

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

MINUTES TO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: May 17, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Mark McPherson, President called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: was said by Mark McPherson and he read from the Lutheran Handbook “How to Listen to a Sermon.”

QUORUM CALL: Gail Goldsmith, Secretary; Maureen Bauer, Denice Bossardet, Pastor Paul Busekist, Scott Farley, Gail Goldsmith, Leonard Graf, Laura Hahn, Jim Hinds, Mark McPherson, Cindy Monroe, Jim Monroe, Paul Wiemerslage.

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: Chuck Ardingo was present to discuss the Refresh Committee projects. He would like to have after church coffee hour so the congregation can give their input as to what they would like to see done in an around the church. He would like to start with some small projects, lighting, painting, etc. They are taking bids on the siding for the peak. The pine tree that was split has been removed. We need to look at what has to be done and how it will be funded Asset Replacement, Synod Grant, etc.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Gail Goldsmith made the motion to approve the agenda with additions, Scott Farley seconded the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 19, 2022: Leonard Graf made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections, Cindy Monroe seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Mark McPherson reports he and Leonard are the nominating committee. There was only 1 referral in the box for nominations. He will check with the Mission and Sustaining Endowment Fund Committees for vacancies.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor Paul reports he has had a busy 2 months including BLC going through the first full Lenten season since 2019. He is continuing to re-engage with visitations and is planning on doing some phone check-ins. He is having staff submit their “Top2’s” each week for the staff meeting and to keep the meetings shorter. He is beginning to frame the remainder of 2022 to “Pivot before Vision,” looking at finding space for “Traditional” service one Sunday per month; seeking regular way to gather one/month on a weeknight to lift up our new choir director, Tony Bero; beefing up the Food Pantry Kiosk visibility; ways to spend little additional funds for more ministry and outreach. He is planning a few times away.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Leonard Graff reports we are \$1900 below budget for April. Traverse City had over charged for electric, sewer and water and there is a \$35 credit.

Financial Secretary Report: Jim Monroe reports April was a good month for contributions. He feels people responded to the statement in the worship folders and the Star, although traditionally April is a higher contribution month.

COVID update: Grand Traverse County numbers are high, the CDC is recommending wearing masks since the criteria has changed at Munson and the County we may need to look at a different criteria at BLC.

CONSENT CALENDAR: COMMITTEE REPORTS: The committee reports are; Treasurer’s report; Financial Secretary’s report; Financial and Executive Committee report; Christian Care; Fellowship; Membership and Evangelism; Personnel; Property; Stewardship; Worship and Music; Youth/Y2A; Endowment Fud (quarterly); and Sustaining Endowment Memorial Fund (quarterly). All reports are submitted and on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Refresh Committee Update:** Leonard Graf made the motion to authorize the repair of the south wall in the Sanctuary with funds from Asset Replacement. Cindy Monroe seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- B. Scott Farley made the motion to authorize seed money to go towards the Building Refresh Program to match Sustaining Endowment Funds with Asset Replacement funds up to \$5000.00. Jim Hinds seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- C. **Sabbatical Committee Update:** Gail Goldsmith reported the Sabbatical grant application to the Lilly Foundation was submitted and we have received confirmation that it has been received and is in the process of being reviewed. We should hear from them by the end of August if we will receive the grand funds.
- D. **Sound System Update:** The work on the sound board is complete, the cost \$10,700 and there were \$10565 in donations towards the cost. An extra mic was purchased.
- E. **Security Plan-Building locks update/cameras:** The lock work is completed, there are limited amounts of keys. We have 2 security cameras that don't work as there is not a computer attached to them. Jim Hinds will take it to the Property Committee to do some research.
- F. **Annual Congregational Meeting:** Minutes for June 2021 and December 2021 will be available with end of year reports to be give out 2 weeks prior to the meeting. The meeting is June 12, 2022.
- G. **COVID-19 Update:** Paul Wiemerslage made the motion to change the criteria for Covid restrictions. The CDC criteria now is Low, Medium, High, when the criteria is High the recommendation is to wear masks inside. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion and the motion carried. Discussion: Stay home if one is sick. The information will go out in the church email on Thursday afternoon.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Audit:** The Synod recommends an audit every 3 years. It will be looked into to be on next year's budget.
- B. **Need substitute secretary for June coverage:** Gail will be present on Zoom for Executive meeting, Maureen Bauer and Cindy Monroe will substitute for the Congregational meeting.
- C. **PSA for Food Pantry:** Gail Goldsmith will send out letters to Father Fred Foundation and Salvation Army as they have Food Pantries and help people with bills. Gail will look into who keeps the community food pantry list and have the Food Kiosk added to the list.
- D. **Bereavement groups:** Gail Goldsmith will put out a signup sheet to find the interest in the church with age groups (possible children) to plan for groups starting this fall, Munson Hospice is very interested in leading a group one time per month for a few months.
- E. **Membership:** Cindy Monroe made the motion to approve the transfer of Bill and Dee Springer to Trinity and to accept new members Gary and Kathy Ancinec. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

GOOD TO THE ORDER: A time for general/undocumented comments by each Council Member, if so desired. Thank You Mark McPherson for your years of dedication on the council. You and Kathy will be missed.

LORD'S PRAYER: said by all

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Goldsmith,

Council Secretary