

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
January 16, 2020

Called to order by President Tania Anderson.

Attendance:

Jack Paulson
Tim Kratz
Ann Ciske
Halley Harms
Robin Kvalo
Tania Anderson
Pastor Jen Johnson
Don Bender - Absent with Notification
Angie Chappell- Absent with notification

Guest: Julie Saalsaa

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Robin Kvalo, second by Ann Ciske to approve the proposed agenda. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Jack Paulson to approve the December meeting minutes as submitted. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT (DRAFT): Julie Saalsaa

Pr. Jen made the request for a representative of each committee to speak at the annual meeting, responding to the following statement, "I noticed God working in this ministry in (what ways)...?". All committees should participate; ministry groups will be optional.

We discussed a few changes to the annual meeting agenda and a few topics that we want to make sure to present about.

We discussed in length the content of the financials for the annual report. What is included is a bit lengthy, and a suggestion was made to condense the information. However, for the past few years we have aspired to be as transparent as possible with all of the financial information that is presented to the congregation. In the past, transparency was absolutely necessary. Moving forward, we could look at condensing the information, but we agreed as a group to keep it as it is for this year.

We discussed the 2019 memorials and how we should list these in the report. Julie suggested that we summarize the total memorials, instead of breaking them down into each individual amount. Council agreed. Additional discussion about the memorials included proposed changes for handling donations in the future. Council agreed that we should notify the family, in the future, if a memorial is made to the church on behalf of a beloved. Also, Julie is going to generate a list of donations received each month and present this to council. Council will determine if a thank-you card should be given.

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Motion by Tim Kratz, second by Jack Paulson to approve the draft of the Annual Report, with noted revisions. Motion Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pr. Jen was in Arizona this past week attending the Faithful Innovations Summit leadership training. This is basically a grassroots transformation approach for congregations. The lessons that she learned in this training can be brought into our renewal to enhance the process. She also presented and discussed the Respectful Communications Guidelines, to be used in committees/groups in the future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee held a brief meeting only to discuss the Annual Report and what documents/charts to include. Other than approving the annual report, we have nothing to report at this time.

Christian Education Committee Report

Nothing new to report for Christian Ed. Please keep those going on the mission trip on your prayers. In the next month I will be going over the safe church policies and making sure we are current. I am also hoping to plan middle school youth group event in February.

Stewardship & Evangelism Committee Report

The Renewal Team will be meeting with the confirmation parents on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:30pm.

Worship & Music Committee Report

Waiting for approval for action item in December's report. Mark Teslik has proposed the idea of having a "Follow Where Jesus Walked" interactive storytelling service for Maundy Thursday. We will need actors, tour guides, props, some staging, etc. This will be advertised into the community. Additional information will be distributed to the congregation soon.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Halley Harms to approve the "Follow Where Jesus Walked" Maundy Thursday service. Motion Carried.

Property Committee Report

The timer controlling the parking lot lights has been changed to turn the lights off at 10:00 rather than 11:00 to reduce our electrical usage.

The hot water heaters have been switched from standby to active and vice versa which is done every 6 months.

The ballast controlling the lights on the south side of the sign by Highway 33 needs to be replaced. A new ballast is on hand and it will be installed as weather and time permits.

Local & Global Committee Report

Nothing to report.

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion by Robin Kvalo, second by Ann Ciske to approve the committee reports as submitted. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Church Closing Policy: It has been requested of the staff to create a church closing policy to be reviewed by council for inclement weather, etc. so that there is a known process in place.
- Checking Account Signee: Currently, Don Bender and Tim Kratz are approved with our bank to sign checks for BLC. Because Tim Kratz will no longer be on council, a replacement for him will have to be found. Until then, he will remain available to sign checks.
- Nominations for Council: Kory Anderson has been nominated for council; bio submitted.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Halley Harms to approve Kory Anderson's nomination to council. Motion Carried.

- 2020 Review of Constitution & Bylaws: We are beginning the process of updating our out-of-date constitution and bylaws. When we have a draft of the proposed constitution & bylaws, we will call a congregational meeting for approval.
- Renewal ministry review/performance reviews: The synod Renewal Team is in the process of creating a review for the congregation and pastor. They will be meeting about this again in March. Council discussed additional performance reviews for staff; we will revisit this at February's council meeting.
- Tabled until February's council meeting: Easter Breakfast and Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you Tim Kratz and Angela Chappell for your time served on council!

Motion by Tim Kratz, second by Ann Ciske to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Motion Carried.

Next Council meeting will be Thursday, February 20th.