

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL Minutes
January 10, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday January 10th. At 6:00 PM staff, trustees, and council members met in the sanctuary with an opening liturgy and communion led by Pastor Dave. At 6:20 PM the group moved to the Council Room. In attendance was Pastor David Young, Council President Rachel Carlson, Vice President Brian Davies, Treasurer Lynda Grymala, Secretary Cherie Lauck, John Fredericksen, Betty Puffinberger, Bruce Lothrop, Rene Hollebrandse, Church Administrator Kim Williams, Facility Manager/Security Team Leader George Donovan Sr, and Trustees Sara Smith and Ron Lauck.

Call to Order

Council President Rachel Carlson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:25.

Conversation with MTV Solar

Joining the meeting were MTV representatives Jabari Baker (in person) and Casey Feezle (on speaker phone). Detailed proposal for Phase 1 was provided. Jabari and Casey thoroughly answered questions regarding the rebate process, adequacy of Bethel's current transformer, installation, protecting integrity of roof, warranties (panels, components, and workmanship), weather related issues, maintenance, SREC credits, recycling, SVEC customer base charges, MTV's financial stability, customer references, possible co-op programs, and MTV's community give back programs.

After Jabari and Casey exited key points were discussed as follows:

- Donor has offered to pay 100% of Phase 1 and they desire to maintain anonymity.
- If there is a lag between the Phase 1 rebate and Phase 2 costs a member of the Synod staff has expressed to Pastor Dave that there is precedence for the Synod to loan money to a congregation in such a circumstance and we will pursue that option if needed.
- A separate "Solar" checking account will be established with donor as a signer on account.
- As a precaution a contingency will be added to the MTV contract. This contingency would allow Bethel to void the contract, without penalty, if donor would change their mind.

Motion was made to sign contract and approved by unanimous acclamation. The congregation will be notified during the February 4th Congregational meeting. Jabari will be asked to come back on February 11th during the adult forum for a Q&A session.

Consent Agenda Items

The agenda for the meeting, December's minutes, Pastor's report, and staff updates were approved by unanimous acclamation. The agenda items prompted ideas related to messaging and communication. In consideration of time limitations Rachel added these as topics for discussion during Council's Jan 20th retreat.

Security & Facility Update

George Sr. has been testing equipment throughout the facility to verify everything is in good working order. He has also talked with Ian Shoberg to insure snow removal and grounds maintenance needs will be met.

Financial Reports

Although December was a strong giving month cash flow is still a problem because we have been operating at a deficit for most of the year. There were a few large donations but most of the additional income came from members giving a little more and the extra Christmas Eve services. Discussion points were as follows:

- Current checking account balance is \$8,950.00.
- Designated funds accounts need to be paid back in the amount of \$28,000.00. This obligation is due to temporarily using designated funds to cover operating expenses.
- Payroll and insurance premiums must be paid in January.
- Mortgage and line of credit payments totaling \$3,600.00 also need to be paid in January.
- Moving forward designated gifts will be included as part of the financials, showing the donations coming in and then being applied to the appropriate account.
- BLC Campaign Phase 1 has generated \$44,800.00 with \$36,000.00 applied to line of credit leaving a loan balance of \$21,700.00. Remaining funds were applied to operating expenses.
- Detailed financial reports will be presented during the congregational meeting while continuing to emphasize the need for a consistent income stream.

December and year-end financial reports were approved by unanimous acclamation.

Kim requested 2023 Annual Reports from council president, Pastor Dave, and Committees (UP/IN/OUT) before Jan 16th. January 20th retreat notes are to be submitted promptly. Congregational meeting notice should go out on Jan 23rd.

BLC Campaign Update

- Ella Carlson working on chart to show progress of fund raising.
- Phase 1 pledges total \$70,450.00 and we have received nearly 64%.
- After April all BLC donations will go towards phase 2 unless otherwise specified.
- Phase 2 pledges total \$89,670.00 and no funds have been received.

Old Business

- There has been no response from the comedy club so this activity will not be pursued.
- Shenandoah Montessori Update:
Kim will meet with the director, Karen Disney during the week of January 15th. Once Karen receives a commitment from Bethel she can ask the school's licensing person look at facility. Karen would like a three (3) year contract with the option to utilize more space in the second and third years. Costs estimated at \$1,500.00 for upgrades to meet school requirements would be shared by Bethel and Shenandoah Montessori. They are agreeable to not having playground equipment but would like the fencing to remain. The annual lease would be \$19,500.00, to be paid in monthly installments regardless of attendance days. An extension of lease clause will be added to contract as an option. There is no risk of Bethel losing their non-profit status since renting out space is not our primary form of income.

Motion was made for 3 year contract with 2 year extension and approved by unanimous acclamation.

- Internship Opportunity:
Pastor Dave gave handout with candidate Lynette McSpadden's bio. Lynette is working toward becoming a deacon in the Lutheran Church. Bethel's cost would be \$500.00 per month over a 2 year internship. During the internship period Lynette would work 10 hours per week at Bethel focusing on senior ministry, preaching, and teaching. Her organizational strengths and administrative skills will also be beneficial to Bethel.

Motion was made to add the internship position and was approved by unanimous acclamation.

- Other old business – there was none.

New Business

- Trustees:
Gary Nichols no longer wishes to serve as a trustee. Jack McAllister has agreed to be a trustee. At the annual congregational meeting members will be asked to approve Sara Smith, Ron Lauck, and Jack McAllister as trustees.

Motion was made to approve slate of trustees and approved by unanimous acclamation.

- February Council Meeting date & time will be Monday, February 12th at 7:00PM.
- Requests for topics to be discussed at January 20th retreat should be sent to Rachel by Jan 12th.

Other New Business

- Pastor Dave assigned council prayer partners. Partners are as follows:
Dave & Traci, Rachel & Cherie, Betty & Lynda, Brian & Rene, and Bruce & John.
- Kim and Nina are developing a facility form and flow chart of paperwork to better plan for scheduling extracurricular events at Bethel.
- Kim requested that council members decide and let her know what roles each would be taking in helping with volunteer scheduling and other activities within the congregation. This will be addressed during the retreat when discussing UP/IN/OUT teams.

Closing Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM

Upcoming:

Council Retreat: Saturday, January 20th at Bethel 2:30-7:00pm

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 4 10:45am

Next Council Meeting: Monday, February 12th at 7:00pm