

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: March 17, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Heritage Room

Scheduled			Actual			Council Members and Guests
Start	Stop	Total	Start	Stop	Total	Number
7:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	1.5 hrs.	7:14 p.m.	8:55 p.m.	1.7 hrs.	8
Council Members and Guests			Present	Absent	Position	
Marcia Nagel			X		President	
James Halbur			X	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
7:14 p.m. Marcia Nagel	CALL TO ORDER: Marcia Nagel called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.
7:15 p.m. Marcia Nagel	AGENDA: The agenda was adopted on a motion by Frank Larsen. MSC.
7:16 p.m. Kathy Yale	MINUTES: Beth Backstrom moved the February 17, 2009, minutes be approved. MSC.

INFORMATION ITEMS and OLD BUSINESS	
7:16 p.m. Marcia Nagel	PENSION PLAN: Beth Backstrom made a motion to remove the descriptors from the motion passed February 17, 2009, thus allowing eligible employees the option of choosing between a Roth or Traditional IRA administered by Thrivent. MSC.
7:20 p.m.	The Facilities Board reports that we are still in need of one more staff computer. The water heater in the Child Care Center has been replaced at a cost of \$800.00. Their earlier estimate had been \$600.00.
7:24 p.m.	The SEMN Synod Assembly will be held May 1, 2 in Rochester, MN. Jim Nagel will be attending and Bethlehem needs two more representatives. Registration deadline is April 24, 2009. Marcia Nagel will provide the information in the bulletin announcements.
7:28 p.m.	The Call Committee continues its work and is contact with the Synod. They will do periodic Temple Talks to keep the congregation informed.
REPORTS	
7:33 p.m. Jim Erdman	TREASURER'S REPORT: Currently, expenses are 1.7% over budget and offerings are at 92% of budget. A balance of only \$3240.00 remains to erase the 2008 deficit. The written February Financial Report is attached.
7:40 p.m. Pastor Arne Jessen	INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT: Written report attached.
NEW BUSINESS	
7:45 p.m. Marcia Nagel	Discussion of the state of giving at Bethlehem and options available.
8:40 p.m.	Beth Backstrom made the motion that a special Task Force/Planning Group to include the President, President-Elect, Vice President and a Member-at-Large, along with the Stewardship Board Chair and Interim Senior Pastor, be formed to examine and address congregational engagement and participation and our current economic condition. MSC.
8:45 p.m. Marcia Nagel	UPCOMING MEETINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEMN Synod "Councils as Leaders," March 29, 2009 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Council members are encouraged to attend. - Annual Meeting of the Congregations, April 25, 2009 at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. Bethlehem may appoint 4 representatives to attend and Marcia Nagel will publicize the openings. - SEMN Synod Assembly, May 1,2, 2009, Rochester, MN. Bethlehem may send three members. Marcia Nagel will publicize the 2 remaining openings. - Next Congregation Council Meeting, April 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.
8:55 p.m. Marcia Nagel	MEETING ADJOURNED on a motion by Kathy Yale. MSC.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Yale, Congregation Secretary