

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Title Council Meeting **President** Carrol Meyers-Dobler
Purpose Monthly Business **Secretary** Bob Ihrig
Date May 21, 2019 **Time** 7:00 p.m. **Location** Grounds for Joy

Scheduled			Actual			Council Members and Guests
Start	Stop	Total Hours	Start	Stop	Total Hours	
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	2	7:00 p.m.	8:44 p.m.	1 hr, 44 min	
Council Members				Present	Absent	Position
1.	Carrol Meyers-Dobler			X		President
2.	Dave Hageman			X		President-Elect
3.	Wendy Keenan				X	Vice President
4.	Bob Ihrig	2018-2021		X		Secretary
5.	Diana Olson	2018-2021		X		Treasurer
6.	Matt Drewitz	2016-2019		X		Member at Large
7.	Marie Slotemaker	2017-2020		X		Member at Large
8.	Derek Brown	2018-2021		X		Member at Large
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang				X	Lead Pastor
10.	Pastor Collette Broady Grund			X		Associate Pastor
	TOPIC					PRESENTER
1.	Devotions					Pastor Collette Broady Grund
2.	Additions to & Approval of the Agenda New Business E: Synod Assembly Funding Challenge Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve amended agenda. Approved.					Carrol Meyers-Dobler
3.	Secretary's Report Approval of April 16, 2019 Minutes Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Slotemaker to approve minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
4.	Financial Report No financial report available due to Financial Secretary on vacation. April 30 report will be sent to Council upon her return to work.					Diana Olson
5.	Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Council Thank-You</u> : Council thanked for leadership of church. Special thanks to M. Drewitz & C. Meyers-Dobler as their terms end. B. <u>Strategic Plan</u> : BLC strategic planning team met on 5/14 to review 2016-20 plan, celebrate successes and identify objectives to pursue in 2019-20 to wrap up the plan. 4 goals/objectives identified focusing on leadership, evangelism, RIC congregation and lay care ministry. C. <u>Life Insurance Beneficiary</u> : BLC to receive benefits of member life insurance policy. D. <u>Tanzania Trip</u> : Introductory meeting held for individuals interested in 2020 trip. 13 attended with 2 committing to participation. E. <u>AARP Tax Preparation</u> : Discussions held with AARP for future use of Grounds for Joy during February-April to assist community members with tax preparation. Rent would be paid. Action : Council endorsed further discussions on this project. F. <u>Thank You Luncheon</u> : 3 rd annual thank-you luncheon sponsored by Stewardship Board on May 5. Very enthusiastic and positive response from invited BLC members. G. <u>Sanctuary Ceiling Repair</u> : Ceiling repair planned by Facilities Board. H. <u>Book Study</u> : Positive response from Council to engage in book study during 2019-20. Planned by pastors.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<p>I. <u>Bishop Election</u>: Conference meeting held in Waseca to meet 7 bishop candidates on May 13. Attended by 2 pastors, A. Wencil, D. Brown, B. Ihrig. Election to be held at synod assembly on 5/31-6/01 in Rochester.</p> <p>J. <u>Care Ministry</u>: Completed 33 care ministry visits since April report.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Family Faith Formation</u>; Program year completed on 5/19 with Senior Blessing & Dinner. Year-end review completed and summer project list developed. Top priorities for 2019-20 are intentional inclusion of youth & children in worship leadership and making more space in programming for relationship building among families. Excited to welcome Connie Van Raalte as the new Children's Ministry Coordinator II. She has been invited to meet with Children's Board and FFFM staff during May.</p> <p>B. <u>Connections Ministry</u>: Community volunteer celebration held in May. Positive data on guests served. IRS tax paperwork completed for tax-exempt status. May 18 meeting held to vision/plan for future. Major goals include a permanent year-round shelter; deepening spiritual connections with shelter guests & volunteers; providing more supportive services for shelter guests. To be publicized in STAR for BLC members.</p> <p>C. <u>RIC Task Force</u>: Preparing for fall education & discussion events for BLC congregation. Training for task force & Council to be held on August 5.</p> <p>D. <u>Synod Community Accompaniment Table</u>: Will serve on synod committee to build bridges across lines of difference to address issues of racism, sexism & inclusion of all identities/sexual orientations.</p> <p>E. <u>Social Media Policy</u>: Group formed to work on guidelines & strategy for BLC social media & website. Members to include J. Arentson, Pr. Collette, A. Wencil & D. Leiferman with council volunteer & congregation members to be invited to participate. Will meet during the summer. Feedback needed from BLC members about what they would like to see on Facebook & website in the future.</p> <p>F. <u>Care Visits</u>: Made 14 home or hospital visits since April report.</p>	<p>Pastor Collette Broady-Grund</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Strategic Plan Update</u>: Responses of Council & strategic planning group shared on progress made on 2016-20 goals and determine future priorities for last year of plan. Positive work completed on FFF program, partnership with community and small group development. More work needed on leadership, evangelism and lay care ministry. See Lead Pastor Report for details.</p> <p>A. <u>2017 Financial Review Recommendations Actions by Finance Committee</u>: Actions completed on #2, 3, 4, 9 & 12 recommendations. Still working on #1, 5, 6, 8, 10 & 11 with updates to be reported to Council.</p> <p>B. <u>2018 Financial Review Update</u>: No report</p> <p>C. <u>Legal Checklist for Congregations Update</u>: Church Mutual reports that current church property insurance coverage is adequate. Potential need to increase liability coverage in the future.</p> <p>D. <u>Personnel Committee Update: Background checks</u> on BLC staff near completion. <u>Connie Van Raalte</u> approved by Personnel & Council for FFF position. She will meet with Elizabeth to complete personnel paperwork. <u>Lay Staff Review</u> questions finalized & sent to staff for completion by 6/01. <u>Personnel Handbook</u> revisions being completed for distribution to Personnel Committee & Council in June.</p> <p>E. <u>June 4 Leadership Retreat Planned Attendance Update</u>: Pr. Collette will check with Debbie on status of RSVPs for event.</p> <p>F. <u>Stewardship Board "Dream List" for Future Financial Gifts Update</u>: List to be categorized into Facilities, Church Ministries & Tanzania. Routine maintenance vs dream projects discussed with list revisions made. Directed Stewardship Board to identify costs of each project. Board should develop a starter list of projects for funding proposals. Bob will communicate to Board.</p>	<p>B. Ihrig</p> <p>Diana Olson</p> <p>W. Keenan, D. Olson Dave Hageman</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Carrol Meyers-Dobler</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>

