

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

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

**Council Minutes: 9/19/23**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Cindy Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

**OPENING PRAYER** Cindy Monroe provided the opening prayer.

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

**CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Maureen moved, Denice seconded the approval of the agenda, with the removal of Section A under “Urgent Business” (Kathie Bair has indicated she is unable to serve on the council at this time). Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES** Scott moved, Maureen seconded the approval of the August minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

**REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** None

**PASTOR’S REPORT** Pastor Paul provided a written report. Please see written report for details.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** Jim reported for Gary. Income and expenses match for August.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT** Jim referred council members to his written report. Income in August was ahead of total year. Additionally, there was a recommendation from the council to the Finance Committee that statements go out three (3) times a year (at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and end of the year).

**PERSONNEL** Maureen discussed salary increases. The recommendation is for an increase of 6% for the pastor and 4% for other staff, based on industry standards and the Synod.

**STEWARDSHIP** Scott reported on the Stewardship campaign for this fall. Preparation is underway for the stewardship campaign for 2024 and the committee has met to start the process.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports** Reports were submitted by the Financial Secretary, Christian Care, Personnel, Christian Education/Y2A and Worship and Music. All were accepted as reported. Please refer to the reports for more details.

**URGENT BUSINESS**

- A. Review offers for house and take necessary action. Scott presented four offers on the rental house property. After a thorough discussion regarding the merits of each offer, it was Scott's recommendation offer #4 (a cash offer of \$325,500 with an inspection within 2 days of the offer being accepted) be the first choice with offer #3 (\$325,000 with a conventional loan and conditional on passing a home inspection) being the second choice. Denice moved, Maureen seconded a motion that the board accept offer #4 (conditions stated above) with a back up of offer #3 (conditions stated above). Motion passed.

Additionally, there was discussion regarding the need for a more expedient process of reviewing and giving approval (on behalf of the council) for details of the sale of the rental property. Jana moved and Tina seconded a motion to allow the council to designate authority to the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the council, regarding the sale of the rental property. Motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Approve schedule for Advent/Christmas: Denice moved, Jana seconded a motion to approve the schedule as presented by the Worship and Music Committee. Motion passed.
- B. Change date of November meeting: Discussion was held regarding the date of our November council meeting (coming very close to Thanksgiving). It was decided there would not be a change.
- C. 2-Year goal of revisions of BLC constitution: This was tabled due to Paul W. not being present.
- D. Reminder: installation of council members/Sunday School staff on Sunday September 24: duly noted.
- E. Photos for directory – NEXT week – is everyone signed up? Cindy provided a reminder to all.
- F. Possible date(s) for congregational meeting to approve next budget: Budget sheets were handed out to committee chair people. The congregational meeting will be January 7, 2024. Written notices will go out the week of December 18, 2023.
- G. Committee leaders to have budget proposals submitted by October 9. Noted

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Safety and Security Committee update: Maureen reviewed the bid from EPS regarding the installation and maintenance of security cameras in the church (see written bid with details). Maureen moved, Tina seconded a motion to accept the bid as submitted by EPS. Motion passed. Cost for material and installation: \$4,450, Monthly maintenance: \$40
- B. Good Samaritan Fund Offering: received \$1,914 as of 9/13/23 – surpassing the goal. Thank you to Maureen for organizing this project.
- C. Status of binders for council members including descriptions of committee responsibilities: the binders should be complete and have been distributed. No update on description of committee responsibilities.
- D. Building use policy – approval of multiple uses: this is still being developed.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Each council member was given an opportunity to comment or share information.

**LORD'S PRAYER:** Said by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Jana Rockne, Council Secretary**