

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
720 South Second Street
Mankato, MN 56001

COUNCIL MINUTES

Title: Congregation Council Minutes

Officiating: James Halbur

Purpose: Monthly Business Meeting

Recording: Kathy Yale

Date: March 16, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Heritage Room

Scheduled			Actual			Present
Start	Stop	Total	Start	Stop	Total	Number
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	2 Hrs.	7:04 p.m.	8:57 p.m.	1:53	8
Council Members and Guests			Present	Absent	Position	
James Halbur			X		President	
Frank Larsen			X		President-Elect	
Mary Bliesmer			X		Vice President	
Kathy Yale			X		Secretary	
Diana Olson				X	Treasurer	
Betty Groth				X	Member-at-Large	
Dennis Sandersfeld			X		Member-at-Large	
Andrew Garry			X		Member-at-Large	
Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Senior Pastor	
Lori Ruthenbeck			X		Fair Trade	

PRESENTER TOPIC	ITEM DESCRIPTION
7:05 p.m. James Halbur	CALL TO ORDER
Kathy Yale	DEVOTIONS: "God Pause," from March 2, 2010 - Change
OPEN FORUM	
Lori Ruthenbeck	Requested that Bethlehem become a full Fair Trade Congregation in its sales of Fair Trade products and in holding Fair Trade events in addition to its use of coffee. Announced that Paul Renshaw would present a Fair Trade forum on Sunday, April 25 th , during the "Fair Trade Fortnight."

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING	
James Halbur	AGENDA: Approved on a motion by Frank Larsen. MSC.
Kathy Yale	MINUTES: Mary Bliesmer moved that the February 16, 2010, minutes be approved as corrected. MSC.
REPORTS	
Jim Halbur	TREASURER'S REPORT: The written report by Diana Olson and the Financial Committee Meeting Minutes were read by Jim Halbur. Recommended using a month-by-month budget as opposed to an annual budget in the future to allow for seasonal fluctuations.
	BETHLEHEM CHILD CARE CENTER: Frank Larsen moved that BCCC rent be reduced by \$500 per month for the next three months. The main motion was seconded by Andrew Garry . Following a discussion, Dennis Sandersfeld moved to amend the pending motion by reducing BCCC rent by \$1000 for April, \$750 for May and \$500 for June. The amending motion was seconded by Kathy Yale and was carried .
	The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Frank Larsen. MSC.
Pr Jay Dahlvang	PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Jay reported that the Nominating Committee is doing well. Announced the formation of a new Marriage Care Group to be led by Jim and Marcia Nagel. Reported that the "Over and Beyond" Fund administered for Bethlehem by the Salvation Army is running low. Will research other churches' involvement and get statistics. Provided an expanded Written Report.
	Mary Bliesmer made a motion to pay an honorarium of \$100, as recommended by Pastor Jay, to Rev. Josh Ehrler, Synod Natural Church Development Coach, for his presentation scheduled for the upcoming In-House Council and Boards Retreat. MSC.
OLD BUSINESS	
Jim Halbur	BUILDING COMMITTEE: Jim reported that the committee is still exploring options with the goal of having recommendations finalized by fall. Presented highlights of the presentation by Anne Gerrietts, Church Building Consultant from the Synod Mission Investment Fund, regarding building design features of an effective church along with some funding options.
	IN HOUSE RETREAT: Finalized plans to look at responsibilities [Standing Resolutions], goals and timelines, and highlighting ways that Boards and Committees can work together. Rev. Josh Ehlher will be the Keynote Speaker and the Serving Group will be providing refreshments.

NEW BUSINESS	
Jim Halbur	FAIR TRADE: Frank Larsen moved that Bethlehem become a full Fair Trade Congregation in its use of coffee, sales of Fair Trade products and holding Fair Trade events. MSC.
	<p>COUNCIL GOALS: Council members identified the following goals for the upcoming year and for the long term:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore and possibly implement the Natural Church Development Program. 2. Develop a written 5 year plan for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. 3. Encourage staff to seek opportunities to improve their skill set. 4. Empower Boards and Committees; yet hold them accountable. 5. Participate In Greater Mankato Growth and City Center Partnership. 6. Listen for and be open to the Holy Sprit in all of our work. 7. Work with the lead pastor to find solutions to complete the work of the church.
8:57 p.m.	ADJOURNED on a motion by Frank Larsen. MSC.
	The meeting closed in prayer led by Pastor Jay.

Next Meeting – April 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

Treats and Devotions by Diana Olson.

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Yale*, Congregation Secretary

MSC = Motion Seconded. Carried.