

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 10/17/23

CALL TO ORDER President Cindy Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

OPENING PRAYER Tina Dohm provided the opening prayer.

QUORUM CALL President Cindy Monroe, Secretary Jana Rockne, Maureen Bauer, Jim Monroe, Denice Bossardet, Tina Dohm, Scott Farley, Gary Ancinec, Jim Hinds, Paul Wiemerslage, Gail Goldsmith and Pastor Paul Busekist were present. There were no absences.

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: Chuck Ardingo (on behalf of the Refresh Committee) was present to review the projects that have been completed and the remaining work to be done. Lighting has been replaced in several areas of the church, several necessary repairs have been completed, painting, cleaning, wiring – to name just some of the projects. A plan is in place to have a contractor complete work on the wall in the sanctuary. Almost all of the donated funds have either been spent or are designated. There was a conversation regarding additional projects that would enhance the church (lighting, downstairs classroom, ceilings, carpeting – the list is long) and this will need to be addressed with the next Refresh Committee. A heartfelt thank you to all those involved in this phase of the Refresh Project

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Gary moved, Maureen seconded the approval of the agenda, with the removal of five names under section C in New Business: Caleb & Rudy Kelly, Nick, Luke and Joe Friedli are not transferring out as members. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Gary moved, Scott seconded the approval of the September minutes as submitted (following correction of the date of the meeting). Motion passed.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT None

PASTOR’S REPORT Pastor Paul provided a written report. Please see written report for details. On the back of his report was a letter from Rudy Kelly and her soon to be fiancé, Brandon, asking for permission to have their wedding reception at the church. They provided details on the reception, which would include a small selection of wine and beer. Following significant discussion, Gary moved, Paul seconded the following motion: The decision to allow the request to hold a wedding reception for Rudy Kelly can be delegated to the executive committee. The motion passed. Gary will check with our insurance carrier to find out if our insurance policy would prevent the church from allowing alcohol at an event.

TREASURER’S REPORT Gary provided a written report. Please see the written report for more details.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT Jim referred council members to his written report. Giving statements will go out soon. Please refer to Jim's written report for more details.

PERSONNEL Maureen reported on the revised Personnel handbook. She also discussed employee retention and the need to continue to recognize our staff regularly.

STEWARDSHIP Scott reported on the Stewardship campaign for this fall. The Stewardship Committee has met and a letter will be going out shortly.

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

URGENT BUSINESS:

- A. Maureen moved, Denice seconded a motion to appoint Gail Goldsmith to a one-year position to the board. Motion passed.
- B. Gary moved, Scott seconded a motion to adopt a continuing resolution that addresses the Signature Authority of the President. Motion passed. The continuing resolution is as follows:

CR4. Signature Authority of the President

The Church Council President of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Traverse City has the authority to authenticate by his or her signature, when necessary, all acts, orders and proceedings of the Congregation and/or Church Council. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall have the authority to authenticate by his or her signature, when necessary, all acts, orders and proceedings of the Congregation and/or Church Council.

It should be noted that this Continuing Resolution will be added to the Continuing Resolutions immediately.

- C. Significant discussion was held regarding how to designate the proceeds of the sale of the rental house. There was feedback from members on where the money should be spent and/or invested. Maureen moved, Gail seconded a motion that immediate action will involve \$30,000 being applied to the mortgage. The motion passed. This was a direct acknowledgement of the request/opinions by many members of the congregation that we address a lowering or elimination of our mortgage with the proceeds of the sale of the house. The council has requested the Finance Committee to review financially sound and faith-based designations of the proceeds that will secure additional income for the church, fund necessary building projects, move toward re-establishing our financial commitment to the Synod, address the need to support the community in needed efforts and aid the church in financial security in the years to come.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. 2-year goal of revision of BLC constitution: this issue was tabled due to Paul W. dealing with significant health issues in his family.
- B. All budget requests are in and Gary will begin the hard process of creating a draft of a 2024 budget.
- C. Changes in membership: Accept: Gary/Britney Jones, JoAnn Stepka, Maureen McGerty. Transfer Out: Joe/Debbie Berry, Megan Denton. Paul W moved, Gary seconded a motion to accept the changes as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Safety and Security Committee update: Gail provided an update on the Safety and Security Committee actions: Temple Talk, practice of an emergency evacuation during service and planning a Temple Talk on Active Shooter procedures.
- B. Status of binders for council members: Jana will check into the status of the two binders still needed for Gail and Maureen.
- C. Building use policy : Gail provided a draft of a revised Building Use Policy and reviewed the changes/additions. This is near completion and should be ready for council approval in November.

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 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Council Secretary