	G. <u>SE MN Synod: Synod Bishop Election Update</u> : Positive meeting held with 7 finalists on May 13. More information available on synod website.	Pr. Jay, Pr. Collette, D. Brown, B. Ihrig
8.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Facilities Report</u>: Church Mutual Insurance Company has recommended new security measures of buzzer system to allow access into narthex from staff in the office during the day. Recommendation endorsed by Facilities Board. This would involve minimal cost. Discussion held by Council. Question raised about whether this could be activated/deactivated as needed during day. D. Olson will check with Facilities Board for answer. Question raised about what threat exists to support this proposal. The importance of making the staff feel secure during the day was addressed. Current capability allows for locking the office as needed. Availability of public safety in proximity was noted to address perceived risks. Providing staff training to deescalate possible situation was suggested.</p> <p>Action: Tabled for more discussion to July Council meeting. Video inventory of articles in church completed for insurance company. Valuations of art work and need for possible additional insurance to be completed.</p> <p>B. <u>Thank You from Bureau of Federal Chaplaincy Ministries</u>: Thank-you letter received for BLC \$1,000 contribution to raise up & support ELCA pastors as Federal Chaplains. Framed certificate posted in narthex to recognize BLC as Medallion Congregation.</p> <p>C. <u>June 23 Baby Shower – Tom & Betty Sanger Birthing Kit Contributions</u>: June 23 celebration planned for Sanger leadership resulting in 10,000 birthing kits over years. This will be June monthly mission.</p> <p>D. <u>Happy Retirement for Carrol Meyers-Dobler & Matt Drewitz & Best Wishes to Dave Hageman</u>: Matt (5 yrs) & Carrol (3 yrs) complete their Council terms on May 31. Both were thanked for service to congregation. Dave welcomed as incoming BLC president.</p> <p>E. <u>Synod Assembly Funding Challenge</u>: \$1,500 challenge grant made by LeCenter church to area churches to raise funds for “Leading Together” synod assembly offering to fund youth & young adult ministries with \$40,000.</p> <p>Motion: Motion by D. Olson; Second by D. Brown to make \$500 donation from BLC undesignated memorial fund. Approved. Pr. Collette will communicate decision to LeCenter church and arrange for check to bring to synod assembly.</p>	<p>Diana Olson</p> <p>Carrol Meyers-Dobler</p> <p>Carrol Meyers-Dobler</p> <p>Carrol Meyers-Dobler</p>
9.	Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 7:00 p.m. Grounds for Joy Devotions: Dave Hageman	
10.	Adjournment Motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. by D. Olson; Second by M. Slotemaker. Approved	

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