

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan**

**“We journey with God to serve with love”**

**Council Minutes: 5/16/23**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Gail Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm.

**OPENING PRAYER** Gail Goldsmith 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, Jim Hinds, Denice Bossardet and Pastor Paul. Paul Wiemerslage was absent.

**CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Maureen moved, Cindy seconded the approval of the agenda with the addition (at Laura’s request) of a Funeral Committee Update under Old Business. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES** Maureen moved, Denice seconded the approval of the minutes from the March meeting. Motion passed.

**REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Gail did not have a written report. She did comment on how busy and productive things have been at the church.

**PASTOR’S REPORT** Please see the written report submitted at the meeting. Of special significance is the planning for his sabbatical and the budgeting of funds that are being provided for his spiritual restoration.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Maureen did not have a report.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** Please see written report from Leonard. There were no significant issues with expenses for the month.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT** Jim referred council members to his written report. Giving trends are following previous years.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports** Reports were submitted by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Care, Fellowship, Personnel and the Sabbatical Account Budget. All were accepted as reported. Please refer to the reports for more details. A thank you letter from Safe Harbor was read, as a result of a donation made by BLC for \$639.62 to Safe Harbor (excess fund collected). Additionally, a letter was submitted by Phil Anderson on behalf of the Finance Committee, regarding a recommendation from the committee to the church council to review all standing church policies in order to ensure that they align with the needs and values of our congregation. This is a large undertaking and will be addressed with the new council this summer/fall.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Ad Hoc Committee for Security Cameras: Jim Hinds (and Jim Monroe) reported that a meeting was held with EPS (a security system) to review/assess the needs of the church in terms of security cameras and obtaining an estimate for the cost of installing 4 outside and 2 inside cameras, including hardware, service, monitoring and maintenance. This would be a video surveillance system. Additional quotes will be obtained from other companies so an educated decision can be made on how to proceed with funding the project.

B. Sabbatical Budget and Update: Gail (and others) discussed the work of the Sabbatical Committee. Please see the written report for further details. Additionally, coverage is needed for the office from 11:00 – 2:30 on Wednesdays (Maureen passed around a schedule and signup sheet).

C. Safety and Security Update: Gail reported that Officer Makowski is scheduled to make a presentation on security to various members of the congregation, council and staff on August 22. This will include dinner at 5 pm and a presentation at 5:30.

D. Wireless Connection and TV for new conference room update: Pastor Paul reported that the media cart is almost completed.

E. Rental House Update: Leonard read a statement that will be placed in the June Star, including a motion to the congregation to sell the Rental Property. Additionally, Leonard discussed a notice received by the city regarding paving of the alley lots. Cindy moved and Scott seconded a motion that Gail sign two postcards regarding improvements of the alley, which were signed and will be returned to the city. Motion was passed.

F. Building Use Policy updates: Gail discussed a need to review and amend the building use policy to include use of the media cart and laptop computer. Gail moved, Maureen seconded a motion to amend the building use policy to include media cart costs: \$25.00 for a member, \$50 for a non-member; Laptop - \$25.00 for a member, \$50.00 for non-member. The Building Use form will also include a statement under “General Facility Use Guidelines” stating the facility must be left in the condition in which it was found.

G. Funeral Committee Update: Laura reported that Suzanne Lehto has agreed to co-lead a funeral committee but is in need of another co-leader. It was suggested Suzanne reach out to Judi Block and ask her to co-lead this committee with her.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Safety and Security Policies, Procedures and Guidelines: Jana, Gail and Maureen discussed the proposed policies, procedures and guidelines submitted by the Safety and Security Committee, addressing a variety of safety and security needs within the church and during church related activities. Denise moved, Pastor Paul seconded a motion to adopt the Safety and Security Policies, Procedures and Guidelines as submitted. Motion passed.

B. New Members to BLC: Cindy moved, Maureen seconded a motion to accept Jill and Marc Fenton as new members to BLC.

C. Committee Reports for Congregational Meeting: Gail reminded everyone that year-end committee reports are due by June 8. Written committee reports should be submitted to Barbara Oster.

D. Motion for Congregational Meeting and sending out notice: Gail reported that the notice for the congregational meeting should be sent by June 8. The nominations for council members should be sent with the notice. The congregational meeting will also be announced at the 2 church services before the annual meeting and in the bulletins. Surveys will be done following each church event during the sabbatical. Please see the motion on the sale of the rental house under section E of Old Business.

**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**