

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

## July 19, 2022

<b>Title</b>	Council Meeting			<b>President</b>	Mary Bliesmer	
<b>Purpose</b>	Monthly Business			<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Ihrig	
<b>Date</b>	July 19, 2022		<b>Time</b>	7:00 p.m.	<b>Location</b>	Grounds for Joy
<b>Meeting Time</b>	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:45 pm	1 hr 45 min			
<b>Council Members – Terms of Office</b>				<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Position</b>
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.	TO BE DETERMINED					Associate Pastor
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>					<b>PRESENTER</b>
7:00 p.m.	<b>1. Devotions</b>					Mary Bliesmer
	<b>2. Additions to &amp; Approval of the Agenda</b> New Business G: Council & Semi-Annual Meeting Calendar <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to approve. Approved					Mary Bliesmer
	<b>3. Secretary's Report</b> May 17, 2022 Minutes <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Drewitz to approve. Approved					Bob Ihrig
	<b>4. Financial Report</b> June 30, 2022 Report A. <u>March General Fund Balance</u> : -\$4,598.90 B. <u>April General Fund Balance</u> : -\$3,657.26 C. <u>May General Fund Balance</u> : -\$4,702.70 D. <u>June General Fund Balance</u> : -\$22,140.60 E. <u>Member Giving</u> : Down in May & June. 90% of budgeted income for the year. This is similar to spring/summer giving patterns of past 7 years. However, June giving at 63% of pledged giving led to major deficit. Hopefully, BLC members will check giving statements from E. Ruiz & “catch up” with pledges. F. <u>June 30 Mortgage Balance</u> : \$1,043,642.33					Jeremy Carter
	<b>5. Lead Pastor's Report</b> A. <u>Transitions</u> : Molly Nelson is new Congregational Services Coordinator as of 7/5. Pr. Kristen completed her transition work on 7/17. BLC is thankful for her many contributions. B. <u>Lay Staff Reviews</u> : All but one review completed. Positive reviews. Grateful for faithful service of lay staff. C. <u>Call Committee</u> : 4 online candidate interviews held with two 2 <sup>nd</sup> interviews planned. Goal to have new associate pastor in place by early fall. D. <u>Capital Campaign</u> : Steering committee set: Carrol Meyers-Dobler is general chair; Amy Haigh is Hospitality chair; Bob Ihrig is Information chair; Heather Hammond is Response chair; Marcia Nagel is Inspiration chair. Campaign calendar is set. Working on theme and recruiting team members.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>E. <u>Endowment</u>: Meeting held with Thrivent and ELCA to discuss future options for managing funds. BLC member David Morgan volunteered &amp; approved to manage BLC Fund.</p> <p>F. <u>Caring Community</u>: BLC joined area Caring Community initiative. BLC has completed a charter statement of commitment to caring.</p> <p>G. <u>Continuing Education</u>: Enrolled in online course on spirituality.</p> <p>H. <u>Other Activities</u>: Continuing to supervise pastoral intern at Calvary Lutheran in Rapidan. Continues to serve on the SE MN Synod Global Ministry Table that administers partnerships in Tanzania, Colombia, South Sudan and immigrants on U.S. southern border.</p> <p>I. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: 4 funerals held &amp; 2 more pending. Visited other members in hospice care.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Associate Pastor's Report - NONE</b></p>	
	<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>Strategic Plan Update</u>: 5 goals finalized. Supporting objectives also written. To be published for BLC members this fall.</p> <p>B. <u>Call Committee Update</u>: Site Profile completed &amp; sent to Synod. BLC Strategic Plan &amp; RIC status seen as positives by candidates. 4 candidates identified for online interviews. 2 finalists approved for 2<sup>nd</sup> interviews – one withdrew. Remaining candidate to be interviewed on 7/20 with building tour &amp; meeting with Pr Jay. Discussion by Council of financial compensation options.</p> <p>C. <u>Capital Campaign Update</u>: Steering committee selected (See Lead Pastor report) Campaign theme finalized. BLC members identified for 4 teams. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of teams to be held on 8/3.</p> <p>D. <u>Cameras/Plumbing/Phones Update</u>: Temporary plumbing repairs done by Kevin in LSS. More long-term work to be completed in future. No progress on security cameras &amp; new phone system since May meeting.</p> <p>E. <u>Personnel Committee Update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Congregational Services Coordinator Update</u>: All is going well with Molly Nelson as new coordinator.</li> <li>2. <u>Lay Staff Performance Reviews Update</u>: All reviews have been completed with positive outcomes. Review process working as intended for employees and church.</li> <li>3. <u>Approval of Lay Staff Job Description Revisions</u>: <b>Motion</b> by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approve Family Faith Formation Director &amp; Office Assistant revised job descriptions. Approved</li> <li>4. <u>Family Faith Formation Director Sabbatical Report</u>: Personnel Committee reviewed &amp; approved Anna Wencl sabbatical report. Positive experience reported. <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve report. Approved.</li> </ol>	<p>Pr. Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Matt Drewitz</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pr. Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p><b>8. New Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>2022-23 Council Liaisons</u>: Council members signed up to serve as liaisons to BLC boards/committees. To be sent to M. Nelson for directory.</p> <p>B. <u>Wednesday Night Supper Update</u>: Discussion of option to replace Chef Barry who resigned with catered meals from JD Truffles. Amy Haigh contacted &amp; expressed interest in serving as supper coordinator. <b>Motion</b> by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to approve plan &amp; hire Amy as coordinator. Approved. B. Ihrig will facilitate plan implementation with Amy for meals starting in September.</p>	<p>Mary Bliesmer</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

	<p>C. <u>Finance Committee Update</u>: Discussion of continued need for committee with affirmative decision by Council. It has not met in 1+ years. Responsibilities updated by Council in 2021. Pr. Jay will organize 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of year in cooperation with E. Ruiz.</p> <p>D. <u>2022-23 Proposed Council Goals</u>: 6 goals presented focusing on support of new strategic plan, capital campaign, new associate pastor, Connections Ministry, welcome &amp; inclusion efforts and BLC staff. 7<sup>th</sup> goal on support for Pr. Kristin Engstrom with her ministry in Zamba proposed. To be updated for approval at next meeting in August.</p> <p>E. <u>Sanctuary Altar Safety Concerns</u>: BLC member concerns shared about safety for communion servers on steps leading to altar. Suggestion to install railing on steps discussed. Pr. Jay will explore options &amp; B. Ihrig will contact Facilities Board for ideas for further discussion at August meeting.</p> <p>F. <u>2022-23 Council &amp; Semi-Annual Meeting Calendar</u>: Meeting dates finalized for monthly Council meetings, fall budget forum (11/13), fall semi-annual meeting (11/20), spring forum (4/16) &amp; spring semi-annual meeting (4/23). Approved.</p> <p>G. <u>July 31 Pr. Jay Ordination Anniversary Celebration Update</u>: Review &amp; finalizing of planning details for celebration. <b>Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve \$250 to cover food costs for reception coordinated by A. Haigh. Approved</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
	<p><b>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 7:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Devotions: Jason Bruns</b></p>	
	<p><b>10. Adjournment</b>  Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.</p>	

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