

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Title Council Meeting **President-Elect** Carrol Meyers-Dobler
Purpose Monthly Business **Secretary** Bob Ihrig
Date January 16, 2018 **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.	8:02 p.m.	1 hr, 2 min	
Council Members			Present	Absent	Position	
1.	Jim Christensen			X	President	
2.	Carrol Meyers-Dobler		X		President-Elect	
3.	Dave Hageman		X		Vice President	
4.	Bob Ihrig		X		Secretary	
5.	Mark Woelfel			X	Treasurer	
6.	Greg Nelson	2015-2018	X		Member at Large	
7.	Matt Drewitz	2016-2019	X		Member at Large	
8.	Marie Slotemaker	2017-2020	X		Member at Large	
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X	Lead Pastor	
10.	Pastor Collette Broady Grund		X		Associate Pastor	
TOPIC						PRESENTER
1.	Devotions					Marie Slotemaker
2.	Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion:</u> Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Hageman to approve agenda. Approved.					Jim Christensen
3.	Secretary's Report Approval of December 19, 2017 Minutes <u>Motion:</u> Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by G. Nelson to approve minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
4.	Financial Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficit of -\$39,791 reduced to -\$6,900 at end of year based upon pledges being fulfilled and additional contributions from BLC members. General fund actual giving in December = \$72,168 General fund pledged giving in December = \$49,614 General fund giving as % of 2017 budget = 98% 					Bob Ihrig
5.	Lead Pastor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Tanzania Trip:</u> Thankful for member prayers, well wishes and finances from BLC. Looking forward to renewing friendships, strengthening mission of Iambi School and developing deeper ties with Iambi School & medical mission in Arusha. <u>Mortgage:</u> Provided Mission Investment Fund information about redoing current BLC mortgage. <u>Financial Review:</u> Still seeking BLC member to join committee to conduct 2017 financial review. Consideration of change of time period for review to avoid tax season for accountants. <u>Safety Plan:</u> Meeting set with Mankato Public Safety on March 14 from 4-5:15 pm with staff, Council, ushers, music & worship committee regarding emergency preparedness plan. <u>Visits & Pastoral Acts:</u> Made 17 home/hospital visits & officiated a member funeral since last report. 					Pr. Jay Dahlvang
6.	Associate Pastor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Faith Formation Ministry:</u> Grateful to have Sarah Morgan on board as new FFF Assistant. Sacraments Carnival attracted greater participation than in previous years. BLC youth will attend TEC this month. Anna & Youth Board preparing special team building series during Lent with hopes of building a peer leadership group for new approach to high school ministry. 					Pr. Collette Broady Grund

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Connections Ministry & Shelter</u>: Dealing with flu season affecting shelter guests & hosts. Guests being sent to Open Door and emergency rooms to get flu shots. More work for Connections with some daily closures by Salvation Army. BLC will host again during week of 1/21 and will have one more host week in March before shelter season ends. Several of long-term guests have obtained housing. Christ the King has joined as a host site. New shelter manager has been hired. Positive experiences reported by host volunteers. • <u>Narcan Training</u>: Now trained to administer Narcan/Naloxone in case of an opioid overdose as part of training for shelter staff. • <u>Lenten Series</u>: Will be part of the Lenten preaching round robin this year with theme of “Living Sabbath” designed to explore ways of practicing the Sabbath in every day life. Family Faith Formation planning Lenten mentors for confirmation students & kit for families in place of NightLIGHT. • <u>Vacation</u>: Will take vacation time February 19-26. • <u>Pastoral Care</u>: 22 visits made since last report with many in hospital. 	
<p>7. Old Business</p>	<p>A. <u>Strategic Planning Update</u>: No report at this time. New update in February.</p> <p>B. <u>New Financial Review Committee Member Update</u>: Still seeking 3rd member of committee to conduct 2017 BLC financial review. See lead pastor report for details.</p> <p>C. <u>Personnel Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Distribution of Revised Personnel Handbook to Staff</u>: Updated Handbook explained & shared with BLC staff. b) <u>FFF Assistant Interview, Hiring and Hours</u>: Interview conducted on January 4 with decision not to hire candidate. Interview team recommended offering position to previous candidate, Sarah Morgan, for January-June and resumption of duties in late August. She has accepted position. Posting will be done for individual to assist during June-August for 30 hours as recommended by sabbatical leave committee. c) <u>Staff Operating Handbooks</u>: 4 BLC staff members have completed operating handbooks for their respective positions. Waiting for 2 more handbooks to be completed this month. Personnel will review handbooks at February meeting. d) <u>Junior Bell Choir Director Posting/Interviews</u>: The planned opening in the director position due to retirement of Shirley Ruby on May 31 will be posted during 3 Sundays in February for BLC members. Interviews to follow in March. <p>D. <u>Sabbatical Planning Committee Update</u>: Committee held 2nd meeting on January 4. 5 pastors/groups have been confirmed to preach on Sundays during sabbatical of Pr. Collette on May 1-July 31. Additional pastor is being contracted. On-call pastoral care schedule being developed to assist Pr. Jay as needed. Committee approved \$2,000 of funding to assist Collette with expenses in addition to \$2,000 provided by synod. Recommendation approved to increase FFF Assistant hours from current 15 hours new 30 hours per week during May-July. Committee will meet again on April 5.</p> <p>E. <u>Bethlehem Security Plan Update</u>: See lead pastor report. Informational letter provided from Como Park Lutheran Church for consideration</p> <p>F. <u>Mortgage Repayment Plan</u>: Reviewed Mission Investment Fund handout of repayment details. No action taken at this time. Greg will study this option and connect with local banks for other financial options.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay Pastor Jay</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Members</p> <p>Greg Nelson</p>
<p>8. New Business</p>	<p>A. <u>RENEW 2018 – February 24, 2018 – Trinity Lutheran, Owatonna</u>: The annual synod gathering was reviewed. M. Drewtiz expressed interest in attending. This is open to all BLC members.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p>

	<p>Action: B. Ihrig will provide information to Community & Global Board and send bulletin announcements to Christine for BLC members.</p> <p>B. <u>SE MN Synod Assembly–May 4-5–Verizon Center, Mankato:</u> BLC delegates and volunteers are needed.</p> <p>Motion: On motion by G. Nelson; Second by M. Slotemaker, assembly delegates (C. Meyers-Dobler, D. Hageman & B. Ihrig) approved.</p> <p>Action: B. Ihrig will provide bulletin announcements to recruit BLC members as registration volunteers on Friday of assembly. BLC Fair Trade Committee has also been contacted about interest in selling products during the 2 days.</p> <p>C. <u>Council Contributions to Fat Tuesday:</u> Contributions were collected to provide a basket for the silent auction.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Carrol Meyers-Dobler</p>
9.	<p>Next Council Meeting: February 20, 2018 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Devotions: Matt Drewitz</p>	
10.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Motion: Motion by G. Nelson; Second by M. Slotemaker to adjourn. Approved.</p>	

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