

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Title Council Meeting

President Jim Christensen

Purpose Monthly Business

Secretary Bob Ihrig

Date February 20, 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.	8:55 p.m.	1 hr, 55 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					Matt Drewitz
2.	Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Drewitz to approve printed agenda. Approved.					Jim Christensen
3.	Secretary's Report Approval of January 16, 2018 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by G. Nelson to approved printed minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
4.	Financial Report No January 31 financial report was provided by the financial secretary. Pr. Jay and B. Ihrig will meet with Elizabeth to ensure financial reports are provided to the Council for all future monthly meetings.					Mark Woelfel
5.	Lead Pastor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Tanzania Trip</u>: Iambi Secondary School is doing well thanks to BLC financial support for electricity and school books. • <u>Sexual Harassment Policy</u>: Met with Personnel Committee chair to discuss how to best raise awareness of BLC policy in light of recent news events. Will attend a synod Boundaries in Ministry workshop on March 19 with follow-up meeting to be held with Personnel chair to discuss planned approach with BLC staff. • <u>Preventing/Stopping Violent Intruder Workshop</u>: Invitations have been sent to March 14 workshop presented by 2 Mankato Public Safety officers to various BLC staff, Council and others. • <u>Mortgage</u>: Will present plan at this meeting for paying the mortgage in future years after capital campaign funds are depleted. • <u>Lent</u>: Good attendance on Ash Wednesday. Enjoying being at BLC for Lent instead of past years in cooperating church rotation. • <u>Ministry Candidate</u>: Working with Marrett Broady Grund and synod to move forward on his plans to pursue the ministry. • <u>Financial Review</u>: Wendy Keenan has agreed to serve on BLC Financial Review Committee with Frank Larsen & Levi Janssen. Goal is to complete 2017 financial review by May 31 at the latest. • <u>Financial Peace University Class</u>: Cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. 					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>New Member Orientation</u>: Will start on March 11. Four families/individuals plan to join BLC with more expected. • <u>Conference Treasurer</u>: Reelected as synod MN River Conference treasurer. • <u>Visits & Pastoral Acts</u>: Made 26 home/hospital visits so far this year. 	
6.	<p>Associate Pastor's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Faith Formation Ministry</u>: New FFF Assistant, Sarah Morgan, is great asset. Meeting will be held in next few weeks with Anna and Sarah to map out plans for this summer. Hopeful to fill temporary assistant position hours this summer. Anna starting a Lenten leadership group for high school youth to help with rebuilding senior high program. • <u>Connections Ministry</u>: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato will be 8th church to join. BLC will host for 3rd and final time the week of March 11. BLC member Derek Brown has joined Connections board. Applying for grants with hopes of leasing a year-round day shelter space. End of year celebration planned in April when shelter closes for winter. • <u>Sabbatical Leave Planning</u>: Planning by BLC and family moving forward. • <u>Lenten Round Robin</u>: Looking forward to being part of Lenten service rotation schedule with other churches. • <u>Visitation</u>: Made 13 nursing home/hospital visits since last report. 	Pastor Collette Broady Grund
7.	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Strategic Plan Update</u>: Written report provided with positive progress being made. Need to do more to address Goal 6 to strengthen lay care ministry based upon many visits required each month to BLC members.</p> <p>B. <u>New Financial Review Committee Member Update</u>: Wendy Keenan nominated to fill current vacancy. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by G. Nelson to approve nomination.</p> <p>C. <u>Personnel Update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>FFF Assistant Temporary Staff Position (May 1-July 31) Update</u>: Has been posted internally for 3 weeks with 2/19 application deadline. No applications were submitted. Meetings will be held with Pr. Collette & Anna to decide on next steps with possible BLC members and external candidates. 2. <u>Junior Bell Choir Director Posting/Application Update</u>: Has been posted internally with 2/26 application deadline. No applications received yet. 3. <u>Staff Operating Handbooks</u>: 5 of 6 lay staff operating handbooks have been received and reviewed with positive feedback from Personnel. Will be shared with pastors and collated in notebook for office. <p>D. <u>Sabbatical Planning Committee Update</u>: Guest pastors being scheduled and on-call pastoral list being developed during Pr. Collette sabbatical during May 1-July 31. Sending ceremony & celebration scheduled for April 29 between services. Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by D. Hageman to approved Sabbatical Committee recommendation to provide Pr. Collette with \$2,000 of BLC sabbatical funds to assist with expenses. Approved.</p> <p>E. <u>Bethlehem Security Plan Meeting Update</u>: See Lead Pastor report.</p> <p>F. <u>RENEW 2018 – February 24, 2018 Planned Attendance</u>: Pr. Jay and 3 other BLC members will attend.</p> <p>G. <u>May 4-5 Synod Assembly BLC Volunteers & Fair Trade Sales</u>: 6 BLC members have volunteered to assist with Friday registration. BLC Fair Trade Committee will sell Fair Trade products both days.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay</p> <p>Jim Christensen, Pastor Jay</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig, Pastor Jay</p> <p>Pastor Jay Pastor Jay</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p>
8.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Nominations Committee Update (Council, Boards/Committees)</u>: Nominating process started at February 1 by asking boards/committees to identify vacancies/continuing members and contact needed new members. Total of 42 positions to fill with 16 filled thus far. Deadline of 2/28 with</p>	Bob Ihrig

