



<p><b>6. Associate Pastor's Report</b></p> <p>A. <u>January 6 Special Congregational Meeting</u>: Grateful for Council leadership and gracious conduct by members in discussion.</p> <p>B. <u>Family Faith Formation</u>: 1<sup>st</sup> adult forum held on 1/6 &amp; preparing for 2 February listening sessions to address parent questions/concerns about programming and staffing. End result to identify more specific direction for new staff and comprehensive plan for FFF ministry. To be presented to Council at February meeting.</p> <p>C. <u>Connections Ministry</u>: 2019 goals approved by board of directors as listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obtain separate 501(c)3 non-profit status.</li> <li>2. Expand board of directors to include persons with skills in fundraising, real estate, financial/banking, legal and marketing/communications.</li> <li>3. Develop long-term plan for morning transportation for shelter guests.</li> <li>4. Explore resources for assisting guests with addiction recovery &amp; mental health.</li> <li>5. Experiment with monthly worship service geared toward shelter guests &amp; supporters of shelter.</li> <li>6. Find transitional location for shelter to have operations at one location for 2019-20 season.</li> </ol> <p>D. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: 10 visits made since last report.</p>	<p>Pastor Collette Broady-Grund</p>
<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>2017 Financial Review</u>: 11 recommendations directed to Finance Committee addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plan to study #1 (Financial Procedures), 5 (Disbursement Policy) and 10 (Credit Card Usage Policy) more.</li> <li>➤ #2: Exploring partnership with Centenary Methodist to conduct annual financial reviews.</li> <li>➤ #3: Independent audit considered too costly.</li> <li>➤ #4: Fixed asset listing to be discussed by Finance Committee.</li> <li>➤ #7: Safe deposit box access &amp; contents to be discussed by Finance Committee.</li> <li>➤ #8: BLC credit card Social Security number of users requested to be removed from account for privacy purposes.</li> <li>➤ #9: Limit on BLC credit card reduced from \$41,000 to \$20,000.</li> <li>➤ #11: Cameras in Financial Secretary office to be explored with Facilities Board regarding need and cost.</li> <li>➤ #12: Reminders to offering handlers signing log sheets being pursued.</li> </ul> <p>B. <u>2019 Proposed Facilities Projects Plan</u>: Tabled from 10/16 meeting. Planned projects and projected costs reviewed to include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Repairs to Sanctuary ceiling (pre-paid)</li> <li>2) Repairs to kitchen wall from water leak (400 - \$1,000)</li> <li>3) Air conditioning (if needed) in Heritage Room &amp; LSS (\$10,000-\$15,000 before energy rebates applied)</li> <li>4) Heating upgrades in Heritage Room &amp; LSS (\$5,000+ before rebates). Looking at installing computer-controlled thermostats in LSS.</li> </ol> <p><b>Motion</b>: Motion to approve 4 projects by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson. Approved.</p> <p>3. <u>Mortgage Update &amp; Recommendations</u> – Finance Committee recommendation presented to use \$50,000 from Mission Investment Fund to pay down mortgage to save \$58,148 in interest over life of loan and shorten term of loan by 13 months. Such action would result in a MIF balance of \$65,648 for future mortgage payments.</p>	<p>Diana Olson</p> <p>Diana Olson</p> <p>Diana Olson</p>

The Council discussed this recommendation. The following points were made:

- We currently have enough funds to get to mid-2021 to make mortgage payments if we were to make the \$50,000 early payment.
- We will likely need another capital campaign to raise additional funds to pay-down the complete mortgage.
- Perhaps the congregation should address the mortgage issue at the April 7 semi-annual meeting. Information regarding the mortgage would be compiled and presented to facilitate a decision-making process.

**Motion:** Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to conduct a discussion of the BLC mortgage at the April 7 semi-annual meeting. A comprehensive informational packet should be developed to provide background on the history and current status of the mortgage and future options/scenarios to address the mortgage repayment. Approved.

