## Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes July 20, 2021

Title		Council Meeting			President James Arentson		son
Purpose		Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date		July 20, 2021		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting T	ime	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
		7:00 pm	8:58 pm	1 hr 58 mi			
			Terms of O	ffice	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 X		Secretary
	5. Jeremy Carter 2021-2024						Treasurer
6. Jessic	a Aue	1 20	19-2022		X		Member at Large
7. Aaron	7. Aaron Geringer 2020-2023			X		Member at Large	
8. Matt Drewitz 2021-2024			X		Member at Large		
9. Pasto	r Jay I	Dahlvang				On Leave	Lead Pastor
		ette Broady (			X		Associate Pastor
11. Pasto	r Krist	in Engstrom			X		Interim Pastor
TIME				TOPIC			PRESENTER
7:00 p.m.				tion for Discus	ssion		Mary Bliesmer
				f the Agenda			James Arentson
			hrig; Second				
		kibility. App		A 1 C	15 2021	N.C. (	D 1 H .
		retary's Re		by A. Geringer	June 15, 2021		Bob Ihrig
			•	by A. Geringer	to approved p	intea	
	minutes. Approved.  4. Financial Report June 30, 2021 Report						Jeremy Carter
					305.13 (Due to	higher than	vereiny curter
	<ul> <li>A. <u>June 30 General Fund Balance</u>: -\$15,805.13 (Due to higher than budgeted expenses and less offerings than budgeted)</li> <li>B. <u>General Fund Offerings June</u>: \$11,233.68 below budget</li> </ul>						
	C. Mortgage Balance: \$1,156,073						
	D			ind Balance: \$1		sed 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.  5. Lead Pastor's Report – On Sabbatical Leave – No Report						
	6. Ass	Pastor Collette Broady Grund					
		A. COVID (	Tastor Concile Broady Grand				
		reducing					
		_		later in meeting		-	
	E	B. <u>Fall Wors</u>					
	with 1 service in the fall. Options to be discussed & decided later						
	in meeting.						
	(			Reorganization			
	church being renovated with new hall flooring, fresh paint on walls, reimagining of music space, an expanded nursery and						
				music space, ar ool kits & other		iscry and	
	Г	_		sitions: 3 lay st		mpleted with	
				mily Faith Forr		_	
				sic leadership tr		•	
				ge. Overall, BLO			

	E. <u>Interim Pastor Update</u> : Synod will provide BLC with interim	
	pastor candidates for interviews & selection by Council in	
	August and start of service in September.	
	F. Pastoral Care & Acts: Home and phone visits with members.	
	Will complete these and say goodbye in August prior ending	
	service at BLC. One wedding conducted in July & 1 more	
	planned at end of month.	
7 Ind	rerim Pastor's Report	Pastor Kristin Engstrom
	•	Pastoi Kiistiii Eligstioiii
P	Reflections on Interim Pastoral Service: Last day will be August	
	1. Appreciative of welcome during 3 months from members.	
	Enjoyed working with Pr. Collette. Waiting for deployment to	
	Zambia as next pastoral call.	
E	. <u>Pastoral Care</u> : Completed in-person visits, phone calls & hospital	
	visits. Presided over 2 funerals. Completed last service at	
	Pathstone.	
8 01	d Business	
		Pastor Collette Broady Grund
	BLC COVID-19 Plan Update – Congregational Survey: Survey	1 asioi Collette Dioady Giund
	results favor loosening current COVID guidelines.	
	Motion by Pr. Collette; Second by M. Bliesmer to remove social	
	distancing signage in sanctuary; change other signage to be	
	consistent with other community sites & mask-wearing to be	
	recommended for unvaccinated but not required for vaccinated.	
	Offering, communion & peace offering to remain unchanged.	
	Extensive discussion held on pros & cons of these changes based	
	upon current health situation, community practices & member	
	preferences.	
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	Amendment approved to limit changes to mask-wearing that	
	would be encouraged/appreciated but not required for vaccinated.	
	Encouragement of vaccinations with details to be publicized also	
	supported. Recognition that pending COVID situation could	
	result in other changes in the future. Amended motion approved.	
l E	Fall Worship Schedule: Congregational survey supported one	Pastor Collette Broady Grund
	Sunday worship service starting September 12. Time options	•
	discussed with no clear choice apparent from BLC members.	
	Motion by Pr. Collette; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve 9 am	
	worship; 10 am coffee/fellowship & 10:30 am for adult education	
	& Family Faith Formation. Approved.	
	E. <u>Facilities Update</u> : Church lower level plans reviewed. Costs of	James Arentson
	hall flooring increased from previous projected approved cost of	
	\$13,700 to \$24,400 resulting from additional work to be done &	
	material costs. BLC funding is available. Hopes for painting &	
	flooring completion by end of August.	
	Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Drewitz to approve new cost.	
	* * *	
	Approved.	Dah Ihui-
L	Personnel Committee Update	Bob Ihrig
	1. <u>Lay Staff Performance Reviews</u> : Completed by Pr.	
	Collette & Personnel Committee for A. Wencl, L.	
	Rossow & E. Heinis with positive results. Reviews for K.	
	Liebl, C. Schulz & E. Ruiz to be completed upon return	
	of Pr. Jay in August/September.	
	2. Weekend Janitor Replacement: No applications received	
	by 6/28 deadline. Names of BLC youth identified and	
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	will be contacted for possible interest & application.	
	3. <u>Personnel Committee Responsibilities Revision</u> : Update	
	presented to reflect current committee responsibilities.	
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	<u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve	
	proposed revisions. Approved.	
	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.	
	Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Bruns to approve plan.	
	Approved.	
	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.	
	Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to approve revised 6	
	goals. Approved.	
	9. New Business	
	A. Parking Lot Access Request: The Enchanted Muse: Art, Music	James Arentson
	and Tea Lounge: 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.	
	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.	
	B. <u>BLC Musician Scholar Program</u> : Proposal presented to enhance	Pastor Collette Broady Grund
	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.	
	Motion by Pr. Collette; Second by J. Auel to approve proposal.	
	Approved.	
	C. Acknowledgement of Pastoral Service by Pr. Engstrom: Pr.	Members
	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!	
	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	
•	<b>11. Adjournment Motion</b> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to adjourn at 8:58 pm.	
	Approved.	
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Our Mission: Bethlehem is an inviting community that is growing in Christ, loving our neighbors and serving God's world.