

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 8/15/23

CALL TO ORDER President Cindy Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

OPENING PRAYER Jana Rockne provided the opening prayer.

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

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Maureen moved, Denice seconded the approval of the agenda, following some adjustments and additions. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Gary moved, Denice seconded the approval of the minutes from the July (with two corrections). Motion passed.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT None

PASTOR’S REPORT Pastor Paul is on sabbatical.

TREASURER’S REPORT Gary reported that Leonard is providing a written report.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT Jim referred council members to his written report. Income in July was consistent. Total income for the year is ahead of last year.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Safety and Security Committee Presentation by Officer Makowski will be on August 22, 2023, addressing Active Shooter preparation. There will also be a Temple Talk in September to provide instructions/updates for safety, security and emergency procedures. Cindy encouraged council members to attend the presentation on August 22.
- B. Sabbatical Budget and Update: Cindy provided a budget update. Maureen added that gift cards are going to staff and committee members in recognition of their hard work on the sabbatical.
- C. Window Treatments for classrooms; safety, privacy and to help reduce glare on the TV screen in the library: Barbara Oster and Kate Holtfreter have donated window treatments for the library. They were installed by members of the men’s work group. It was

confirmed that there are blinds on the window of the nursery (not in great shape but functional).

- D. Good Samaritan Fund Offering & updated policy: a new Good Samaritan Fund Policy was presented and adopted by the council (Gary moved, Denise seconded a motion to accept the policy, which was unanimously accepted). The new policy will be added to the Council handbook. The fund-raising effort is going well – we are near our goal of over \$1200.
- E. Council Binders for new council members and those who did not receive a handbook: Jana distributed seven handbooks. An additional three handbooks will be assembled (Maureen will ask Barbara Oster to do this) for Pastor Paul, the office and the congregation.
- F. Building Use Policy: Maureen reported this is being completed.
- G. Selling Rental Home: renters are out or will be out soon, next steps: There was significant discussion about the sale of the rental house, including the selection of Scott Farley (and the company he is associated with) as the listing realtor and the need for complete transparency if he is selected, due to Scott serving on the church council and a need to avoid a conflict of interest for him and the church. The following motion was made by Gary, seconded by Maureen: The council will request Scott Farley (an agent of the Mitten Group) move forward with listing and marketing the property at 1020 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City. Scott recused himself from voting. The motion was passed. Additionally, Gary moved, Denise seconded a motion that Scott be recused from all further votes regarding the sale of the property. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Signatures for bank accounts: Cindy reported that signatures for bank accounts for the church will be completed by Saturday, August 19.
- B. Cleaning of the church on God's Work/Our Hands and Rally Day (both scheduled for September 10): There was discussion about the events for September 10, including youth/family events and cleaning of the church. Jana volunteered to coordinate the volunteers who stay for cleaning. The Rally Day events are being coordinated by Tina and Paul.
- C. 2-year goal of revision of BLC constitution: Paul W. volunteered to take the lead with this project.
- D. Installation of council members/Sunday School Staff: Scheduled for Sunday, September 24.
- E. Photos for the church directory: Cindy discussed this project and encouraged council members to sign up.
- F. Vote to approve the purchase and repair of boiler equipment: Gary moved, Scott seconded a motion to pay the designated company for the repair of the boiler in the church, with funds coming from asset replacement. Motion passed.

G. Committee description for Christian Care: Maureen read a message from Jan Stretlien, requesting an updated description for the Christian Care Committee. This issue was tabled pending further exploration.

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 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Council Secretary