

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 2/21/23

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

OPENING PRAYER Denice Bossardet provided the opening prayer.

QUORUM CALL President Gail Goldsmith (present via Zoom), Vice President Maureen Bauer, Secretary Jana Rockne, Scott Farley, Leonard Graf, Jim Monroe, Cindy Monroe, Laura Hahn, Denice Bossardet, Jim Hinds, Paul Wiemerslage and Pastor Paul Busekist were all present.

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: Alanna Steffunick, newly hired as Ministry Coordinator for BLC, was present to introduce herself and meet council members. She is learning the job and reported being happy to be a part of BLC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Cindy moved, Maureen seconded the approval of the agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Maureen moved and Scott seconded the approval of the minutes from the January meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT Gail reported on the progress of the Sabbatical Committee and the Safety and Security Committee, as well as thanking people for their help during her recovery.

PASTOR’S REPORT Pastor Paul’s written report was submitted and reviewed. Please refer to his written report for detailed information.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT Maureen expressed support for Gail.

TREASURER’S REPORT Leonard referred council members to his submitted report and reviewed the information provided. He reported the church did well in January with spending (underbudget) primarily due to unfilled staff position and not being billed for budgeted expenses.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT Jim referred council members to his emailed report. He reported on contributions for January as compared to the previous year (we are under budgeted amount). He also reported that two groups are using the church facility and paying rent – Newcomers and a driver's training company.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports Reports were submitted by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Care, Fellowship, Personnel, Pastor Paul and the Ad-Hoc Rental House Committee. All were accepted as reported. Please refer to the reports for more details. In addition to the submitted reports, Maureen read a thank you note from Tony Bero for the congregational gift at Christmas. Paul W. added to the Youth/Y2A report with the announcement of an Intergenerational Event on March 18 (movie night). He also reported that a dance group (which Alanna is involved with) would like to request the use of the church/fellowship hall once a month. Maureen moved, Scott seconded that BLC allow

Bayside Travellers Traditional Dance Society use of the Fellowship Hall for one year at no cost and that Bayside Travellers complete the necessary Building Use Request Form and submit it to Gail for written approval. Motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Sunday School Update: Paul W. there are no recommended changes from the Christian Education committee regarding times for Sunday School.

B. Safety and Security Update: Gail will reschedule the walk-through of the church with Officer Makowski, who has a new position and is only available during the day. Following some discussion, alternate experts/resource people from the community will also be explored. She also emphasized the need to begin fire drills and updating our response/fire drill plans in the church.

C. Sabbatical Update: Gail (and others, including Jim and Cindy) reported on the Sabbatical Committee. Total amount pledged is \$13,500. The Sabbatical Committee is recommending to the council that the budgeted amount for the sabbatical for 2023 not be accessed because the fund raising has surpassed the anticipated need. March 19 is the day of communicating to the congregation the complete plan for the Sabbatical. Discussion was held about generating energy within the congregation about events for the church during Pastor Paul's sabbatical.

D. Update from Ad Hoc committee on rental property recommendations: Scott submitted a report from the committee. Please refer to this report for additional information. No new information was provided at the council meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

A. New Members: Cindy Monroe requested (council approved) Annie Slabaugh and Carl and Ellie Tacke all be removed from the BLC roster (by transfer). She also requested (council approved) adding new members Sherri Helman; Tim, Peggy and Nathan Goebel; Niki and Rob Hengartner along with their children Mason and Connor.

B. Roll over of a portion of some funds in checking and savings and investing in CD – Pastor Paul, Leonard and Jim reported on this process. Finance committee is meeting on 2/23/23 to discuss this process. No motion is needed from the council on this issue. This was for discussion and verification of process.

C. Library technology update to be used for meetings using internet: Pastor Paul identified the needs of the church to update our internet accessibility in the conference room and additional equipment needed (portable TV) to make the room attractive for use. Pastor Paul will try to put together a proposal with graduated needs/expenses to be reviewed and approved.

D. Excess Safe Harbor Funds: Jana Rockne reported on Tom Rockne's gathering of opinions from congregational members who contributed to the Safe Harbor Fund for 2023. The consensus was that \$665 (the unused portion of the donated funds) be given from BLC to Safe Harbor. Leonard will convey to Phil Anderson that a check goes to Safe Harbor.

E. Good Samaritan Fund/Ad Hoc Committee: Maureen raised the question of creating an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss Good Samaritan giving at BLC. Discussion was held regarding the Good Samaritan

giving process and whether there was some duplication of services considering Love Thy Neighbor also provides this service as well as a number of other local organization. Suggestion was made to not establish a committee at this time. Suggestion was also made to do an envelope campaign in May preceded by a temple talk at the end of April, to educate/inform the congregation on the program.

F. Upcoming Council Member Recruitment, positions becoming available: Gail reported that she will be going off the council in June, as will Laura. A nominating committee will be appointed by the executive committee, which will include Gail, Leonard and others to be determined.

G. Personnel Handbook Revision: Maureen discussed the need to revise and update the Personnel Handbook.

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 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Council Secretary