

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

July 21, 2020

Title	Council Meeting			President	Wendy Keenan	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	July 21, 2020		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Zoom Online Meeting
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	9:03 pm	2 hr, 3 min			
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
TIME	TOPIC					PRESENTER
7:00 p.m.	1. Devotions					Wendy Keenan
	2. Welcome to New Members: Mary Bliesmer, Aaron Geringer					Council
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda New Business K: Synod Campus Ministry Funding Request Motion to approve amended agenda with flexibility by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig. Approved.					Wendy Keenan
	3. Secretary's Report Approval of May 19, 2020 Minutes Motion by B. Ihrig to approve minutes; Second by D. Olson. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report A. June 30 deficit of -\$13,413.88 compared to May 30 deficit of -\$8,296.02. This does not include the \$86,000+ PPP dollars. B. Member giving is at 85% rate. C. Expenses are down. D. Mortgage balance is \$1,245,626.29. Current mortgage receipts of \$9,086.53. Pledged contributions being paid on schedule. Funding should be sufficient to end of 2021 with paid pledges.					Diana Olson
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. Finances: Doing well financially, even with deficit. PPP dollars provide reserve. \$\$ remaining in organ fund after repair. Deficit is not much different as of June 30 compared to last 5 years. B. Outdoor Worship: Attendance has grown with parking lot services since June. C. Future Worship Plans: 3 options presented for fall: 1. Return to online worship only; 2. Return to indoor worship on 9/11 with safety plan + continuing online service; 3. Return to indoor worship on 10/4 with safety plan + continuing online service. Need to address future status of BLC music, nursery care, supper chef staff - furlough or continue payment? D. Care Ministry: Most visits done by phone. Visited BLC member in hospice care in person. 3 in-person memorial services officiated. E. Staff Evaluations: Annual lay staff performance reviews started this week with Personnel Committee members. To be completed during first week of August.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	F. <u>Vacation</u> : Scheduled for personal vacation from 7/21 with return on 8/1.	
	<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Family Faith Formation</u>: Planning for fall programming with reimagining to account for COVID-19 circumstances. Discussed future FFF needs/hours with E. Heinis at review. S. Morgan submitted resignation as Children's Ministry Coordinator. No replacement planned in short-term given anticipated programming changes. Exit interview to be scheduled by Personnel Committee.</p> <p>B. <u>Connections Ministry</u>: Renovation taking place at new location at First Presbyterian Church. August monthly mission will raise \$\$ for additional beds since capacity will increase from current 25 to new 34 bed total. Appreciating the new mission developer role in learning & interacting with others.</p> <p>C. <u>Dear Church Book Study/Racial Justice</u>: Appreciated BLC member involvement in book study. Plans to establish Racial Justice Task Force to follow-up on future education/dialogue/action.</p> <p>D. <u>Mankato Area Local Clergy</u>: Meeting with local clergy to address 2 projects: 1. Common prayer of lamentation & healing to be presented at churches; 2. Advocacy work on payday lending in cooperation with MN Council of Churches & Minneapolis Synod.</p>	Pastor Collette Broady Grund
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Financial Review Report Update (2018-19, 2019-20)</u>: Written report submitted & reviewed. Everything is in order with accounting procedures. To be presented at semi-annual meeting. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by D. Olson to approve. Approved. Thanks to W. Keenan for coordinating/completing review.</p> <p>B. <u>RIC Task Force Recommendation Update</u>: Task Force recently met & decided to postpone vote on welcoming statement until in-person congregational meeting can be held. Hopeful of a November semi-annual meeting vote. Goal to make all people feel welcome at BLC.</p>	<p>Wendy Keenan</p> <p>Jessica Auel, Aaron Geringer</p>
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Fall Worship & Programming Planning</u> : Discussion of 3 options for fall worship (see lead pastor report) & staff considerations. Important to solicit BLC member feedback on options. FFF looking at how to provide for family areas with indoor worship and how to provide programming that will look different. Live streaming & technology needs discussed. Action: Final decisions to be made at 8/18 Council meeting.</p> <p>B. <u>Acknowledgement of John Wingert Contributions to Worship</u>: Review of his contributions with sound system technology & operation at outdoor worship. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by J. Arentson to provide \$500 to John in acknowledgement of invaluable service. D. Olson will communicate with E. Ruiz for payment.</p> <p>C. <u>Personnel Committee Recommendation - Juneteenth Holiday</u>: Committee recommended replacing Easter Monday holiday with June 19 (Juneteenth) holiday for BLC pastors & lay staff. This would acknowledge racial justice issue approved in 20+ states. This marks official end of slavery in the U.S. in 1865. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by A. Geringer to approve change. Approved.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay, Pastor Collette</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

	<p>D. <u>2020 Annual Pastoral Reviews – Process & Timeline</u>: Pastoral review process, questions & timeline approved. To be completed in July-September by President, President-Elect, Secretary.</p> <p>E. <u>2020-21 Council Liaisons to Boards/Committees</u>: Council members volunteered to serve as liaisons. B. Ihrig will update and communicate to E. Heinis & board/committee chairs.</p> <p>F. <u>BLC New Member Approval & Welcome</u>: Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by M. Bliesmer to approve new BLC members: Paulette Bertrand, Mike & Molly Elbert; Ethan and Eli, Lan Evenson, William and Courtney Kramlinger; Claire, Delores Raveling, Katelyn Redmond, Sadie Sellner, Chad & Sheila Stevenson; Nick and Sean. Approved.</p> <p>G. <u>Dear Church Book Study Plan</u>: Plan approved for Council to read & discuss one chapter each month at Council meeting.</p> <p>H. <u>Racial Justice Task Force</u>: Discussion of importance of following up <u>Dear Church</u> book study with creation of BLC task force to focus & lead on racial justice for BLC. Specific desired outcome to be determined by task force. Curriculum materials & synod resources available to assist group. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by B. Ihrig to establish a BLC Racial Justice Task Force. BLC members will be invited to submit names if interested in serving. Council asked to bring other names to 8/18 meeting for review & approval.</p> <p>I. <u>2020-21 Council & Congregational Meeting Calendar</u>: Calendar approved. September Council meeting date corrected to 9/15. Fall semi-annual meeting scheduled for 11/15 with budget review forum to be held on 11/8 if COVID-19 circumstances permit. Spring semi-annual meeting date to be determined.</p> <p>J. <u>Proposed 2020-21 Council Goals</u>: 8 proposed Council goals presented & reviewed. To be finalized at 8/18 Council meeting.</p> <p>K. <u>Synod Campus Ministry Funding Request</u>: With cancellation of spring SE MN Synod Assembly and related designated offering, financial need exists to support synod campus ministries in Mankato & Winona. Synod is appealing to congregations to provide contributions with BLC asked to serve as lead church. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Arentson to provide \$500 donation. Amendment by M. Bliesmer; Second by D. Brown to increase donation to \$1,000. Amendment & main motion approved. Pr. Collette will send letter & check. Suggestion made to designate campus ministries as a BLC monthly mission as in past years.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p> <p>Pastor Jay, Pastor Collette</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Pastor Jay, Pastor Collette</p>
	<p>9. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:00 p.m. Devotions: James Arentson</p>	
	<p>10. Adjournment Motion by D. Olson; Second by J. Auel to adjourn at 9:03 pm. Approved.</p>	

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