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

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

**Council Minutes: 4/18/23**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Gail Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

**OPENING PRAYER** Leonard Graf provided the opening prayer.

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

**CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS:**  Dave Peppler and Phil Anderson were present (via Zoom) to discuss the Rental House Ad Hoc Committee report. Please refer to the attached report and a summary under Old Business.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Cindy moved, Maureen seconded the approval of the agenda with additions/amendments: Under new business, amend New Members to BLC to read Membership Changes, add Line items E. Rescind COVID Restrictions, Line Item F. Mission Support Designation and Line Item G. Approval of members to Attend Synod Assembly Meeting. Motion passed.

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

**REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Gail did not have a report.

**PASTOR’S REPORT** Pastor Paul provided an oral report. He addressed ways the church could serve the community more effectively. Also shared personal goals for his restoration/sabbatical. He expressed concerns about IT maintenance for the church building.

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

**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. Expenses for the month included equipment (microphones for the sanctuary) that was budgeted for last year but billed this year. Additional expenses for the month were incurred due to needed rewiring in the kitchen for installation of a new garbage disposal and fire inspection.

**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.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports** Reports were submitted by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Care, Fellowship, Personnel and Ad-Hoc Rental House Committee (Frequently Asked Question format). All were accepted as reported. Please refer to the reports for more details. Included in the Personnel Committee Report was a special recognition/thank you to Jim Hinds for his generous gifts of time and talent to various efforts at BLC.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A**.** Rental House Ad Hoc Committee Update: Dave Peppler provided a written report in the form of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the potential sale or retention of the Rental Property. Both Dave and Phil provided feedback regarding the extension research that went into this process. There was extensive discussion regarding the Rental Property. Dave suggested a format of the FAQ be provided and available to the congregation. It can be put on the BLC website, be made available as a hard copy and/or be sent to members. It can also be included in the Star. Particular note was given to items #3 (Why Now?), #5 (How much would we gain?), #7 (What is the status of our mortgage?) and #8 (use of the funds that will no longer be needed for Rental House expenses). A question was raised about the cost of improvement to the Rental House if the decision is made to NOT sell it. The rental property will require substantial upgrades if kept. Cindy will communicate with Dave regarding revisions to FAQ related to how the church may utilize funds not currently being spent on the rental house and/or mortgage. Additionally, Leonard will write up an article for the Star and will write the motion from the congregation regarding sale of the rental house that will be presented at the congregational meeting in June. Again, it should be noted there was lengthy, comprehensive and thorough discussion regarding this issue.

B**.** Sabbatical Budget and Update: Gail (and others) discussed the work of the Sabbatical Committee. Pulpit supply is all scheduled as are activities. Cindy discussed budget adjustments, with two allocations: church related activities and pastor related activities.

C**.** Safety and Security Update: Gail reported that an alternative date will need to be set and have Officer Makowski (or an alternative professional) make a presentation to various members of the church on safety. Jana is working on writing the Safety and Security Policy/Procedure Handbook.

D. Wireless Connection and TV for new conference room update: Pastor Paul reported that work is progressing with this project, in hopes that it can be completed by the end of May (which includes purchasing of the needed equipment and extending the needed wiring down the hallway.

E. Spring Cleaning in the church reminder: This is scheduled for May 7. Cleaning will be done throughout various parts of the church. Evacuation maps are being redone and will be reposted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.** Ad Hoc Committee for Security Cameras: Gail will write up a request for the announcements and the bulletin, explaining this project and requesting donations

**B**. Form Capital Investment fund for seed money for cameras: Paul moved and Maureen seconded a motion to develop a Capital Investment Fund for see money for cameras. Motion was passed.

**C.** Membership Changes: Adrienne Russell is transferring out of the church, as are Diane and Alan Blair.

**D.** Funeral Committee: Laura discussed the need for a renewed Funeral Committee. Laura will do a Temple Talk to invite congregation members to participate with this BLC service.

**E.** Rescind COVID Restrictions: Leonard presented the issue regarding rescinding our COVID restrictions. Paul moved, Maureen seconded a motion to rescind the current restrictions due to COVID. Motion passed. Restrictions will be removed from the Power Point and Alanna will be asked to remove the signage in the church and in any online platforms.

**F.** Mission Support Designation: Paul moved, Maureen seconded a motion to donate $250 from BLC to Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency. Motion passed.

**G.** Approval of BLC Member to attend Synod Assembly meeting: Cindy moved, Maureen seconded a motion to approve Kathie Bair’s attendance at the Synod Assembly meeting. Motion passed.

**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**