

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 1/16/2024

CALL TO ORDER President Cindy Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Cindy also acknowledged Pastor Paul for providing communion for 2 congregational members who were in the hospital on Christmas Eve.

OPENING PRAYER Jim H. provided the opening prayer.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Gary moved, Paul seconded the approval of the agenda, with the following changes: remove Letter “A” under new business (Determination of distribution of non-ELCA benevolence) and adding Letter “D: under old business (Personnel Handbook) Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Gary moved, Paul seconded the approval of the December minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: Alanna was present as a representative for Bayside Contra Dancers. She expressed a huge thank you on behalf of the group to BLC for sponsoring their dances at the church (with no fee) for the past year. Attendance has been good at their monthly dances. Demographics are shifting to younger participants and there is increased attendance. Gary moved, Maureen seconded a motion to extend a contract to the group to charge \$60 a month (on months they have a dance), which will generally involve April 2024 through June 2025 (due to not having dances on some months and the contract covering 12 months of dances). Motion carried.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT None

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. Gary also reviewed the details of the budget reporting system.

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, Fellowship, Worship and Music, and Christian Care. All were accepted as reported. Please refer to the reports for more details.

URGENT BUSINESS:

- A. Council retreat in March sign-out sheet: Cindy discussed the process of selecting a date to hold a 3-hour meeting of council members (outside of regular council or committee meetings). The date determined that everyone is available is March 2 from 9 am – noon.
- B. Approve Lenten/Easter schedule as proposed by Worship/Music. Paul moved, Gary seconded a motion to approve the schedule. Motion carried.
- C. Solar Faithful proposal update: Informational meeting 2-11 and congregational meeting 2-25. Pastor Paul discussed this project and provided information on issues raised in previous conversations. Gary moved, Paul seconded a motion to conduct a congregation meeting on February 25 (if needed and appropriate). Motion carried.
- D. Correction of budget to reflect the approved amount of salary/reimbursement for Pastor Paul. After asking Pastor Paul to be excused during this discussion, Denise moved, Maureen seconded a motion to correct the budget to reflect the correct amount for Pastor Paul's annual salary. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Response to Alanna's presentation; action taken as stated above.
- B. New members acceptance: Joseph Thomas and Peggy Burns. Cindy moved, Gary seconded a motion to accept both as new members. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Safety and Security Committee Update: Gail led a discussion on a recommendation from the Safety and Security Committee to lock the main entrance door of the church 10 minutes following the start of church services on Sunday. There was considerable conversation regarding this, with concern expressed that it sends a message of closing our doors to prospective new members and/or being unwelcoming. A question was asked if the committee members have contacted law enforcement about patrolling the church parking lot on Sundays (Gail will check on this.) Maureen moved, Jana seconded a motion to establish a policy that the entrance door be locked 10 minutes following the start of church events (including service on Sunday and weeknights). This would start as soon as possible with a trial period of 90 days. Motion carried.
- B. Building Use Policy: Gail provided copies of the revised/updated Building Use Policy with corrections. Paul moved, Gary seconded a motion to accept the Building Use Policy as submitted. Motion passed.
- C. 2-year goal of revision of BLC constitution: Paul reported there is good progress being made with the goal of the constitution being both revised and converted so that future revisions are easier to complete.
- D. Personnel Handbook: Maureen referred council members to the revised personnel handbook she had previously sent to everyone. Maureen moved, Gary seconded a motion to accept the personnel handbook as revised and presented. Motion carried.

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 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Council Secretary