

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

July 20, 2021

Title	Council Meeting			President	James Arentson	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	July 20, 2021		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:58 pm	1 hr 58 mi			
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				On Leave	Lead Pastor
10.	Pastor Collette Broady Grund			X		Associate Pastor
11.	Pastor Kristin Engstrom			X		Interim Pastor
TIME	TOPIC					PRESENTER
7:00 p.m.	1. Devotions & Balcony Question for Discussion					Mary Bliesmer
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Auel to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved.					James Arentson
	3. Secretary's Report Approval of June 15, 2021 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to approved printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report June 30, 2021 Report A. <u>June 30 General Fund Balance</u> : -\$15,805.13 (Due to higher than budgeted expenses and less offerings than budgeted) B. <u>General Fund Offerings June</u> : \$11,233.68 below budget C. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : \$1,156,073 D. <u>Mission Investment Fund Balance</u> : \$116,138,99 (Used to pay monthly mortgage payments of \$8,187) E. June financial reports to be sent to Council by E. Ruiz upon return from personal vacation.					Jeremy Carter
	5. Lead Pastor's Report – On Sabbatical Leave – No Report					
	6. Associate Pastor's Report A. <u>COVID Guidelines</u> : Congregational survey showed support for reducing current BLC safety guidelines for worship. Discussion & decision to be held later in meeting. B. <u>Fall Worship Time</u> : Congregation survey supports remaining with 1 service in the fall. Options to be discussed & decided later in meeting. C. <u>Church Lower Level Reorganization/Rebranding</u> : Lower level of church being renovated with new hall flooring, fresh paint on walls, reimagining of music space, an expanded nursery and separate room for school kits & other projects. D. <u>Staff Reviews & Transitions</u> : 3 lay staff reviews completed with positive outcomes. Family Faith Formation enhanced by addition of Kaitlin Carter. Music leadership transition going well from L. Rossow to C. Leftridge. Overall, BLC is blessed with great staff.					Pastor Collette Broady Grund

	<p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve proposed revisions. Approved.</p> <p>4. <u>Interim Music Leadership Positions Proposal</u>: Music leadership plan transition from L. Rossow to C. Leftridge presented based upon meetings held by Council, Personnel Committee & Laurie & Charlie. Interim proposal to be effective August 1-December 31 with review and appropriate revisions to be made for long-term personnel selection effective January 1.</p> <p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve plan. Approved.</p> <p>E. <u>Proposed 2021-22 Council Goals</u>: Draft of 7 proposed goals from June 15 Council meeting reviewed. Goal of Reconciling Congregation merged with Welcome & Inclusion goal.</p> <p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to approve revised 6 goals. Approved.</p>	
	<p>9. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Parking Lot Access Request: The Enchanted Muse: Art, Music and Tea Lounge</u>: New business will replace Ballet School on South Front Street. Has requested use of BLC parking lot with annual \$500 payment to cover snow removal costs. Approval by BLC required by city of Mankato for building use.</p> <p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve parking lot use, snow removal restrictions, rules & payment. Proposal to be reviewed annually and copy of business permit to be obtained from city. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>BLC Musician Scholar Program</u>: Proposal presented to enhance the BLC music program by recruiting & paying stipends to up to 5 area college students involved with music study & experience. Student musicians would share musical expertise with BLC congregation and inspire new growth in musical ensembles. Scholars would serve as section leaders, participate in worship as ensemble members & cantors and engage as soloists. The focus will be on singers but could also include instrumentalists. The projected annual cost = \$5,000 to be covered by BLC designated music funds and the 2022 general fund budget. Hopes were that this would be funded by an ELCA grant but it was not approved.</p> <p>Motion by Pr. Collette; Second by J. Auel to approve proposal. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Acknowledgement of Pastoral Service by Pr. Engstrom</u>: Pr. Engstrom thanked for invaluable service to BLC during past 3 months of Pr. Jay's sabbatical leave. Positive contributions provided for worship services, pastoral care and other church operations. We have been blessed!</p>	<p>James Arentson</p> <p>Pastor Collette Broady Grund</p> <p>Members</p>
	<p>10. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:00 p.m. Devotions: Jason Bruns NO AUGUST MEETING due to 8/16 BLC Leadership Retreat</p>	
	<p>11. Adjournment</p> <p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to adjourn at 8:58 pm. Approved.</p>	

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