

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
720 South Second Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

**COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Title:** Congregation Council Minutes

**Officiating:** Mary Bliesmer

**Purpose:** Monthly Business Meeting

**Recording:** Kathy Yale

**Date:** January 17, 2012

**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.	7:00 p.m.	8:55 p.m.	1:55	11
Council Members and Guests			Present	Absent	Position	
Mary Bliesmer			X		President	
Bob Ihrig			X		President-Elect	
Rachel Wood			X		Vice President	
Kathy Yale			X		Secretary	
Diana Olson			X		Treasurer	
Amy Heiser			X		Member-at-Large	
Betty Groth			X		Member-at-Large	
Lori Ruthenbeck				X	Member-at-Large	
Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Lead Pastor	
Pastor Collette Broady Preiss			X		Associate Pastor	
Cindy Parker			X		Salvation Army	
Mike Parker			X		Salvation Army	

PRESENTER TOPIC	ITEM DESCRIPTION
7:00 p.m. Mary Bliesmer	CALL TO ORDER
Pr Jay Dahlvang	DEVOTIONS: Romans 12: 3-8, "A Joy to Serve," followed by an opening prayer.

OPEN FORUM	
Cindy Parker Mike Parker	SALVATION ARMY: Handouts and an explanation of the "Above and Beyond" program to integrate services provided to individuals requesting assistance.
REGULAR BUSINESS	
Mary Bliesmer	AGENDA: With the additions of c. Organ Recitals and d. Salvation Army under New Business, the agenda was adopted on a motion by Diana Olson. MSC.
Kathy Yale	MINUTES: The December 20, 2011, minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Ihrig. MSC.
	POLICY MANUAL: Adopted the Congregation Council Policy Manual updated through the end of 2011 (Council actions from the previously approved meeting minutes organized by topic rather than by date only) as the official policy of the Bethlehem Congregation, on a motion by Diana Olson. MSC.
REPORTS	
Diana Olson	FINANCIAL REPORT: Oral Report.
	There was no written report to approve.
Pastor Jay	LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT: Written Reports.
Pastor Collette	ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT: Written Report.
OLD BUSINESS	
Bob Ihrig	FIVE YEAR PLAN: After reviewing the minutes of Boards and Committees, the Council is encouraged and pleased to observe that conversations about the Five Year Plan are happening at their meetings.
	Bob designed a follow-up questionnaire for Boards and Committees to be used to report their progress. Using suggestions from the Council, he will distribute these with a request that they be returned by the end of March.
Mary Bliesmer Pastor Jay	BUILDING RENOVATION: A report on the responses received to-date to letters sent by Mary Bliesmer with Pastor Jay to specified members (see last month's minutes) inviting them to serve on one of the committees.
	On a motion by Diana Olson, MSC, the Council adopted the following Standing Resolutions: 31. The Building Committee 32. The Building Publicity Committee 33. The Building Finance Committee

OLD BUSINESS, continued	
Pastor Jay	MISSION STATEMENT: A revue of the current draft: <b><i>“We worship, serve, and celebrate the God who became flesh in Jesus Christ to love and save the world.”</i></b> and an agreement to continue the discussion.
NEW BUSINESS	
Amy Heiser	YOUTH BOARD: An update on fundraising efforts (which are going well) for the upcoming trip to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering.
	Kathy Yale made a motion to authorize the Youth Board to approach boards, committees and circles with a request for donations of theme baskets for a fundraising silent auction to be held on Fat Tuesday. MSC.
Mary Bliesmer	OPEN FORUMS: A tentative schedule was made for the balance of this Council year: February – Evangelism Board March – Children’s Board April – Adult Education Board May – Music and Worship Board June – Youth Board
	ORGAN RECITALS: Bob Ihrig made a motion to approve the Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists’ request for Bethlehem to host the last half of their noontime summer series of recitals on July 24, July 31, August 7, August 14, and August 21, 2012. MSC.
	SALVATION ARMY: Tabled action on the “Above and Beyond Agreement” until February to allow for input from the Endowment Committee and the BLCW.
Mary Bliesmer 8:55 p.m.	ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Diana Olson. MSC. The meeting closed with all joining in The Lord’s Prayer.
	Next Meeting: February 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

MSC = Motion Seconded and Carried.