4. January 6 Special Congregational Meeting Debriefing: The Council reviewed the discussion and outcome of the January 6 special congregational meeting. The following points and questions were presented:

- ❖ The Question & Answer informational packet was beneficial in providing a common set of facts and official decisions for members. This transparency and clarity was important to facilitate responsible discussion and decision-making.
- ❖ Members were well-informed about the scheduled meeting and encouraged to access the Q & A informational packet.
- ❖ The congregational discussion was conducted in a respectful and positive manner. Members felt welcome to present their opinions.
- ❖ The 3-minute time limit for individual comments was useful in facilitating the sharing of opinions by many members.
- ❖ Members of BLC support our involvement with Connections Ministry. This was affirmed in the actual vote taken on Pr. Collette's role.
- ❖ The Council is following its Strategic Plan in supporting Connections.
- ❖ The Council leadership needs to be unified in its support of Connections given the motion of support of Pr. Collette's pastoral time.
- ❖ We now need to move forward on Connections and other important issues challenging BLC.
- ❖ It was disconcerting that little actual rationale and supporting facts were presented in the motion to reduce Pr. Collette's time with Connections.
- ❖ It was disappointing that members who were critical of our role with Connections chose not to attend the meeting and voice their concerns.
- ❖ Members should be encouraged to visit with Council members in the future with questions and concerns about BLC issues. We represent the congregation and need to make ourselves available to listen to members.
- ❖ Members were concerned about the financial implications for paying for our mortgage and Family Faith Formation staffing. Can we afford to devote 30% of pastoral time to Connections?
- ❖ Concern was expressed by some members that written questions submitted were not addressed at the meeting.
- ❖ Do we need more oversight at Bethlehem when we actually host Connections? It was noted that Pr. Collette and other members actually provide this now.
- ❖ The leadership provided by President Carrol Meyers-Dobler and the pastors was acknowledged.
- ❖ The meeting served to inform and calm members about the Connections issue.

Council Members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Council needs to be representative of members of all ages and backgrounds to ensure that various opinions and ideas are reflected in the decision-making process.</li> <li>❖ This issue is part of what is involved with a growing and changing church. We were able to come together to effectively deal with conflict and a difficult issue in a respectful manner. It was good to witness members stand up and voice their opinions.</li> <li>❖ Members were articulate and intelligent in presenting their opinions.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>8. New Business</b></p> <p>A. <u>Use of Undesignated Memorials</u>: Finance Committee recommended shifting \$7,500 from Undesignated Memorials (memorials given with no specific instructions) fund balance of \$18,250 to Capital Set-Aside Fund to cover unforeseen &amp; unanticipated maintenance &amp; repair projects. Such projects would be above &amp; beyond regularly budgeted maintenance &amp; repairs. Further amounts would be set aside upon recommendation by Finance Committee &amp; approval by Council. Making this shift would result in a balance of \$15,000 in the Capital Set-Aside fund.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Motion by D. Olson; Second by W. Keenan to approve proposal. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Connections Ministry Recommendation</u>: Recommendation made by Finance Committee to address financial issues pertaining to Connections Ministry. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections has been functioning as a non-profit for 2.5 years under the “fiscal agency” of BLC. It is time to separate Connections from this operation by establishing separate non-profit status.</li> <li>• Connections should have separate bank accounts. It appears that the BLC Samaritan Fund account is still being used for Connections Ministry expenses. If Connections has its own EIN or federal tax ID number, it can open the needed account.</li> <li>• Connections should have/use its own credit card rather than using the BLC credit card for purchases. This would facilitate bookkeeping.</li> </ul> <p>Pastor Collette responded to these recommendations and will report them to the Connections Board for discussion and action. She noted that Connections is completing the paperwork required for non-profit status with a goal of completion by the end of 2019. W. Keenan offered her assistance with this process. Connections will visit with the bank to open its own account. The Connections Board treasure is exploring creating a separate credit card account.</p>	<p>Diana Olson</p> <p>Diana Olson</p>
	<p><b>9. Next Council Meeting: February 19, 2019 7:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Devotions: Derek Brown</b></p>	
	<p><b>10. Adjournment</b></p>	

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