

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
720 South Second Street
Mankato, MN 56001
MINUTES

Title: Congregation Council Meeting

Officiating: Marcia Nagel

Purpose: Monthly Business Meeting

Recording: Kathy Yale

Date: December 16, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Grounds for Joy

Scheduled			Actual			Council Members and Guests
Start	Stop	Total	Start	Stop	Total	Number
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	2 hrs.	7:15 p.m.	9:24 p.m.	2+ hrs.	8
Council Members and Guests			Present	Absent	Position	
Marcia Nagel			X		President	
James Halbur			X		President Elect	
Frank Larsen			X		Vice President	
Kathy Yale			X		Secretary	
Jim Erdman			X		Treasurer	
Beth Backstrom			X		Member at Large	
Dennis Sandersfeld				X	Member at Large	
Andrew Garry				X	Member at Large	
Pastor Arne Jessen			X		Interim Lead Pastor	
Pastor Al Girtz			X		Pastoral Care Coordinator	

TIME PRESENTER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
7:15 p.m. Marcia Nagel	CALL TO ORDER
Jim Halbur	DEVOTIONS from the hymnal re "Our Nation"
7:20 p.m. Kathy Yale	MINUTES: Jim Halbur moved the November 18, 2008, minutes be approved. MSC
Marcia Nagel	AGENDA: Beth Backstrom moved it be adopted as written. MSC .

<p>7:21 p.m. Marcia Nagel</p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS: Information Items and Update of last month's Action Items: The check for \$1000.00 from HickoryTech for an easement was received and applied to the deficit.</p> <p>Council members were asked to consider making an "Erase the Deficit" donation.</p> <p>Beth Backstrom made a motion that we write a letter on behalf of the Council to congregation members who have pledged or contributed significantly asking them to please consider helping to erase the deficit. The letter is to include the amount given by Council members (as a leadership team), the amount of the deficit, and efforts to be fiscally responsible with a balanced budget for 2009. The letter is to be written by Marcia Nagel and Beth Backstrom, with input from others, and mailed by First Class mail by Friday, December 19, 2008. MSC.</p> <p>Thank you letter and gift of gratitude to John Petersburg discussed without action.</p> <p>403B: Tabled.</p> <p>PAST PRESIDENTS' MEETING: A report of the meeting held by Greg Larson, Etta Poole and Jim Erdman on December 11, 2008, was received from Greg Larson via email. It included positive feedback from the Semi Annual Meeting and a discussion of the budget, among other things. Marcia Nagel to email all past presidents requesting their input, especially their ideas for the future.</p> <p>CALL COMMITTEE: Mary Nelson is Chair. Kari Csizmadia and Jason Bruns are Co-Secretary. The Committee has met twice with Marcia Nagel and Pastor Arne Jessen and will now continue to meet independently. They will solicit ideas and ask for direction and regularly provide updates via <i>The Bethlehem Star</i> newsletter and Temple Talks.</p>
<p>7:52 p.m. Marcia Nagel</p>	<p>By General Consent: STAND AT EASE</p>
<p>7:55 p.m. Jim Erdman</p>	<p>TREASURER'S REPORT: Beth Backstrom moved we accept the Financial Report. MSC.</p>
<p>8:10 p.m. Pastor Arne</p>	<p>INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT: Interim Covenant Agreement - Tabled.</p> <p>Beth Backstrom moved that the Council direct the pastors and the Music and Worship Board to include portions of the Behavioral Covenant as a part of the worship service quarterly. MSC.</p> <p>Beth Backstrom moved that we honor the request of the Spanish-speaking Methodist church group to also meet at Bethlehem on Fridays and Saturdays, and that we direct the pastors to continue dialogue with them for ways we may work together and find how closer relationships might evolve. MSC.</p> <p>Review of "Individual Staff Goals for 2009" scheduled for January 7, 2009.</p>

<p>9:42 p.m. Marcia Nagel</p>	<p>PERSONNEL: The Personnel Committee has begun the interview process for three open positions.</p> <p>Jim Halbur moved that we approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire Laurie Rossow for the position of Coordinator of Music and Director of Adult Choirs. MSC.</p> <p>Beth Backstrom moved the Council authorize Marcia Nagel to offer the position to Laurie Rossow at the rate of \$13.00 per hour for 16 hours per week for a total annual expense of \$11,643.00, which is within the approved budget. MSC.</p> <p>Frank Larsen moved we approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to rehire Christine Schulz for the newly created position of Office Services Assistant [advertised at \$12.00 per hour] at her current rate of \$12.30 per hour for 20 hours per week. MSC.</p> <p>The interview process continues for the newly created Administrative Assistant position. A vote of approval for any recommendation will be conducted by email.</p> <p>A Farewell Reception for Margaret Hanson is planned for December 30, 2008.</p> <p>Staff will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 11, 2009.</p>
<p>9:24 p.m. Marcia Nagel</p>	<p>MEETING ADJOURNED on a motion by Kathy Yale. MSC.</p>

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Yale, Congregation Secretary