

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes July 14, 2015 5:30 pm

Members: Alex Schwarzhoff, ~~Laura Pearson~~, Stefanie Gerhardson, Jill DeBrito, Judy Bradow, Sally Nelson, David Nycklemoe, Jeanne Schetnan, ~~Mare Sikkink~~, ~~Laura Skogen~~, Kim Langbehn, ~~Keith Olson~~, ~~Donavan Rasmusson~~, Brad Russell

Call to order: Stephanie called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Tom led devotions.

Secretary's report from June was approved. Motion by David, 2nd by Jeanne.

Treasurer's Report was discussed and put on file for examination.

Pastor's Comments

Pastor Tom

- Augustana is voting on Sunday, July 19 to determine if they will extend a call to Pastor Kate, which in turn would also terminate our contract with them. This could be both a challenge and an opportunity for our church.

Chair Comments

Presentation and Discussion

- 1) Welcome Pastor Jacob Anderson as our interim pastor. Pastor Jake will help revitalize our Sunday School and Confirmation programs and will take on the Parish Ed director role.
- 2) Welcome Nancy Eldridge-Hess as our Strategic Plan Consultant to facilitate the implementation of the Systems portion of the Strategic Plan. She will work no more than 40 hrs/month and will be in the office on Wednesdays from 1 – 3:00. She will also focus on the following:
 - a. Organizational audit
 - b. Job descriptions
 - c. Org chart/accountability
 - d. Assigning 1 or 2 initiatives to each staff member
 - e. Council and council meeting audit
 - f. Organize and work with strategic plan, and work with stakeholders of initiatives
- 3) Per the request of Pastor Stan, **a motion was made by Jeanne, with a 2nd by Kim to approve a 3 month extension of Pastor Stan's visitation pastor agreement, with the agreement coming to an end at that time. All approved, motion carried.**

- 4) Review of the letter to the congregation regarding the transitions going on in the church.
- 5) Discussion of Augustana
- 6) Discussion of VBS/Sunday School director position.
 - a. The council agreed that Pastor Jake will take on this role and we will not hire for this position.
- 7) Call committee update – we have 3 people committed so far. Looking for 4 more.
- 8) Strategic Plan update – next week the Strategic Advisory Team will be meeting with Pastor Nancy
- 9) Update of financial situation and plans for a stewardship letter
 - a. We will most likely have a deficit at the end of July. A letter will go out to the congregation in August.

Action Requests from Committees

Stewardship and Finance

- 1) The S & F committee recommends holding benevolences due to low flow in the summer.
 - a. **A motion was made by Jeanne with a 2nd by Kim to hold benevolence payments until the council decides otherwise. All approved, motion carried.**

New Business

As of this date the following people are authorized to sign on the following accounts at Bank of The West: 972-002331 and 972-005623.

Amy Fronning	Office Manager
Pastor Tom Peterson	Senior Pastor
Stefanie Gerhardson	Congregation President
Keith Olson	Congregation VP
Alex Schwarzhoff	Treasurer

Old Business

1. The Council is still in need of a Vice President.

Announcements

1. Next meeting is on August 10 at 5:30 at the church.

Motion to adjourn by Kim, 2nd by Brad.

******Committee chairs please remember to send your committee minutes to Amy by the last day of each month.**