

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:** May 18, 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.	7:10 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	2:05	11
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	
Bob Ihrig			X		Future Vice President	
Werner Fick			X		Facilities Management Board	
Greg Larsen			X		Mankato Children's Chorus	

PRESENTER TOPIC	ITEM DESCRIPTION
7:00 p.m. Frank Larsen	CALL TO ORDER
Mary Blieismer	DEVOTIONS: "Wisdom" from <i>LutheranWoman Today</i> , June, 2010

OPEN FORUM

Werner Fick	<p>BETHLEHEM CHILD CARE CENTER PLAYGROUND EXPANSION: Previously approved by Council without funding. Still recommended by the Facilities Management Board, the design (towards the alley) hasn't changed. Werner reported that \$3500.00 for the 4' black chain link fence has been donated and that BCCC has purchased soft black top with grant money. Some hard surface will be retained for trikes and balls . Still unfunded is the blacktop installation cost of approximately \$1700.00. <b>Mary Blieismer</b> moved approving going forward with the expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- taking only the first tier of parking spaces</li> <li>- reserving 48" around air conditioning units</li> <li>- with BCCC grant and Special Gifts funding</li> <li>- and with NO funding to come from Bethlehem. <b>MSC.</b></li> </ul> <p>Werner also reported that BCCC enrollment is now at an all time high.</p>
Greg Larsen	<p>MANKATO CHILDREN'S CHORUS RENTAL CONTRACT: Greg was happy to report that despite past financial difficulties, the Chorus is now doing OK financially. It is now time to renew the annual rental contract. The Chorus is requesting that the rental contract be renewed – they're happy to be at Bethlehem - for the same time schedule and using the same space, asking to change to Monday nights instead of Tuesdays. There doesn't appear to be any conflict. The Chorus will continue to not use the space during the Nordic Bazaar or when there are afternoon funerals. Greg offered to continue to provide custodial services at no charge. However, in light of Bethlehem's increased utility expenses, Greg was asked to present the proposed contract to the Facilities Management Board and to the Finance Committee for review. Awaiting revues, voting was tabled until June 15, 2010.</p>
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING	
Kathy Yale	<p>MINUTES: <b>Frank Larsen</b> moved that the April 20, 2010, minutes be approved, with special thanks to Betty Groth, and to confirm the May 7, 2010, email vote in favor of hiring Marci Rossow. <b>MSC.</b></p>
James Halbur	<p>AGENDA: Adopted as written on a motion by <b>Diana Olson. MSC.</b></p>
REPORTS	
Diana Olson	<p>FINANCIAL REPORT: Written Report – Things are looking good. The Care Ministry Team has requested approval to purchase needed materials. The item was tabled until next month to give them an opportunity to make their request to the Endowment Committee first. Since they are currently an unfunded ministry, they may need to be added to the budget next year.</p>
Purchasing Policy	<p>Elizabeth Molina will present Bethlehem's Purchasing Policy to Council members in June. Liaisons will then be asked to take the information to their various Boards.</p>

Deacon's Fund	FINANCIAL REPORT, <i>continued</i> : At Diane's request, Kathy Yale will research when the Council made the decision to change the name of the Deacon's Fund for the sake of clarity, if a new name had been suggested, and contact Elizabeth Molina about making the change.
Approval	<b>Dennis Sandersfeld</b> made a motion to approve the Financial Report. <b>MSC.</b>
Pr Jay Dahlvang NCD	PASTOR'S REPORT: Written Report Natural Church Development [NCD]: Next step is to form a Health Team to shepherd Bethlehem through the process. Liaisons will talk to their appropriate Boards to select/recommend members for the Health Team.
Sudanese	First meeting with the Ethiopian Sudanese went well. Hopeful for prospects of a mutually beneficial future relationship. Hope to learn from a church in Owatonna about their successful integration of a Sudanese worshipping community.
TEC	<b>Kathy Yale</b> made a motion to accept Teens Encounter Christ's [TEC] invitation to host a spiritual retreat for 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> graders at Bethlehem Thursday, January 20, through Sunday, January 23, 2011. <b>MSC.</b>
Weds. Suppers	Wednesday Night Suppers: Lively discussion of the current status and future prospects for Wednesday Night Suppers. Frank Larsen will talk to Julie Erdman to get her input.
Redeemer	Frank Larsen and Pastor Jay will meet with a group at a church in Owatonna on June 19 <sup>th</sup> to learn more about their experiences in a similar ministry relationship.
LookOut	LookOut: A Strategic Plan for Ministry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Set Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., for "A Night to Remember – An Evening of Historical Reflection," as Step One. An ice cream social? Pastor Jay will review materials, noting things he likes and doesn't like. Council members are asked to do the same. Steps and Timelines will be on the agenda in June.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
Jim Halbur	NEW COMMITTEES AND ASSIGNMENTS: Many Council Members' assignments as Liaisons remain unchanged from last year. Some positions are still open. Frank Larson delayed finalization until June.
	POLICY MANUALS: Notebooks (including the Constitution and Standing Resolutions) needed by Diana Olson, Betty Groth and Lori Ruthenbeck. Kathy Yale will work with Casey to make sure all documents are current, especially Standing Resolutions, before having printed. Copies of the updated Policy Manual, adopted by Council, February 16, 2010, were not distributed at the Goal Setting Retreat in March as originally planned. Kathy Yale will make copies and ask Liaisons to deliver to their respective Board Chairs in June.

Jim Halbur	WISH BOOK: Andrew Garry reported that there are no new requests at this time.
	<p>As Outgoing President, Jim Halbur, reviewed his goals for the future of Bethlehem, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NCC [Natural Church Development]</li> <li>- LookOut</li> <li>- Attention to goals established by Council</li> <li>- Participation in GMG [Greater Mankato Growth]</li> <li>- Better communication</li> <li>- Calling a second pastor</li> <li>- Maintaining/updating the physical facility</li> </ul>
9:15 p.m.	ADJOURNED on a motion by <b>Mary Blieismer</b> , seconded by <b>Dennis Sandersfeld. MC.</b>
	NEXT MEETING: June 15, 2010, 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room. Devotions and Treats: Frank Larsen

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Yale, Congregation Secretary

MSC = Motion Seconded. Carried.