**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan**

**“We journey with God to serve with love”**

**Council Minutes: 3/19/24**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Cindy Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**OPENING PRAYER/DEVOTION:** Scott provided the opening devotion.

**QUORUM CALL** President Cindy Monroe, Secretary Jana Rockne, Maureen Bauer, Jim Monroe, Denice Bossardet, Scott Farley, Vice President Paul Wiemerslage, Treasurer Gary Ancinec, Jim Hinds, Gail Goldsmith and Pastor Paul Busekist were present. Tina Dohm was absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Gary moved, motion was seconded. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES** Gary moved, motion was seconded to approve the minutes (with the addition of Tina Dohm under Quorum Call) from the February 20, 2024 meeting Motion passed.

**CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS:** None

**REPORTS**

**PASTOR’S REPORT** Pastor Paul provided a written report. Please refer to his written report for further details.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** Gary provided a written report. Please see the written report for more details. .

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT** Jim referred council members to his written report. Please refer to Jim’s written report for more details.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports** Reports were submitted by the Financial Secretary, Personnel, Christian Education/Youth and Fellowship. All were accepted as reported. Please refer to the reports for more details. Additionally, a report was submitted by Gail Goldsmith on behalf of the Safety and Security Committee (see report) and from the Directory Committee (see report). Discussion was held about the need for a “lead” for the Easter Breakfast, the challenges finding people to sign up to experience worship in the gathering space while also being available for people arriving at church when the doors are locked and the misunderstanding by the council of the progress on the new directory.

**URGENT BUSINESS:**

A**.** Gary moved and the motion was seconded for the following: Approval of the revised contract in the amount of $78,701.02 with Northshore Exteriors LLC for the Sanctuary Roof Contract and pay the remaining amount of the contract upon completion using funds from the sale of 1020 Peninsula Dr. that is in the Asset Replacement Money Market Account. Motion passed.

B. Gary moved and the motion was seconded for the following: Approve the revised contract in the amount of $31,314 between Northshore Exteriors LLC and Chart House for the Fellowship Hall Contract as the “second signer”. Motion passed.

C. Gary moved and the motion was seconded for the following: Approve the “Contract For Services – 22.9 kW SOLAR PV System” in the amount of $107,738 with Chart House Energy. This contract includes $31,314 for the Fellowship Hall roof and $76,424 for the 22.9 kW SOLAR PV System. The contract with Chart House Energy is to be paid using funds from the sale of 1020 Peninsula Dr. that is in the Asset Replacement Money Markey Account. Motion passed.

D. Gary moved and motion was seconded for the following: When received, the rebate on the fellowship hall roof and solar panels will be placed in the Money Market Account containing the funds from the sale of 1020 Peninsula Dr. with future use of the monies to be determined by council. Motion passed.

E. Gary moved and motion was seconded for the following: Motion to allow $25,000 be put in a CD account that will be designated for the visioning/social ministry programming at BLC (this will provide “seed” money for future visioning and local benevolence). Motion passed.

F. Gary moved and motion was seconded for the following: Motion to renew the current Certificate of Deposit (CD) for the full amount that is up for renewal. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Membership changes: Gary moved and the motion was seconded for the following: Approve returning members Rita Kucera and Toni Apsey. Note with sadness the passing of Byron Pierce and Ken Soper. Motion passed and condolences were extended.
2. Notes of appreciation will be sent to leaders of the directory committee.
3. Reduce number of STARs being sent out each month: Discussion was held regarding: 1. Sending the STAR out as a PDF to those who are okay with this and 2. Discontinuing sending the STAR to those who we have no contact with and/or no awareness of their continued interest or involvement in BLC. Information will be provided in the STAR, via the weekly bulletin and in conversation between members. Concern was expressed that we may be inadvertently hurting people who may be enjoying the STAR but we are unaware of their need. It was agreed to proceed with thoughts of both good stewardship of our resources and care/concern for those we may not see but are still engaged with the church.
4. Update on provision of IT services for BLC. Pastor Paul, Paul W and Jana provided updated information on Applied Innovation “off boarding” their services (IT Support) for BLC and the need to secure new IT support services. Gary made a motion and it was seconded to authorize the payment of the $2,179.29 to Applied Innovation for the licensing and support of the Security Firewall Appliance and 4 Access Points. Motion passed. Gary will ensure the process of getting the invoice for $2,179.29 will be completed (via completing a check request and getting this to our bookkeeper). Additionally, Paul is doing some networking on possible IT Support companies as is Jana. The need to complete this has been extended from March 31, 2024 to April 30, 2024 due to the busy Lenten activities.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Safety and Security Committee Update: Gail provided an update on the Safety and Security procedure of locking the front door during services. Discussion was held regarding why people are not signing up with varying thoughts about whether locking the doors is supported or not supported. Additional conversation and communication will be provided to the congregation regarding this process and the need for volunteers. Also, the use of the Hospitality Volunteers with the aid of a donated iPad was also discussed and will be further explored.
2. Building Use Policy: Revised and dated Building Use Policies was distributed. Council members are asked to add the new policy to their council booklets and to discard the old policy.
3. 2-year goal of revision of BLC constitution: Paul reported this is still in process and he is making progress. Discussion was held about adding virtual voting to the BLC’s Constitution. Additionally, there was discussion on whether the updated constitution will be ready for congregational approval/review by our June meeting and whether the Synod needs to approve the changes first.
4. Delegates approved to attend the annual synod meeting. Maureen moved and it was seconded for the following motion: The council will delegate the decision on who will attend (one male, one female and Pastor Paul) the annual synod meeting to the council president (Cindy Monroe) and Pastor Paul. Motion passed.

**MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:** Each council member was given an opportunity for general/undocumented comments.

**LORD’S PRAYER:** Said by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Jana Rockne, Council Secretary**