

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: November 18, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Youth Room

Scheduled			Actual			Council Members And Guests
Start	Stop	Total	Start	Stop	Total	Number
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	2 hrs.	7:05 p.m.	9:58 p.m.	3 hrs.	11
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	
Bob Singelstad			X		Forum Guest: Adult Education	
Kathy Piehl			X		Forum Guest: Music	
Mary Beth Royer			X		Forum Guest: Stewardship	

PRESENTERS	OPEN FORUM NOTES
Bob Singelstad	The Adult Education Board would like to do a special promotion for subscriptions to <i>The Lutheran</i> magazine with 3 other local congregations and publicize internally.
Kathy Piehl	Read her letter in support of the Council, expressing her dedication to the music program and her related staffing concerns.
Mary Beth Royer	The Stewardship Board reported that pledges are fewer this year – they're not sure why – and that they will continue their efforts in several ways.

MINUTES OF THE FORMAL BUSINESS MEETING

TIME PRESENTER	ITEMS DESCRIPTION
7:05 p.m. Marcia Nagel	CALL TO ORDER
7:05 p.m.	OPEN FORUM – See page one.
7:40 p.m.	DEVOTIONS: Opening Prayer led by Beth Backstrom
7:42 p.m.	On a motion by Andrew Garry , the Council approved the Adult Education Board’s request to do a special promotion of <i>The Lutheran</i> magazine to end November 30, 2008 and with the possibility of finding funds from other sources, if necessary, to reach the minimum of 50 orders. MSC.
7:45 p.m.	AGENDA: Beth Backstrom moved it be adopted as written. MSC.
7:47 p.m.	MINUTES: Beth Backstrom moved that the October 21, 2008, and November 10, 2008, minutes be approved as written. MSC.
7:49 p.m. Marcia Nagel	<p>OLD BUSINESS: Review of last month’s Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marica Nagel and Kathy Yale to write a letter to accompany our “Gift of Gratitude” to John Petersburg when funds become available. - Congregation Meeting Discussion and Review: One of the signs of our healthy congregation is that many were heard. And, overall, the meeting went well.
8:15 p.m. James Erdman	OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT: Kathy Yale moved that the report be accepted as written and presented. MSC.
8:33 p.m. Pr. Arne Jessen	<p>PASTOR’S REPORT: Beth Backstrom moved that we, as Council Liaisons, bring copies of the Behavioral Covenant to the Boards. With the suggestions of doing so before the end of the year and with the possibility of using it as a source for devotions, MSC.</p> <p>Andrew Garry moved that the Administrative Assistant and the Office Services Assistant position descriptions dated November 18, 2008, be approved. MSC.</p> <p>Dennis Sandersfeld moved that we accept Joyce Jorgenson’s resignation as Director of Music, effective at the end of the year. MSC. Her service will be acknowledged with a Farewell Reception in December.</p> <p>Beth Backstrom moved that, due to the resignation of Joyce Jorgenson, the Personnel Committee be directed to begin the search process for a “Coordinator of Music.” MSC. Marcia Nagel appointed a Task Force with the Music and Worship Board Co-Chairs and Pr. Arne Jessen to review and possibly update the description for the position.</p>

9:15 p.m.	Beth Backstrom moved that the Council direct the Personnel Committee to begin the process to fill the newly created positions of Administrative Assistant and Office Services Assistant with applications to be accepted until the positions are filled. MSC.
9:22 p.m. Marcia Nagel	By General Consent: Stand at Ease.
9:28 p.m. Marcia Nagel	NEW BUSINESS: Marcia Nagel appointed a Task Force with Andrew Garry, Jim Erdman and Lori Ruthenbeck to research 403(b) retirement plan options and to report to the Council at the December meeting.
9:35 p.m.	Information Item: Marcia Nagel and Etta Poohl met with an attorney to review proposed space and compensation changes to the lease with Bethlehem Child Care Center. Dennis Sandersfeld moved to authorize the President to approve changes and sign a new two-year lease. MSC.
9:50 p.m.	Jim Erdman moved that we accept HickoryTech's request for easement for a junction box and to offer them the option for a one-time compensation of \$1000.00. MSC.
9:52 p.m.	Dennis Sandersfeld moved that we approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to increase Joel Zimmerman's vacation to 5 weeks a year, based on his tenure and service. MSC.
9:58 p.m. Marcia Nagel	Andrew Garry moved that the meeting be adjourned. MSC. The meeting closed with all joining in The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Yale, Congregation Secretary