

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 18, 2023

Title	Council Meeting			President	Mary Bliesmer	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	April 18, 2023		Time	7:00 pm	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members/Guests
	7:00 pm	8:18 pm	1 hr 18 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 Jacie Richmond
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Mary Bliesmer
	3. Secretary's Report March 21, 2023 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by Pr. Jay to approved printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report March 31, 2023 Report A. <u>General Fund Balances</u> : 2/28 balance reported at -\$20,783.53 and 3/31 balance reported at -\$8,723.83 . Reduced deficit due to higher member giving in March (\$24,651 above budget). Increased expenses in utilities & snow removal impacting monthly balances. B. <u>Mortgage</u> : \$125,000 additional principal payment made in March. Mortgage balance is \$724,699.62 as of March 31. Discussion held on procedures & timeline for prepayment of principal with funds in excess of 1-year MIF Fund to cover monthly \$8,187 payments. Treasurer will meet with Finance Committee & Elizabeth to finalize details. Goal is to reduce the principal and interest costs with regular principal prepayments.					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Lenten & Holy Week Review</u> : Positive experiences reported overall with guest preachers, music and involvement of children & youth. B. <u>LSS Lease</u> : Meeting scheduled on 4/19 with BLC representatives & LSS facilities manager to tour LSS office space to determine any needed improvements in preparation of a new lease. C. <u>Livestream</u> : Molly Nelson making progress on updating Livestream technology for sanctuary worship services. Work will continue on these improvements. D. <u>Confirmation</u> : 11 youth to be confirmed on May 7. E. <u>New Members</u> : April 30 orientation scheduled for potential new members with Welcome & Inclusion Board. F. <u>Pastoral Care</u> : Made 20 care ministry visits & officiated 1 memorial service since March report.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>WELCOME Update</u>: Cruz family doing well in resettlement. Medical/dental care being arranged. Researching immigration attorney for future legal assistance. Exploring job/income eligibility for parents. Continue to seek volunteers. Donations of items should be checked with family in advance to determine need. 5 area churches collecting financial donations with Christ the King serving as overall fiscal host to process income and expenses.</p> <p>B. <u>Crossroads Campus Ministry Update</u>: Governing board continues to support Campus Cupboard, Lunch for a Buck and Sunday evening worship. Communicating with SE MN synod staff to discern future steps for ministry. Developing job description to hire a part-time pastor or deacon to coordinate ministry operations with staff. Goal for board is to engage in long range planning. Need lay staff members for the governing board.</p> <p>C. <u>Youth Ministry Update</u>: Meeting with Youth Board to plan a possible May youth event. High school graduate recognition planned for May 21. 9th grade confirmation scheduled for May 7.</p> <p>D. <u>Welcome & Inclusion Update</u>: Attending board meetings. Plans being made for summer activities for congregation. Preparing for new member orientation on April 30.</p> <p>E. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Made several visits with BLC members. Will preside over Stan Defries burial on April 22.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond</p>
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>WELCOME Update</u>: See Associate Pastor report for details.</p> <p>B. <u>Financial Review Update</u>: BLC Financial Review Policy update proposal presented to provide rationale for annual reviews. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve. Approved. Draft of proposed Financial Review Report Form presented. Goal is to provide a standardized checklist of essential topics to be reviewed each year to assist the committee. No Council action necessary at this time. B. Ihrig will share draft with BLC members with financial responsibilities (Finance Committee, Financial Review Committee, Treasurer, Council President-Elect, Lead Pastor, Wendy Keenan) to solicit feedback. Goal to finalize the form by November semi-annual meeting.</p> <p>C. <u>LSS Lease Renewal Update</u>: Walk-through tour of LSS office space scheduled on 4/19 with Pr. Jay, M. Bliesmer, J. Bruns, J. Arentson and LSS facilities representative to determine needed enhancements in preparation for a new lease.</p> <p>D. <u>Nominating Committee Update</u>: 10 open positions still exist on ballot for 4/23 semi-annual meeting election: Council Vice-President, Council Member at Large; 1 Music & Worship, 1 Stewardship, 3 Finance, 3 Nominations board members. Work will continue to fill these positions for the election.</p> <p>F. <u>Personnel Update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Weekend Janitor Replacement Update</u>: Posting of janitor vacancy effective August 1 made on BLC News and website. Application deadline is April 28 with May interviews to be held. 2. <u>Wednesday Night Supper Coordinator Performance Review</u>: 6-month review to be held with Amy Haigh on 4/21 with 2 Personnel Committee members. <p>E. <u>April 23 Semi-Annual Meeting Review</u>: Positive adult forum held on 4/16 with good member attendance. Constructive discussions held on variety of topics.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Mary Blieser & Pr. Jay</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Council Members</p>

	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Crossroads Campus Ministry Update & Conversation</u>: See report of Associate Pastor for news and discussion of this topic.</p> <p>B. <u>June Leadership Retreat – BLC Council, Boards, Committees</u>: Monday, June 5 set as meeting date. Strategic Plan to be reviewed and addressed by BLC groups for 2023-24 goals. Council asked to think about other priorities to address in meeting. Agenda to be finalized at May 16 Council meeting.</p>	<p>Pastor Jacie Richmond</p> <p>Pr. Jay, Pr. Jacie</p>
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:00 pm</p> <p>Devotions: Mary Bliesmer</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment</p> <p><u>Motion</u> to adjourn by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig at 8:18 pm. Approved.</p>	

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