

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
November 8, 2023 – 7:00pm**

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held by Zoom on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Pastor David Young, Council President Traci Shoberg, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Bryan Davies, Curtiss Grymala, Dustie Fisher, John Fredericksen, David Look, Church administrator Kim Williams and Facilities Manager and Security Team Leader George Donovan Sr. attended virtually.

**Call to Order**

Council President Traci Shoberg called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Opening Devotion and Prayer**

John Fredericksen offered an opening prayer.

**Consent Agenda Items**

The agenda for the meeting, the minutes for the October Council Meeting, the Pastor's Report, the Solar Project update, and the RIC update were approved unanimously by acclamation under the consent agenda.

**Security & Facility Update**

George Donovan Sr. reported that he is coming up to speed on the maintenance procedures for Bethel's facilities, and identifying candidates for the Security Team.

**Staff Updates**

Members of the Bethel staff are preparing for Christmas. Nina will publicize information about Christmas in a Barn through local newspapers.

**Financial Reports**

Church administrator Kim Williams provided detailed financial reports to all members of Council prior to the meeting. The reports showed total income at \$32,912, \$8,688 more than anticipated in the Ministry Spending Plan. Total expenses were \$36,555, \$3,723 more than anticipated in the spending plan. Expenses for October exceeded income by \$3,642. Expenses year to date have exceeded income by \$16,464. Much of the income that exceeded the MSP amount in October was due to giving the BLC campaign. Kim emphasized that more giving will be needed for the BLC campaign to meet its goals. The amount by which expenses exceeded planned amounts tracked closely with the cost of the celebration of Bethel's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and dedication of the sanctuary. Cash flow continues to be an issue.

The financial reports were approved as presented by unanimous acclamation.

**Old Business**

**BLC Campaign**

As noted in the financial reports, BLC income is starting to come in, but not yet at a level to meet the goals of the campaign.

**Christmas in a Barn**

There was no additional update.

**Other Old Business**

Cory Carlson and Jack McAllister are moving with solar project.

## **New Business**

### **Congregational Meeting Topics**

#### Council Elections

- Cherie Lauck, Rene Hollebrandse & Lynda Grymala will be nominated for 3 year terms
- Bruce Lothrop will be nominated to fill the final year of David Look's term

#### 2024 MSP Approval

#### Endowment Policy Updates Approval

Council discussed how best to promote the endowment policy at the meeting.

### **Bookkeeper as Treasurer**

Kim Williams may serve as treasurer in 2024. Because only members of the executive committee can sign checks, there should not be an oversight issue. Elections for the 2024 Executive Committee Officers will take place at the December Council meeting.

### **Council Retreat January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at Caroline Furnace**

Pastor Dave is planning for a council retreat. The focus will be on fund raising.

### **Trustee Renewals**

Trustees will need to be elected at the February Congregational meeting as terms expire.

### **Other New Business**

Pastor Dave discussed his compensation for 2024. In an effort to ensure other staff can be paid in a timely manner, Pastor Dave will not change health insurance to an ELCA plan as originally planned, but will stay with Anthem. Pastor Dave will transition to an ELCA plan at a future point, prior to his retirement. Pastor Dave will also forgo the proposed salary increase for all staff members.

Curtiss Grymala discussed plans for thanksgiving style dinner (\$10 per person) and Trivia night on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 6:00. Dinner will be served at 6:30. Trivia will begin at 7:30.

Brian Davis reported that the sound team in the sanctuary is gradually improving sound quality during worship as they gain experience. The team may need to press DSL for additional training. DSL has offered additional training, but not yet provided it.

### **Closing Prayer**

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50pm.