

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
720 South Second Street
Mankato, MN 56001

COUNCIL MINUTES

Title: Congregation Council Minutes

Officiating: Frank Larsen

Purpose: Monthly Business Meeting

Recording: Kathy Yale

Date: March 22, 2011

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.	7:05 p.m.	9:10 p.m.	2:05	10
Council Members and Guests			Present	Absent	Position	
Frank Larsen			X		President	
Mary Bliesmer			X		President-Elect	
Bob Ihrig			X		Vice President	
Kathy Yale			X		Secretary	
Diana Olson				X	Treasurer	
Andrew Garry			X		Member-at-Large	
Betty Groth				X	Member-at-Large	
Lori Ruthenbeck			X		Member-at-Large	
Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Pastor	
Guests: Bob Brown			X		Facilities Management	
Wally Boyer			X		Personnel Committee BCCC Board	
Amy Heiser			X		Call Committee	

PRESENTER TOPIC	ITEM DESCRIPTION
7:05 p.m. Frank Larsen	CALL TO ORDER
Pastor Jay	DEVOTIONS: from an article by John Marty in the December, 2010, <i>Lutheran Magazine</i> about Unconditional Love and Grace.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING	
Frank Larsen	AGENDA: Lori Ruthenbeck moved that the agenda be adopted as written. MSC.
OPEN FORUM	
Amy Heiser	CALL COMMITTEE: The Committee has voted unanimously to recommend a candidate for Call as part [3/4] time Associate Pastor. Her assets include being calm, with skills in many areas [including conflict resolution], glowing references, a business-like but approachable demeanor and 6-7 years experience. Mary Bleismer made a motion to accept the Call Committee's recommendation and to offer a pay package of \$55,396.64 per year and to recommend the candidate to the Congregation for a vote at the Semi-Annual Meeting scheduled for April 17, 2010.
Bob Brown	BETHLEHEM FACILITIES USE GUIDE: Bob Ihrig made a motion to endorse the Facilities Management Board's recommendation to define member rates as "The member rate is for personal use of Bethlehem members (i.e. weddings, birthdays, anniversary parties, family functions)."
	ORGAN RECITALS: Lori Ruthenbeck made a motion that Bethlehem host Tuesday organ recitals, July 19 – August 16, 2011, as it has in previous years, for community relations. MSC.
	Bob reported that the building elevators have now been brought up to code. He also updated the Council on the status of other works in progress or pending and the status of the Angel Fund (details in the March Treasurer's Report).
Wally Boyer	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: After interviewing the top seven candidates for the open position, the Personnel Committee has one it would like to recommend. Mary Bliesmer made a motion to authorize the Personnel Committee to offer the 20 hour position to the candidate they recommend.
	BCCC: The Child Care Center Board, the Personnel Committee and the Lead Pastor have all received reports or inquiries about several matters at the Child Care Center that include financial issues, staff issues and parents' issues. The personnel committee has conducted staff interviews and plans to get input from several additional sources in order to set objective goals and expectations for the future.
REPORTS	
Kathy Yale	MINUTES: The February 15 regular meeting and February 27, 2011, special meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mary Bliesmer. MSC.

Diana Olson	FINANCIAL REPORT: Written Report.
Treasurer's Report	The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Bob Ihrig. MSC.
Frank Larsen	The Endowment Fund still has \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 remaining in funds for tuition for someone becoming a pastor. The Council recommended leaving the money where it is for possible similar use in the future.
Pr. Jay Dahlvang	PASTOR'S REPORT: Written Report.
	The list of "Norms" for Bethlehem from The Night for Norm Identification include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building - needs repairs - Ministry and meeting needs - New members - Clergy - highly worked - Conflict - overlooked or ignored - Gender issues - equal - Missions - Children - welcome
	PASTORAL FUND: Andrew Garry made a motion to extend our contract for six months. MSC.
Frank Larsen	SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING: By general consensus, the date was set for Sunday, April 17, 2011, at 12:00 noon.
9:10 p.m.	ADJOURNED by General Consensus. The meeting closed with all joining in the Lord's Prayer.
	Next Meeting: April 19, 2011.

MSC = Motion Seconded. Carried.