

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 11/15/2022

CALL TO ORDER President Gail Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

OPENING PRAYER Jana Rockne provided the opening prayer.

QUORUM CALL President Gail Goldsmith, Vice President Maureen Bauer, Secretary Jana Rockne, Scott Farley, Leonard Graf, Jim Monroe, Cindy Monroe, Laura Hahn, Denise Bossardet, Jim Hinds and Pastor Paul Busekist. Paul Wiemerslage was absent.

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Maureen Bauer, Cindy Monroe seconded approval of the agenda. All agreed.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Following one correction, Maureen moved and Cindy seconded a motion to approve the minutes from 10/18/22.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT Gail expressed gratitude toward those who participated in cleaning the church on Sunday, 11/13/22.

PASTOR’S REPORT Pastor Paul’s written report was submitted and reviewed. Additionally, he spoke with another candidate for Ministry Coordinator who is interested in further conversation.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT Maureen provided an update on efforts to fill the Ministry Coordinator position and STAY interviews with current staff.

TREASURER’S REPORT Leonard referred council members to his submitted report and reviewed the information provided. Due to the absence of billing from the city for electricity, expenses were lower than expected (this will adjust as the bill will be sent).

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT Jim referred council members to his emailed report. He provided information on October 2022 contributions and YTD contributions. Pledges for the coming year are two weeks behind but look optimistic. The Sabbatical account received \$2000 with total pledges/commitments in excess of \$11,000.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports Reports were submitted by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Care, Fellowship, Personnel, Youth/Y2A Committees, Property Update. All were accepted as reported.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Refresh – No update. There was discussion regarding the garbage disposal in the island sink. Recommendation made by the council is that it NOT be replaced but that the sink be made usable.

B. Stewardship Update – Scott Farley reported that the stewardship campaign for 2023 is wrapping up and he expressed gratitude toward those who did Temple Talks in support of the campaign.

C. Budget – Leonard discussed the proposed budget and the recommended changes from our last council meeting. After considerable discussion and review of the proposed budget, Cindy Monroe moved and Jim Hinds seconded a motion that the Proposed Budget be submitted for congregational approval at the congregational meeting December 11, 2022.

D. Congregational Meeting – notices will be sent to the congregation 11/27/22 for the scheduled meeting.

E. Safety and Security – Committee continues to meet monthly. Gail reviewed the written report on the meeting 10/25/22 with Keith Fritz (fire marshal). Please refer to the written review of the walk through.

F. Sabbatical Update – Gail reported on the committee meeting to plan the Sabbatical.

G. Christian Education, Y2A – Paul Wiemerslage provided a written report via email. He reported intergenerational events are cancelled for November and December due to conflicts in schedules. He also requested changes in the 2023 Budget for Christian Education, which were incorporated into the proposed budget.

H. Handbook Revision Update – no update

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Volunteer for Social Media – Pastor Paul reported there is no update in this area.

B. Membership changes – Libby Thayer requested she be disenrolled , while Bart and Patricia Duzenberg requested they be re-enrolled. Both were approved by the council.

C. Sabbatical Funds Account – Denise Bossardet moved, Cindy Monroe seconded a motion to change the name of the account from Long Term Liability to Sabbatical Fund. All approved.

D. Property upkeep in the future – It was noted and reviewed that the recommendation from the Property group to start planning for future property needs will be addressed at the next council meeting.

E. Tree damage on East Lawn – Question was raised about filing an insurance claim as a result of tree damage. Because there was no loss, no claim is warranted.

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 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Council Secretary