

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 21, 2023

Title	Council Meeting			President	Mary Bliesmer	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	March 21, 2023		Time	7:00 pm	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members/Guests
	7:00 pm	8:23 pm	1 hr 23 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					Aaron Geringer
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by J. Bruns; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Mary Bliesmer
	3. Secretary's Report February 21, 2023 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve minutes as printed. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report February 28, 2023 Report Official reports of February 28 not received from E. Ruiz as of this date. Information below based upon March 15 Finance Committee meeting. A. <u>February Giving</u> : \$24,832 compared to \$40,400 budgeted. Year to date giving is at 86% of budgeted amount. Combined with higher expenses, this means a February 28 deficit. B. <u>Mortgage</u> : Receipts of \$9,112 received from capital campaign pledges. Mission Investment Fund total is \$227,632. No lump sum principal payment was made as intended in February. This will be done in March. Plans are to establish a set date each month to make such future mortgage payments beyond regular monthly payment. Mortgage balance is \$844,347 as of February 28. C. <u>Wednesday Supper Giving</u> : January/February free-will donations above budgeted amount. D. <u>Expenses</u> : Major expenses in February with snow removal and heating costs (2x) up. Overall expenses up by \$10,000 while income down by \$14,000 from budgeted totals. E. <u>Financial Gift</u> : Financial gift of \$20,000 received from BLC member to apply to appropriate area in BLC budget.					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Lenten & Holy Week Worship Planning</u> : Traveled to Grace & Calvary for Lenten Worship. Plan to have BLC pastor members join in Good Friday noon service. Other Holy Week services planned. B. <u>LSS Lease</u> : Working with LSS statewide facilities director to address LSS office humidity issue. Discussions on possible office improvements with a long-term lease.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>C. <u>Endowment</u>: Annual report prepared. \$1,000 gifts made to Iambi Secondary School, 40-Together synod project and ECHO. Annual scholarship applications prepared for application until May 1.</p> <p>D. <u>Synod Activity</u>: Attended Councils as Leaders meeting in Albert Lea on 3/26 with Pr. Jacie, M. Drewitz & B. Ihrig. Asked to continue service on synod rostered compensation task force. Asked to meet with synod bishop to discuss global ministry work on 3/27. Will lead worship on 3/26 evening at Crossroads Campus Ministry.</p> <p>E. <u>Live-streaming</u>: Working with Molly Nelson to upgrade sanctuary broadcast technology for improved live-streaming of worship.</p> <p>F. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Officiated 3 member funerals/memorial services with 2 pending. Made 36 care ministry visits since last report.</p> <p>G. <u>New Member</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve Peggy Schulze as new BLC member. Approved.</p> <p>H. <u>Connections Meals</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approve \$400 to cover cost of shelter meals for 2 BLC evenings this week. Approved.</p>	
	<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Youth Ministry</u>: Game night held on 3/10. Low attendance but hopeful that future monthly events will see more youth involved. 7th & 8th grade confirmation students meeting with adult mentors. Communion Milestone activity held with 4th graders on 3/5. First Communion planned for Palm Sunday or Maundy Thursday. Will accompany 8-9 youth on Montana trip on June 23-30 as one of 3 adult leaders.</p> <p>B. <u>WELCOME</u>: Cruz family moved into apartment on 3/10 with Kato Movers providing free services. Exploring possible house blessing. Adult forum held on 3/19 with K. Chatelaine from synod and BLC team members. Synod presentation also made that afternoon. Cruz family will attend worship on 3/26. Temple Talk planned. Financial sponsorship campaign will launch that day. WELCOME will be April BLC monthly mission.</p> <p>C. <u>Worship</u>: Lenten services going well with guest preachers at BLC. 5th & 6th graders will lead Palm Sunday worship. 4th graders will also participate in this service.</p> <p>D. <u>Personal</u>: Will take vacation time during May 29-June 3.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond</p>
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>WELCOME Update</u>: See Associate Pastor report.</p> <p>B. <u>Financial Review Format Update</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve updated and revised BLC Annual Financial Review Procedure Policy established in 2014. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>LSS Lease Renewal Update</u>: See Lead Pastor report. James Arentson will conduct walk-through with LSS facilities representative on April 5 to review & discuss possible upgrades of LSS office area.</p> <p>D. <u>Nominating Committee Update</u>: Nominating process for Council, board/committee positions started with 7 open seats and 29 up for election at April 23 semi-annual meeting. Current status is now total of 13 total positions still to be filled.</p> <p>E. <u>May 6 SE MN Synod Assembly, Mankato: BLC Delegate Approval Motion</u> by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Bruns to approve M. Bliesmer & Amy Haigh as BLC delegates. Approved.</p> <p>F. <u>Personnel Committee Update</u></p> <p>1. <u>6-Month Performance Review: CS Coordinator Molly Nelson</u> Positive 6-month review held with Molly during March.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond Bob Ihrig</p> <p>M. Bliesmer & Pr. Jay</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

	<p>2. <u>Performance Reviews (Weekend Janitors, Nursery Attendant)</u> Positive reviews held during March with Alexa Bolstad, Grayson Bolstad & Kellen Schaefer as weekend janitors & with Marci Rossow as nursery attendant. Written janitor summary report shared. Janitor Checklist revised for future use. Job description created by Marci for nursery position. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to approve Personnel Committee recommended job description. Approved. A written summary report for nursery attendant review to be completed by Personnel Committee.</p>	
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>April 23 Semi-Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda Approval: Motion</u> by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Auel to approve printed agenda. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Personnel Committee Update</u></p> <p>1. <u>Wednesday Night Supper Coordinator Review: Amy Haigh:</u> Performance review planned for March/April. Committee approved financial gift card as thank-you for unpaid volunteer leadership of suppers this year.</p> <p>2. <u>Weekend Janitor Checklist Revision:</u> Approved by committee after performance reviews completed.</p> <p>3. <u>Summer 2023 Lay Staff Performance Reviews:</u> Tentative committee member assignments made for staff reviews at March meeting. To be finalized at May committee meeting.</p> <p>C. <u>Stewardship Legacy Giving Mailing “Dream List” Approval:</u> Revised Dream List of legacy gift projects reviewed & approved for March mailing.</p> <p>D. <u>March 19 Councils as Leaders Meeting Report:</u> Held at First Lutheran in Albert Lea. Details of workshop meetings attended shared with Council members. These focused on equipping leaders for difficult conversations; Council responsibilities & best practices; intergenerational ministry; immigration sponsorship ministry & engaging with ELCA social statements.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pr. Jay, Pr. Jacie, M. Drewitz, B. Ihrig</p>
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:00 pm Devotions: Pastor Jacie Richmond</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment Motion by J. Auel; Second by B. Ihrig to adjourn. Approved.</p>	

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