

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 19, 2022

Title	Council Meeting			President	James Arentson	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	April 19, 2022		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:13 pm	1 hr, 13 mn			
Council Members – Terms of Office				Present	Absent	Position
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
TIME	TOPIC					PRESENTER
7:00 p.m.	1. Devotions & Balcony Question					Pastor Kristen Venne
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda New Business C amended to include “Vice-President Approval”. Amended agenda approved with flexibility.					James Arentson
	3. Secretary’s Report March 15, 2022 Minutes Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve minutes as printed. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report March 31, 2022 Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : Balance of -\$4,380.39 at end of March. B. <u>Mortgage Payment</u> : Additional mortgage principal payment of \$67,462 made with unpledged mortgage contributions in 2021. C. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : \$1,116,573.89 D. <u>Mission Investment Fund Balance</u> : \$200,282.44 (Used to make monthly mortgage payments of \$8,187).					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor’s Report A. <u>Semi-Annual Meeting</u> : Thankful for positive leadership of Council during the year and at meeting. B. <u>Capital Campaign</u> : Contract signed with GSB for coordinating campaign. Planned funding of contract to be shared with Council. C. <u>Holy Week</u> : Will be solely responsible for services. Charlie Leftridge & staff making preparations. Positive week anticipated. D. <u>Strategic Plan</u> : Finalizing 5 goals with requested committee & Council feedback. E. <u>Wednesday Night Supper</u> : Chef Barry Ahl submitted resignation effective at end of May. Future options to be explored for staffing and food preparation. More discussion at May Council meeting. F. <u>Landscaping & Grounds</u> : Sarah & Jack Morgan have assumed leadership of BLC volunteers to maintain BLC grounds. G. <u>Community Mentoring</u> : Engaged in conversations with YMCA to identify BLC mentors for community youth. H. <u>Compassionate Community Initiative</u> : Involved with other area clergy to provide support for individuals experiencing grief or loss & in times of community crisis.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>Will plan with Care Ministry Team to discuss BLC role.</p> <p>I. <u>Safety Plan</u>: Developing a BLC safety plan as follow-up to recent meeting held with Mankato public safety staff.</p> <p>J. <u>Care Ministry & Pastoral Visits</u>: Made 35 home, hospital, or care center visits, and officiated 3 memorial services for Bethlehem members since last report.</p>	
	<p>6. Transition Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Call Committee Update</u>: Ministry Site Profile being completed for presentation to congregation on May 15 and approval by Council. Mutual Expectations need to be finalized. Plans to submit completed Profile to synod for identification of pastoral candidates in June.</p> <p>B. <u>Family Faith Formation</u>: Will lead Confirmation & Torchlight to end of program year in May.</p> <p>C. <u>Book of Faith Bible Study</u>: Continuing to lead Wednesday morning Bible study with focus now on 1 & 2 Samuel.</p>	<p>Pastor Kristen Venne</p>
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Flags in the Sanctuary Update</u>: Mix of BLC member opinions received & discussed on final placement of U.S. & diversity flags along with explanatory messaging outside main sanctuary entrance. Positive process used by Council to provide members with opportunity to respectfully share and listen to opinions of all.</p> <p>B. <u>Strategic Plan Update</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve 5 final strategic goals. Approved. Implementation actions will now be developed to support goals.</p> <p>C. <u>Call Committee Update</u>: Ministry Site Profile being finalized. Mutual expectations for BLC & new associate pastor shared & updated with Council input to include cultivating positive relationships with BLC members and caring support. Town hall planned for May 15 to share final Profile with congregation.</p> <p>D. <u>Capital Campaign Update</u>: Heartened by the positive response by BLC members at semi-annual meeting. Contract signed with GSB to coordinate campaign. Previous saved bequest of \$15,000 to be used to fund initial payment to GSB for services. Need for Council to decide if an additional project is desired for funding. To be discussed at May Council meeting.</p> <p>E. <u>Lutheran Social Service Lease Renewal Update</u>: Still waiting for approval of new 1-year lease by LSS. Has communicated with Tammy Moses, Mankato LSS Director. Will follow up on this.</p> <p>F. <u>LSS Meals on Wheels Update</u>: LSS has decided not to pursue use of BLC kitchen for this program.</p>	<p>James Arentson</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Kristen Venne</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p>

	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Semi-Annual Meeting Review</u>: Review of positive April 10 semi-annual meeting discussion & decisions pertaining to capital campaign, election of officers & board/committee members, call committee & strategic plan. Meaningful discussion held regarding letter from Welcome & Inclusion Board recommending sensitivity to use of gender-based language.</p> <p>B. <u>New Member Approval</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Auel to approve the following new BLC members: Michaela Bruder and Dowain Kerner, Heather and Jesse Glaser and Everlee, Barbara Glass, Teresa Herzberg. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Facilities Board Member & Vice-President Approval</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to approve Brad Groth as new member of Facilities Board and Marie Slotemaker as the new Vice-President. Approved.</p>	<p>James Arentson</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 7:00 p.m. Devotions: James Arentson</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by Pr. Jay to adjourn at 8:13 pm. Approved</p>	

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