

	<p>G. <u>Bishop's Election</u>: 11 candidates announced including 6 female pastors. BLC to be represented by pastors, B. Ihrig, D. Brown and Emily Heinis. Rescheduled conference meetings to be held on 2/24 in Owatonna to start process of bishop selection. BLC member Heather Hammon is one of candidates.</p> <p>H. <u>Missionary Sponsorship</u>: Community & Global Mission Board discussing how to proceed with sponsorship following Jacobson retirement from Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. See New Business for more details.</p> <p>I. <u>Tanzania Trip</u>: Planning to gauge interest in 3rd trip to Tanzania at March 10 Adult Forum.</p> <p>J. <u>Visits & Pastoral Acts</u>: Made 26 ministry visits since last report in January.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Family Faith Formation</u>: Held 1st Listening Session on 2/13 for conversation on proposed FFF strategic plan. Family participation & staffing pose challenges to be addressed. More discussion held under Old Business Strategic Plan update.</p> <p>B. <u>Connections Ministry</u>: 3rd shelter experience at BLC to start 2/25. Volunteers being solicited. Working on goals & have 2 new board members with major gifts & skills to direct ministry. BLC will host county response team meeting during last week to provide opportunity to participants to see shelter in action.</p> <p>C. <u>Reconciling in Christ Task Force Forum</u>: Task force will present Adult Forum on 3/24 about its work.</p> <p>D. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Made 9 pastoral visits since last report in January.</p>	<p>Pr. Collette Broady-Grund</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Strategic Planning Update – Family Faith Formation</u>: Reviewed Strategic Goal #1: We will develop a comprehensive ministry with families that engages children, and equips parents to raise their children in faith. Shared participation numbers for Sunday morning & Wednesday evening classes as well as other handouts presented to parents on 2/13. Concern about having enough children at various grade levels to justify staffing. Future scheduling options being considered. Important to hear from parents about what they want in programming & scheduling. 2nd Listening Session scheduled on March 3. Changes being proposed represent a tweaking of FFF. Draft of FFF information to be shared with BLC congregation will be presented to Council for review before being sent out. Children's Board excited about the scope/sequence by grade level being proposed. Need to involve more parent volunteers especially for older children classes. Having classes on both Sundays & Wednesdays increases need for volunteers for all grades.</p> <p>B. <u>2017 Financial Review Update from Finance Committee</u>: Committee is still working on recommendations for action.</p> <p>C. <u>Personnel Committee Update</u>: Performance reviews for 2 BLC bell choir directors being planned for March. Background checks for pastors and all BLC staff to start this month. This follows previous Personnel & Council decision to update personnel files with future periodic reviews planned.</p> <p>D. <u>Mortgage Plan Update</u>: Questions & Answers background information reviewed. Discussion held on how much of mortgage issue should be shared and discussed at April 7 semi-annual meeting. Compiled information seen as too much at this time. Discussion should focus on early principal pre-payments and need for future capital campaign.</p> <p>Motion by D. Olson; Second by B. Ihrig to continue monthly \$8,187 mortgage payments with no additional principal payments from MIF Fund. Any additional unpledged funds provided by BLC members to be applied as excess principal payments through 2021. Congregation will be informed of this decision and the need to conduct another capital campaign in 2021.</p>	<p>Pr. Collette Broady Grund</p> <p>Diana Olson</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

	Available pledged funding will be depleted for mortgage at that time. Approved.	
8.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Nominating Committee Update (Council & Boards/Committees)</u>: Boards & Committees were contacted at end of January to identify current members with expiring terms on 5/31 who wish to continue service and to contact new members where needed. 36 terms need to be filled as detailed on proposed ballot. Deadline of 2/22 set for this process. After that time, Nominating Committee will attempt to fill remaining vacant positions. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by Pastor Jay to approve Personnel Committee members for 2019-20 as required by BLC policies. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>Council Vice-President & Member-At-Large Names to Consider</u>: Council members asked to identify specific BLC member groups not currently represented on Council and specific names suggested to fill open Council Vice-President and Member-At-Large positions. These will be used by Nominating Committee.</p> <p>C. <u>Fat Tuesday Silent Auction Donation from Council</u>: Donations collected for Fat Tuesday basket. Carrol will coordinate basket theme & items.</p> <p>D. <u>Stewardship Board Future “Dream List” for Financial Gifts</u>: Based upon reading of stewardship book this year, Stewardship Board has recommended the development of a “Dream List” of projects that could be funded with future financial gifts to BLC. Due to time limitations, Council will discuss this in detail at March meeting.</p> <p>E. <u>February 24 MN River Conference Assembly – Bishop Election Update</u>: Rescheduled 2/10 meeting planned for 2/24 in Owatonna to start process of bishop election.</p> <p>F. <u>Jacobson Retirements & Future BLC Support of Arusha Medical Center</u>: Communication from Community & Global Mission Board reviewed about retirement of January retirement of Mark & Linda Jacobson from Arusha Medical Center in Tanzania. Board is seeing advice from Council about BLC future mission support with 6 possible options presented. There is no urgency about making decision on this since 2019 mission support has been set. Further discussion will be held by Council as more information is received.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Carrol Meyers-Dobler</p> <p>Pastor Jay, Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Jay, Collette, Derek, Bob</p> <p>Carrol Meyers-Dobler</p>
9.	<p>Next Council Meeting: March 19, 2019 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Devotions: Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p>	
10.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Motion by D. Olson; Second by Pr. Jay to adjourn. Approved.</p>	

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