

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 3/21/23

CALL TO ORDER President Gail Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

OPENING PRAYER Scott Farley provided the opening prayer.

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

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: Dave Peppler was present to discuss the Rental House AdHoc Committee report. Please refer to the attached report and a summary under Old Business.

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

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Cindy moved and Maureen seconded the approval of the minutes from the February meeting with the following correction - Laura Hahn is not serving on the Nominating Committee to recruit and nominate members for next year. Motion passed.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT Gail expressed gratitude for help during her recovery. She is glad to be walking again and back to church in person.

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. Please refer to his written report for detailed information. BLC (under the guidance of the Finance Committee) transferred funds from a checking account to a CD and a money market fund, both earning higher interest than the checking account.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT Jim referred council members to his emailed report. Please refer to his written report for detailed information. There appear to be no change in trends from previous years. A question was raised as to whether Pastor Paul has made it possible in the Live Stream process for people to make an offering during the Live Streaming services.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports Reports were submitted by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Care, BLC Membership/Evangelism, Personnel, Pastor Paul, Sabbatical Budget Report and Ad-Hoc Rental House Committee. All were accepted as reported. Please refer to the reports for more details.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Rental House Ad Hoc Committee Update: Dave Peppler provided a detailed explanation of the work of this committee (please refer to the written report included in these minutes). Jana moved and Maureen seconded a motion to accept the committee's report. Motion was passed. Additionally, Gail moved and Cindy seconded a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee to sell the rental house. After consideration discussion, this motion passed. A recommendation was made to include this information in the June Star as well as Sunday announcements to allow for questions/answers of this issue within the congregation.

B. Sabbatical Budget and Update: Gail (and others) discussed the work of the Sabbatical Committee. A Sabbatical Budget was submitted. Activities/plans/scheduling during the Sabbatical is progressing.

C. Wireless Connection and TV for new conference room: Pastor Paul include in his report an estimated cost from Applied Innovation to extend WiFi down the hallway on the first floor of the church, to bring internet to all of the locations (including the conference room). Maureen moved and Paul (W) seconded a motion to accept the bid. Motion passed. This bid does not include equipment (TV, screen or portable stand for hold a TV) but does include labor and technical equipment (router?) and license for one year. Funding for this will come from the technology budget already established in the annual budget.

D. Upcoming Council Member recruitment: Leonard and Gail are working on this, along with Carl Lehto.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Communion for shut-ins: Question was raised and discussion followed regarding who is doing communion for shut ins. Jan Stretlien needs a partner. Question also raised about those delivering flowers after church also giving communion.

B. Set a date for the Congregational Meeting in June: Paul (W) moved, Maureen seconded a motion to have the June congregational meeting on June 25, 2023 following the 10:00 am church service.

C. Spring cleaning in the church: May 7 was set for the spring cleaning. Additionally, there was discussion about the need for a new floor plan for the church to allow for emergency exit planning, highlighting and posting at all exits.

D. New Members to BLC: Cindy presented new members (with Maureen moving and Paul (W) seconding a motion to accept, motion passing) Kathie and Mark Bair. New member orientation is April 30. Cindy also reported on demographics of church attendance: 82 couples, 72 women, 28 men.

E. Survey Monkey: Pastor Paul is requesting BLC cover \$100 to go toward the expense of an annual Survey Monkey subscription (as part of a synod project Pastor Paul is working on). Maureen moved, Paul (W) seconded a motion to reimburse Pastor Paul \$100 for Survey Monkey expense. Motion passed. There was also discussion regarding ideas that could be included in a

survey for the church (for example, members of the congregation could be surveyed about visioning, sabbatical events, etc.).

F. Future Visioning for BLC: Gail reinforced the need to schedule and/or plan events for future visioning.

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