	<p>Nominating Committee to fill remaining positions in March.</p> <p>B. <u>BLC Legacy Gift Proposal</u>: Stewardship Board proposal for future BLC legacy giving presented. Endorsed by Endowment Board in January. Motion by M. Woelfel; Second by D. Hageman to approve proposal. Approved.</p> <p>C. <u>Small Group Directory</u>: Directory of all BLC small groups & boards developed by Adult Education Committee presented. Initiated for BLC Strategic Goal #3 to promote member involvement. Available at narthex kiosk & will be presented to all future new BLC members.</p> <p>D. <u>Semi-Annual Meeting Calendar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 8: Semi-Annual Meeting Preview: 9:30 – 10:30 am • April 15: Semi-Annual Meeting: 9:30 – 10:30 am <p>E. <u>Financial Roles of Council & Finance Committee</u>: Printed background information provided on constitutional & BLC policies regarding financial roles & responsibilities of Council and Finance Committee.</p> <p>F. <u>Tanzania Mission Update</u>: January trip reviewed with plans for Adult Forum on March 4. Positive feedback received from BLC participants. Hopeful to send another BLC group in 2020. Goal is to host Iambi headmaster and 1 teacher in November/December.</p> <p>G. <u>BLC Mortgage Proposal</u>: Discussion held on proposal to make mortgage payments in future once capital campaign funds have been depleted. No immediate plans for a 3rd capital campaign given BLC member fatigue after 2 campaigns in past 6 years. Plan to move forward includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forego making additional principal payments & use accumulated funds to continue regularly scheduled monthly payments. This will include current funds & pledged dollars. 2. Implement buy-down proposal from Mission Investment Fund to reduce monthly payment from \$10,782 to \$8,445 without extending the maturity date of the loan. This will extend months of mortgage dollars on hand from 11.6 months to 14.8 months with new payment. It will also extend unfulfilled pledges from 19.6 months to 25.1 months. 3. Make congregational appeal in late spring or early fall to ask for 1-2 year extension of current pledges and ask for new pledges from members who have not yet financially supported building renovation. This would be a low-key appeal involving a special mailing and follow-up phone calls. <p>Discussion addressed positive features of plan including not having to go to a bank for funds; continuing with positive relationship with MIF and providing a manageable proposal.</p> <p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Woelfel to approve plan. Approved. Plan will be presented as information to the April 15 semi-annual meeting.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Council Members</p> <p>Pastor Jay, Jim Christensen</p> <p>Pastor Jay</p> <p>Pastor Jay</p>
9.	<p>Next Council Meeting: March 20, 2018 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Devotions: Pastor Jay Dahlvang</p>	
10.	<p>Adjournment</p>	

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