Additional donation to be made in March/April.					Jeremy Carter

<p>5. Lead Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Finances</u>: Positive balance at end of February portends a positive year-end balance.</p> <p>B. <u>Lent & Holy Week</u>: Positive Lenten experience with pastoral round-robin series. Pastors & staff preparing for Holy Week services. <u>Taxi Service for Sunday Worship</u>: Taxi services arranged for Sunday mornings for those unable to drive. Details to be provided to members.</p> <p>C. <u>Synod Work</u>: Continuing to work with bishop to mediate congregational dispute in synod. Continuing to serve on team that develop synod minimum compensation guidelines for pastoral salaries.</p> <p>D. <u>Men's Group</u>: Positive participation of 15 BLC men at recent Saturday breakfast. Future events include ALS Walk, Breakfast with the Bishop & Moondogs game in spring.</p> <p>E. <u>REACH Expansion</u>: Plans finalized for use of REACH in BLC Youth Room. Council to decide on monthly rent adjustment.</p> <p>F. <u>New Member Orientation</u>: To be approved by Council: Gary & Lavonne Phillips; Gary & Jane Petersen; Shelly & Erik Olson; Rachel Jaeger; Maxine Boyer; Jamie Rivers.</p> <p>G. <u>Care Ministry</u>: Team meets quarterly & convened recently to catch up on care needs in congregation.</p> <p>H. <u>Pastoral Care & Acts</u>: In February, made 26 care ministry visits and officiated 1 non-member and 1 member memorial service and 1 member committal service.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p>
<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Worship</u>: Enjoyed pastoral round-robin for Lenten services with other congregations. Positive feedback about guest pastors at BLC services.</p> <p>B. <u>Youth/Young Adults</u>: Organized a Discord server for young adults group to facilitate conversations & networking. 4th grade annual communion milestone held with first communion scheduled for Palm Sunday for 9 youth. 5th & 6th graders to lead Palm Sunday worship. Youth group events being planned for April-May.</p> <p>C. <u>Care Ministry</u>: Pastors asked to help update BLC charter for the NicBlu Cares Compassionate Communities with information about the BLC ministries that offer support for those who are grieving, lonely & seeking community.</p> <p>D. <u>WELCOME Update</u>: Many activities for Cruz family: Ariac working on approval for a driver's permit; summer soccer signed up for Randy; summer family Bible camp planned; asylum application received; eligibility attained for work authorization with waiting period in place.</p> <p>E. <u>Community/Ecumenical</u>: Will join 3 BLC members at Connections Kato Sleep-Out fundraiser on April 26. \$1,500 raised so far from BLC. Pastor Erica Koser resigning as Connections executive director. Goodbye reception scheduled for March 21. Interviews of 3 candidates held on March 18. Mankato Ministerial Association group meeting monthly. Attended meeting about activities of ISIAIH interfaith group. Will explore for possible future BLC involvement.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p>Old Business A. <u>Personnel Committee Update:</u> 1. <u>Summer Lay Staff Performance Review Plans:</u> Review questions finalized & teams determined. 2. <u>2024-26 Personnel Committee Member Approval:</u> Lori Ruthenbeck has resigned from committee. Motion by B.Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve Mary Blismer for remaining term of 2024-26. Approved. B. <u>2022-26 Strategic Plan Update: Goal #3 Progress Report: Respectful Climate:</u> “We will foster a climate of respect and appreciation to nurture the differing perspectives among our members and the greater Mankato community.” Progress on objectives 20-22 reviewed. Plans to reconvene strategic planning task force this summer to review & update objectives. C. <u>2024-25 BLC Nominations Update:</u> Of the initial 40 Council, board & committee positions to fill, 10 remain at this time. Positions remain for Council (2), Endowment (1), Stewardship (1), Welcome & Inclusion (1), Youth (1), Finance (4). Names suggested by Council to contact.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>New Business A. <u>New BLC Member Approval:</u> Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by C. Zacharias to approve the following new members: Gary & Lavonne Phillips; Gary & Jane Petersen; Shelly & Erik Olson; Rachel Jaeger; Maxine Boyer; Jamie Rivers. Approved. B. <u>REACH Lease Update:</u> Discussion on mutual proposal to allow REACH to use BLC Youth Room space for meetings with clients during REACH weekly operating hours. Will not conflict with space use by BLC youth. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by C. Zacharias to approve Option 2 of lease restructuring of \$4,068 additional rent per year. Approved. C. <u>April 21 Semi-Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda:</u> Agenda to focus on annual reports from Council, boards, committees; election of Council, board, committee members; strategic plan update; WELCOME update. Approved. D. <u>2023-24 Proposed Council Annual Report:</u> B. Ihrig presented draft of Council report for April 21 semi-annual meeting. Reviewed & approved.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:00 pm Devotions: Pastor Jacie Richmond</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Adjournment Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by M. Slotemaker to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Approved.</p>	

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