

# BETHLEHEM CHURCH COUNCIL

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2016, 5:30pm meeting

Members: Sally Nelson, David Nycklemoe, Jeanne Schetnan, Marc Sikkink, Kim Langbehn, Stefanie Gerhardson, Val Johnson, Darcy Koeckertiz, Glen Noyes, Tom Rasmusson

Not present: Judy Bradow, Laura Skogen, Keith Olson, Donovan Rasmusson, Brad Russell

Call to Order: Marc Sikkink

Devotions:

Open Forum Time - nothing brought up at this time

Secretary's Report - amended and approved

Treasurers Report -

**A. Action Item** – The Finance Committee recommends continuing to hold our synod benevolence payments, disbursement of the Thrivent Choice dollars, and any non-essential payment/disbursements at this time due to low cash flow. Re-evaluate again next month.

**B. Action Item** – Update on the expenditure motion from the last month: The Finance Committee in conjunction with the Property & Management Chair and Executive Committee to review and pay invoices relating to the Beyond the Building Campaign projects, from the designated account for the Beyond the Building funds, which is in the Building fund savings account.

Kim made a motion to approve, Jeanne 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor – motion carried.

**C. Action Item** – The finance Committee recommends that all Beyond the Building Campaign expenses such as the brochure/pledge cards, letterhead envelopes, postage, and the celebration brunch expenses be paid for from the Beyond the Building Campaign funds.

All members in agreement

**D. Action Item** - The finance committee recommends the church council authorize a credit card under the Bethlehem Church account at Bank of the West for Kim Blumberg with a spending limit of \$500. This money is to purchase music and other supplies. Each month expense will be gone through.

David made the motion to approve Darcy 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Comments from the Pastors - Pastor Tom reported that in conversation with Gary Preston, our church custodian, Gary had indicated his intention to retire from his position here at the end of April 2017. Gary dropped off a note at the church office stating that intention and timeline, as well. He has been part of this staff for over 25 years. More information and plans to honor his work with us will follow. The Building and Grounds committee and the Personnel committee will be notified.

## Items for Business -

**A.** Members of the Discipleship Team gave a report about the Pray-Ground and Inter-generational ministry. Over these past months, since the Pray-Ground was introduced, it has evolved significantly, wanting to be both less intrusive to the service and more instructive for and engaging of the children in the service. They have put in a lot of time and effort going over the different possibilities of how to make this space the best that it can be. Their request is that the Pray-Ground be allowed to remain and continue to help children learn and grow while they are attending church, develop a sense of community, and grow Bethlehem's intergenerational ministry consistent with our core values and strategic plan. They invite conversation and planning between all of us in order to foster understanding, care for one another and a wonderful sense of community.

**Dave Nycklemoe moved that we support the Pray-Ground, that it be allowed to continue to evolve**

**and asking that efforts be made to encourage more discussion going into the future; seconded by Kim Langbehn. Motion passed (unanimous)**

**B.** Budget planning for 2017 is underway, and the first reading of the 2017 budget will be at the December church council meeting.

**C. Call committee update - Paul Fjested was present and said they have two names who have interviewed for the position.** Currently they are thinking, praying and deciding. More names could possibility come in, however the synod is short on pastors looking for calls to duty at this time.

**D.** Beyond the Building campaign update- things are going well, the ending balance as of 11/8/16 was \$133,441.10. So far there has been a total of 182 pledge cards received for a total of \$669,060.00 for a pledge total.

**E.** Assistive Hearing equipment purchase - The church is in need of new hearing equipment. Pastor Jake presented two different bids he had received. Decided to go with Tricorne Audio, Inc. To replace our system, for a total cost of \$2,890.00.

Jeanne made a motion to approve, Tom 2<sup>nd</sup> and all in favor, motion carried.

**F.** Building Committee update:

Lighting of the steeples – there are two different options of ways to light the steeples.

The committee went with the best ways that would fit our surrounds best.

- Classic glass and time line for the stained glass windows on the west wall. This project should start taking place within the next couple weeks.

- Heating and cooling system - still checking and getting bids for that projects

- Sunday school wing windows - still waiting on bids

#### **Announcements:**

1. Consecration Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at both worship services with a celebration brunch to follow both worship services.

2. WELCA Thank offering Sunday November 20

3. Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service and Harvest Dessert Celebration following worship on Wednesday November 23. Worship at 6:30pm.

4. Concordia Christmas Concert, Sunday December 4, ride the church bus, cost is \$15.

5. Breakfast at Bethlehem December 4

6. New member Sunday, December 4

7. WELCA Christmas Brunch, Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

8. Sunday School Christmas Program, Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15am worship service. Program practice will be on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

#### **Adjournment**

**Prayers for our congregation as our ministry unfolds in 2016**

**Lord's Prayer**