

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 20, 2021

Title		Council Meeting		President	Wendy Keenan		
Purpose		Monthly Business		Secretary	Bob Ihrig		
Date		April 20, 2021		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Zoom Online Meeting
Meeting Time		Start	Stop	Total Time		Council Members & Guests	
		7:00 pm	9:00 pm	2 hours			
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 Collette Broady Grund	
2	Dear Church Book Study: Chapter 9: pp. 113-121					Council	
3	Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Wendy Keenan	
4	Secretary's Report Approval of March 16, 2021 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig	
5	Financial Report A. March 31 general fund balance of +\$5,426.61. Positive giving this year. B. +\$209,120 balance in Mission Investment Fund for mortgage payments. C. Finance Board to resume meetings on financial issues. D. 2020 financial review completed on April 3. To be addressed by Finance Committee for possible recommendations to Council.					Diana Olson	
6	Lead Pastor's Report – Written A. <u>COVID-19 BLC Safety Plan</u> : To be addressed by Council with requests involving small group meeting, funeral and wedding. B. <u>Care Ministry</u> : Visiting BLC members in care centers and at home. Marilyn Underwood will be doing hospital visits for BLC members. C. <u>Stewardship Meeting</u> : Theran Leopold met with Stewardship Committee to discuss synod support for legacy giving. D. <u>Adult Forum</u> : Global Health Ministries presented adult forum on 4/14. E. <u>Pray for Justice Vigils</u> : 2 daily prayer gatherings planned with start on 4/29. BLC pastors, Racial Justice Ministry Team & community clergy to be involved with community members. F. <u>COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic</u> : Scheduled for Sunday, April 18 at BLC. G. <u>40 Together Synod Initiative</u> : BLC Endowment approved \$750 donation to SE MN Synod to support missions in Colombia, Tanzania and at the U.S.-Mexico border. To seek another \$750 from undesignated memorials. H. <u>April 18 Semi-Annual Meeting</u> : All went well in conducting business. I. <u>Servant of Christ Award</u> : BLC recognized by LSS with this award. J. <u>Thank You</u> : Thank you to Council this year for leadership and to outgoing members W. Keenan, D. Olson and D. Brown for service.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang	
7	Associate Pastor's Report – To Be Sent To Council					Pastor Collette Broady Grund	

8 Old Business

- A. BLC COVID-19 Plan Update: Discussion held on special requests to use BLC facilities. The following actions were taken:
 1. Quilting Group: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to allow vaccinated members to meet in closed room (dining room) as small group of 10 or less. Masks to be worn entering/leaving the church.
 2. Funeral Luncheons: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to allow funeral luncheons in dining room with catering company to provide and serve food. Require sign-in of funeral guests for future contact purposes. Set capacity of 75 in dining room. Church maintains discretion on any other issues that might arise. Approved
 3. Weddings: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Auel to set sanctuary capacity of 200 in attendance. Approved. Masking not required for speaking during service. Wedding party masking to be determined.
 4. Singing in Worship: Discussion held. Motion by B. Ihrig; D. Olson to allow limited congregational singing (last hymn) starting 6/6. Tabled to May meeting for more discussion and decision.
 5. Social Distancing: Concerns about social distancing issues occurring in worship services as participants assume seating in pews. Increased attendance creating more challenges to maintain expected distancing. Action: Reminders to be sent to members about appropriate consideration of green and red seating pew signs. Pr. Collette & staff will also review pews to determine possible seating adjustments.
- B. Sabbatical Leave Update: Interim Pastor, 4/25 Sending Ceremony: Pr. Kristin Engstrom has signed interim pastor contract. Will start duties on May 3. Sending ceremony for Pr. Jay to be held on 4/25 during worship.
- C. LIGHT/NightLIGHT Coordinator Position
 1. Job Description Approval
Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve job description & compensation previously agreed to by Council via email. Approved.
 2. Applications Status: Position posted first for BLC members with 4/6 deadline. No appropriate applications received. Posting for community members in progress with outreach to area Lutheran churches, colleges and online INDEED. 3 applications received thus far. Application deadline is April 28 with interviews to follow.
- D. Facilities Update: Basement Hall Tile Replacement: Tabled to May 18.
- E. 40 Together Synod Lenten Initiative Funding: Endowment Committee approved \$750 contribution to this special synod mission project.
Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve additional \$750 from undesignated memorials. Approved.
- F. 2020 Financial Review: Conducted on April 3 with finance secretary & 3-member review team. No major issues or concerns reported. Report to be shared with Finance Committee for possible recommendations to Council. Discussion held about need to standardize annual review procedures.
Motion by B. Ihrig, Second by D. Brown to direct Finance Committee to develop annual financial review procedures that identify what is to be reviewed each year. Approved. W. Keenan offered to assist committee.
- G. April 18 Semi-Annual Meeting Review: Positive and efficient meeting with required business completed by quorum of 77 members present. Members of Council & boards & committees approved. Synod assembly delegates approved. Annual reports presented for review.

Pr. Jay Dahlvang

Bob Ihrig

Bob Ihrig

James Arentson
Pastor Jay Dahlvang

Wendy Keenan

Wendy Keenan

9	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Approval of New BLC Members</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approve the following families & individuals as new BLC members: Jan and Don Blaisdell; Natalie and Ryan Casper: with Cecelia, Olivia, Todd, George; Gatchang Duach; Janet Haugen; Brandon Kloos and Casie Reiner with Mika Reiner-Kloos; Erin and Aaron Kuiper with Addison; Jerry and Marilyn Underwood; Michelle Wachtel. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Personnel Hiring Policies Revision</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by Pr. Jay to approve revision of BLC personnel hiring policies pertaining to lay staff position postings. Such postings will now be simultaneous for BLC members and community members to streamline process and reduce time required for applications. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Finance Committee Nomination Approval: Mark Larsen</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to approve Mark Larsen to 3-year term on BLC Finance Committee. Approved.</p> <p>D. <u>Prayer Vigils During Chauvin Trial Deliberations</u>: Two-per-day prayer sessions held on 4/19-4/20 led by BLC pastors, Racial Justice Ministry Team and area pastors for the community. Positive experience for all in attendance. Recommended consideration of such community prayer sessions in future to address new issues & concerns.</p>	<p>Pr. Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pr. Collette & Pr. Jay</p>
10	<p>Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Wendy Keenan</p>	
11	<p>Adjournment Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to adjourn at 9 pm. Approved.</p>	

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