

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

May 17, 2022

Title	Council Meeting			President	James Arentson	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	May 17, 2022		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:40 pm	1 hr 40 min			
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					James Arentson
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda					James Arentson
	3. Secretary's Report April 19, 2022 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by Pr. Jay to approve printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report April 30, 2022 Report No April 30 report available since E. Ruiz is on vacation. Report will be provided at a later date upon her return to work.					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Thank You</u> : Thank you to Council for leadership & service to BLC. B. <u>Capital Campaign</u> : GSB has interviewed a dozen BLC members. Pre-campaign mailer ready to be sent to members. Need to identify a campaign leader. GSB would like to meet with Council on 6/9 at 6:30 pm to review pre-campaign feasibility study. C. <u>Confirmation & Graduation</u> : 8 young people confirmed on 5/1. Another youth who missed confirmation ceremony provided with a make-up ritual with family. Youth Board planning to honor graduating seniors on 5/22. Endowment Board has awarded scholarships to 15 high school seniors & college students. D. <u>Funerals</u> : 4 funerals/memorial services held in past week. Staff & volunteers very helpful in coordinating services and offering hospitality to families & guests. E. <u>LSS Lease Renewal</u> : LSS has approved one-year lease renewal. F. <u>Cameras/Plumbing/Phones</u> : Waiting for cost proposals for security cameras. Some plumbing issues in the youth room/LSS part of building. BLC staff proposing replacement of phone system to provide more capabilities. Council will need to address all 3 issues and prioritize needs due to financial costs. G. <u>June Leadership Meeting</u> : Members of Council, boards & committees will meet on 6/13 at 5:30 pm for dinner & to share information on call process, strategic plan & capital campaign. Groups will meet to begin planning for 2021-22.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>H. <u>Wednesday Night Worship</u>: Due to low attendance, consideration being given to canceling Wednesday night worship during June-August.</p> <p>I. <u>Synod Assembly</u>: BLC represented at 5/7 assembly in Mankato by Pr. Jay, Jason Bruns, Pr. Heather Hammond, Marian Mallory & Bob Ihrig. BLC volunteers assisted with registration & Fair Trade table.</p> <p>J. <u>Pastoral Acts</u>: Made 27 ministry visits and officiated 2 funerals/memorials since last report.</p>	
	<p>6. Transition Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Children & Youth</u>: Enjoyed being involved with Light & Confirmation youth in end-of-program year activities.</p> <p>B. <u>Call Committee</u>: Ministry Site Profile completed. Pr. Streed met with committee after 5/15 town hall meeting to review interview process. Will develop interview protocols and questions for candidates to be developed. Will step out of call process once candidate names received from synod to avoid any undue influence on candidate interviews & selection.</p>	<p>Pastor Kristen Venne</p>
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Strategic Plan Update</u>: 5 goals will be presented on 5/22 at adult forum. Small groups will be asked to suggest implementation steps. Once completed, a formal plan document will be developed for publication & distribution to BLC members.</p> <p>B. <u>Call Committee Update</u>: Council members thanked for attending the 5/15 town hall to update BLC members about the work of the committee. The presentation went well with 38 members in attendance. BLC members will have 2-3 weeks to nominate pastoral candidates to be considered by the synod. The synod will coordinate selection of candidates for BLC review. The committee must maintain confidentiality on candidate names being considered & interviewed. Motion by M. Drewitz; Second by B. Ihrig to submit completed Ministry Site Profile to synod. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Capital Campaign Update</u>: Interviews of BLC members have been held by GSB. The campaign prospectus will be mailed to BLC members this week. Campaign leadership is being recruited. GSB will meet with the Council on 6/9 at 6:30 pm to share the results of its campaign feasibility study. Discussion held on possibility of additional projects to be considered for campaign.</p> <p>D. <u>Lutheran Social Service Lease Renewal Update</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Bruns to approve 1-yr lease. Approved.</p>	<p>Pr. Jay, Pr. Kristen</p> <p>Pr. Kristen Venne</p> <p>Pr. Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>James Arentson, Pr. Jay</p>
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Cameras/Plumbing/Phones</u>: Discussion held on 3 facilities needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Cameras</u>: Theft of LSS courtyard statue, vandalism of Blessing Box & graffiti on back wall discussed. Need for exterior cameras presented. Waiting for proposals from 2 area security firms. 2. <u>Plumbing</u>: Issue of slow water flow in LSS bathroom & likely need to replace corroded pipes on large scale. 3. <u>Office Phones</u>: Staff has identified need to update phone system at cost of \$7,000. <p>Priorities set with 1. LSS plumbing faucet repair; 2. Check on available funding for phone update; 3. Review camera proposals. Action: Decisions on proposed projects tabled to 7/19 meeting.</p>	<p>James Arentson</p>

	<p>B. <u>New Member Approval</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by M. Drewitz to approve Ted and Sue Glaser & Joshua Herzberg as new members of BLC. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Personnel Committee Member Approval</u>: Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by Pr. Jay to approve Dowain Kerner as a new member of the Personnel Committee for a 3-yr term. Approved.</p> <p>D. <u>Thank You</u>: J. Arentson was thanked for his inspired leadership during the past year as president of the congregation & Council.</p>	<p>Pr. Jay</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p>
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Mary Bliesmer</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by J. Bruns to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Approved.</p>	

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