

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

“We journey with God to serve with love”

Council Minutes: 12/19/23

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

OPENING PRAYER Denice 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, Gail Goldsmith (via Zoom) and Pastor Paul Busekist were present. Paul Wiemerslage was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Gary moved, Denice seconded the approval of the agenda, with two additional items under Urgent Business: Approving roof contract (letter D) and approving boiler contract (letter E). Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Gary moved, Scott seconded the approval of the November minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: Rob Rafson from Solar Faithful was present and gave a presentation on adding solar panels to the Fellowship Hall roof when the entire roof is being redone (which will need to be completed in 2024). There was lengthy discussion regarding the options for financing the project, as well as thorough discussion of what would be included, the financial and environmental benefit to the church, the area of the roof that would include the solar panels, costs, specific and general details of the project, federal rebate/tax credit information, feedback from members of the subcommittee who have met or talked with Rob, obtaining information from other churches in Michigan (one in Muskegon and one in the Lansing area) who have worked with Solar Faithful, how to proceed. Please see action taken under New Business, letter A.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT None

PASTOR’S REPORT Pastor Paul provided a written report. Please refer to his written report for further details. Additionally, he requested that a portion of the “free will” offering done at the Blue Christmas service be designated for gift cards for those in need. There was general support.

TREASURER’S REPORT Gary provided a written report. Please see the written report for more details. Gary also submitted a revised budget (see under Urgent Business).

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT Jim referred council members to his written report. Jim also gave a verbal update on stewardship pledges for 2024. Please refer to Jim’s written report for more details.

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

URGENT BUSINESS:

- A. 2024 Budget: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the budget, including but not limited to: Sabbatical, Safe Harbor, Good Samaritan, paying off the mortgage versus retaining funds to cover expected major costs for 2024 (roof, boiler to name a few). There was also discussion regarding expectations from the congregation regarding the use of the proceeds from the sale of the rental house. Ultimately, Gary moved, Tina seconded a motion to present a Budget (Revision 9) for congregational approval at the Congregational Meeting on January 7, 2024.
- B. Set aside a portion of money from sale of the house for community/visioning. This issue was deferred.
- C. \$30,000 to be paid on mortgage never done: Gary moved, Maureen seconded a motion to reconsider the motion made and passed in October 2023 regarding this issue. The motion passed. Consequently, Maureen moved, Gail seconded a motion that \$30,000 will be applied to the mortgage. This motion did not pass. Basically, this rescinds the original motion to pay \$30,000 on the mortgage.
- D. Approval of roof contract: Gary moved, Scott seconded a motion to accept a proposal to repair the roof (cost of approximately \$110,000). Motion passed.
- E. Approval of boiler repair/replacement: Gary moved, Maureen seconded a motion to accept a bid from Temperature Control to repair/replace the boiler (cost of approximately \$32,500). Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Solar Faithful proposal update: Please refer to the comments above. Jana moved, Jim Hinds seconded a motion supporting the advancement of a solar project, which includes: a. the subcommittee will do due diligence on exploring the project, obtaining feedback from churches who have worked with Solar Faithful on the installation of solar panels and communicating with Solar Faithful and b. authorizing Solar Faithful to proceed with obtaining specifications needed to present a more accurate proposal. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Determination of distribution of Non-ELCA benevolence (\$191): Gary moved, Denise seconded a motion to allocate these funds to Safe Harbor (if needed) and then to NW MI Supportive Housing if Safe Harbor does not need the funds. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Safety and Security Committee Update: There will be a Temple Talk Sunday, January 21, 2024 to discuss Active Shooter preparation and response.
- B. Building Use Policy: Maureen provided copies of the revised/updated Building Use Policy with corrections.
- C. 2-year goal of revision of BLC constitution: not addressed.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS: Each council member was given an opportunity for general/undocumented comments.

LORD'S PRAYER: Said by all.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Council Secretary