

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

**Mission: We INVITE all; We GROW in Faith; We GO to share God's love and grace**

**MINUTES from:** Monday, April 19, 2021 (prepared by Deb Slagstad)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** P = Present A = Absent

Mal Bailey – P	Wanda Bock - P	Tami Bowman – A	Pam Crouse – P
Andy Denison – P	Mike Diercks- P	Bill Evans – A	Alexa Giddings – P
Dave Myre– P	Mackenzie Narins - P	Jennifer Nelson – A	Deberra Slagstad - P
Brad Wiedmann – P			

**STAFF MEMBERS:** Pastor Luci – P Pastor Peter – P Dawn Paul – P

**Guests Present: Laurie Carlsen, Ted Hakala**

### PREPARATION:

**Devotions** – Alexa led devotions in place of Bill Evans. Her selection was from Adam Hamilton's book, Incarnation. A moving devotion reminding us that in times of darkness, God sent Jesus to be the light, so that we can see what there is to do in the world.

Pastor Peter shared a prayer.

**Sharing Joys & Concerns** – *We were reminded to keep a council's family in our prayers at the time of passing of his mother-in-law. One member shared her joy of her daughters' first communion and the celebration of her whole family together for that special service.*

**Open Forum**– none

**Meeting Minutes** :3/15/2021 **Motion** to approve the March minutes: MD/DM Discussion, none. Motion carried.

**Financials:** **Motion** made to accept the financials: DM/AD

### INFORMATION/ACTION:

#### Old Business:

1. BIC Task Force Update: Laurie Carlsen and Ted Hakala presented the final report of the work of the BIC Task Force. A highlight of their work is the recognition award, "Bright Spot Award", given to Bethany Lutheran by the Northwest Synod of the ELCA. Our congregation was highlighted at the Synod Conference. This task force will now sunset, and those working on this project are seeking direction from the council as to how to proceed. There was extended discussion regarding questions and concerns from congregation members regarding Bethany becoming as RIC congregation. Pam noted that in section C12.05.f of our constitution, it states 'the expectation of the council is to promote congregation education. It was determined that the work of this group is important to that purpose.  
Motion made by AD/WB: The members that worked on the BIC task force are requested to prepare a proposal for the church council that will outline what the next steps, as an RIC church, will be going forward.  
Discussion: none Yes: 9 No: 1 Motion carried

Dave suggested that a scrub of the membership occur annually. Council agreed.

2. Budget Forum – Postponed

Motion to Extend time 30 minutes: WB/DM Carried.

3. Safely Regathering Task Force update: Pam has spoken with Mark Nymo, chair of the SRTF regarding the current data on COVID 19 for Barron County. The Task Force is monitoring information daily. We will stay in Phase 3, unless there are changes. Mark will keep Pam informed.

## **New Business:**

1. **Building Security:** Mel gave a brief background of a group that in the past has examined security needs for our building. This includes emergency procedures for turning off water, electricity, etc. should the need arrive, as well as safety precautions for the wellbeing of staff and those gathering for events with our building. A CrossTalk had been held prior to COVID and since that time it was dropped. Dave added that there is a group of members, who live near the church and know where the shut offs are, willing to come to the church should there be an event that requires this type of action. Pastor Peter brought up other security issues, i.e. when staff are alone in the building, COVID protocol, etc.  
Motion MN/AD: The Council to initiate the formation of a Security Task Force, to examine security issues/priorities and develop a plan for Bethany Lutheran. Mel volunteered to spearhead this task force.  
Discussion: none      Motion Carried
2. **Facebook Policies and Procedures:** It was brought to the attention of the council that written policies and procedures are needed regarding the content and continued development of Bethany's Facebook page. Wanda volunteered to work with staff to develop the policies and procedures and bring to Council for approval.
3. **Transition Task Force Report:** Brief discussion of Sunday's Council CrossTalk. It was great to have so many present in-person and via Zoom. Pam thanked Andy, Amy Brekke, Bill and Dave Wilson, who had work on our technology in the Gathering Room to make a hybrid meeting possible. The Council asked the "Roll Out" group (Alexa, Jennifer, Bill & Debbie) to plan more Council CrossTalks. MacKenzie and Debbie will email the notes from Jennifer and the Planning Board to council members. Council members are asked to review the information and consider future topics for CrossTalk. We will continue discussion via email.
4. **Associate Pastor Vacancy:** Pastor Peter discussed the need for additional pastoral, due to the leaving of Pastor Luci. He has information and contacts that he can call upon to fill in for time when he will need to be absent (Navy Chaplaincy requirements). He has spoken with Amy Brekke and she is willing and available to assist as needed. This will mean an increase in Amy's paid time hours. The council authorized Pastor Peter to find individuals to cover his responsibilities when he is gone. Authorization was also given for Amy to assist as needed, with increased paid hours.

Pam extended a sincere thank you to Pastor Luci for bringing her many gifts to Bethany. She has been instrumental in assisting with increasing our technology; her work with our children through First Communion, children's prayers, and the Creation Station. Thank you and blessings to you and your family as you begin a new chapter in your lives.

**Staff Reports:** attached. We had a request for membership updates. Council will be updated on New Members coming in. We have had 3 couples transferred out and 6 new members coming in since Oct 1 since P Peter started.

**Committees Reports:** A reminder to all committees to make sure they have a Zoom option for meeting attendance, as we move into in-person meetings.

Motion to extend time 15 minutes: AD/MN

Discussion regarding ways to move forward as a congregation in meaningful ways. How we can lead to embody Council Values and Operating Procedures in our constitution. Ways to build relationships in our congregation; ways to address concerns and ideas; ways to support one another and the work we do. Please contact Pam with thoughts and ideas on how to further this discussion and consider a plan of action.

Hybrid meeting thoughts: It was difficult to hear due to feedback from mics and distancing from the front of the room. Good to be together and easier to carry on more detailed discussion.

**Motion** moved to adjourn DM/AD. Discussion – none. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer led by Pastor Peter.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Executive Council Meeting:** Tuesday 5/11/2021 @ 10:30am

**Council Meeting:** Monday 5/17/21 @ 5:30p

**Assignments:**

**May Devotions:** Mackenzie Narins

**May Collections:** Mackenzie Narins