

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 10/18/2022

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

OPENING PRAYER Paul Wiemerslage 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, Paul Wiemerslage, Jim Hinds and Pastor Paul Busekist.

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Maureen Bauer made a motion to approve the agenda, with Cindy Monroe seconding. Agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Scott Farley moved, Cindy Monroe seconded to approve minutes from 9/20/22. Minutes were approved. Additionally, Jana Rockne moved, Cindy Monroe seconded approval of minutes from special council meeting on October 2, 2022, with the correction adding the approval of the vote on the motion to pursue a letter of intent regarding leasing parking lot spaces.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT Gail reported on her activities within the church.

PASTOR’S REPORT Pastor Paul’s written report was submitted and reviewed. He also reported on the Acker family providing technical support for the church, as a family/service project.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT Maureen provided an update on the Administrative Assistant position being filled by Barbara Oster, which will be reviewed (at Barbara’s request) in January of 2023.

TREASURER’S REPORT Leonard referred council members to his submitted report and reviewed the information provided. He also reported on the overages in expenses due to property expenses.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT Jim referred council members to his emailed report. He provided information on September 2022 contributions and YTD contributions. A letter has been sent to members of the congregation asking them to get caught up with the pledges.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Refresh – No update

B. Paving Parking Lot – No update

C. Personnel Update – Maureen provided an update, offering the good news that Barbara Oster is extremely happy in her position and doing a fabulous job.

D. Stewardship Campaign 2023, Temple Talks – Scott submitted a draft of a letter for the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. There was discussion about wording of the letter. There will be temple talks during the services on October 23 and October 30.

E. Safety and Security – Gail provided an update from the October meeting. Maureen reported on the need/suggestion to have film put on the church windows as a safety measure. Jana reported on the Narcan kits now placed in AED box and also provided information on how to view brief trainings on administering Narcan if needed. There was also discussion about obtaining an epi-pen and expired food in the food pantry.

F. Information Forum for September 24, 2022 –

1. Discussion on Annie’s position: Maureen reviewed the wording of the Ministry Coordinator position (see personnel committee report) and there was discussion about the position. Approximately 20 people attended the Information Forum.

2. Discussion on Sabbatical planning: Gail reported the conversation regarding sabbatical planning at the information forum was very productive. The conversation generated lots of ideas regarding pulpit and congregational needs during Pastor Paul’s planned sabbatical. Paul Wiemerslage made a motion, which was seconded by Cindy Monroe, that a committee be established to seek funding for Sabbatical expenses (two people have volunteered to lead this effort).

G. Vision Planning 3-5 year plan – Pastor Paul would like to see vision planning (long range planning) occur in the next year.

H. Budget for 2023 – Leonard reviewed the Profit and Loss Budget planning, comparing the budget for 2022 and the proposed budget (expenses) for 2023. Adjustments were made to the proposed budget as a result of discussion from council members. Jana Rockne made a motion, Maureen Bauer seconded, to have a congregation meeting December 11, 2022 for approval of the budget for 2023.

I. Craft Show sale of pews, tables and piano – Gail requested guidance/suggestions on how much to price the pews, tables and piano that will be sold at the craft show and also placed on the Marketplace. Suggested sale prices were \$100 for each pew, \$10 for each table and no charge for the piano.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Handbook revision on Employee Best Practices: Maureen and Pastor Paul requested an Adhoc Committee be established to review personnel policies and employee best practices. Volunteers from the council were requested along with members from the congregation.

B. Creation Garden Update – Paul Wiemerslage recommended no cleaning of the creation garden be done prior to winter, which is the best environmental practice.

C. Outdoor Sign Repair – Pastor Paul reported the electronic sign had been repaired at a cost of approximately \$800. A motion was made by Maureen Bauer, seconded by Jana Rockne, to authorize the expenditure of funds for this repair. The motion was passed.

D. Benevolence Fund – Gail recommended the amount designated for the Benevolence Fund be rolled over into the next quarter, to allow for a larger gift. Gail Goldsmith made the motion, Scott Farley seconded and the motion was passed.

E. Cleaning the Sanctuary – Gail made a proposal the church have a Sanctuary Cleaning Day on November 13, asking for volunteers to stay after church that day and clean the Sanctuary as well as the two non-classroom bathrooms.

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 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Council Secretary