

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

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

**MINUTES from:** Monday, May 17, 2021 (prepared by Jennifer Nelson)

**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 – P	Alexa Giddings – P
Dave Myre– P	Mackenzie Narins - P	Jennifer Nelson – P	Deberra Slagstad - P
Brad Wiedmann – P			

**STAFF MEMBERS:** Pastor Peter – P

**Guests Present:** Amy Brekke, Wendy Markgren, Mark Nymo

### PREPARATION:

**Devotions** – Mackenzie Narins led devotions on grace.

**Sharing Joys & Concerns** – a member who has had another fall needs prayers...slow recovery. Deb will be a grandmother for the second time very soon. Brad was able to visit family and celebrate special occasions. Wanda's son will be expecting their first child. Andy, Hunter graduated from college.

**Pastor Peter shared a prayer.**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Pam would like to add SRTF to Special Guests section. This will bring the meeting agenda to 2 hours. **Motion** made to accept agenda with addition of SRTF and 2 hour time limit. AD/BW Discussion – **Amendment** made to the motion to move Amy before finance BE/MD. Discussion – none. 10 yes, 2 no. Amendment carried. Original motion to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Open Forum**– none

**Meeting Minutes** : 4/15/2021 **Motion** to approve the April minutes: BW/DM Discussion, none. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting minutes. **Motion** made to approve Special meeting DS/BW – discussion, none. Motion approved.

**Financials:** **Motion** made to accept the financials: JN/MB Discussion – what is the “general gift fund”. Wendy responded that it is like a savings fund...no restrictions on use of funds. **Motion** carried.

### INFORMATION/ACTION:

#### Special Guests:

1. Amy Brekke – Worship and Music Update. Amy, along with Worship and Music and the “special events” group met to figure out better ways to get more people involved. Can we have services outside? Could we purchase or rent a tent that could be set up all summer on the green space? Trust Fund has agreed to fund the tent rental as well as purchasing some folding tables to be used under the tent. In addition, they have planned 5 “Special Events Wednesdays” with live music and dinner. June 16<sup>th</sup> the event will be hosted by the Kusilek's at their farm. There will be a tour of the robotic dairy barn, Adam Bever will DJ and their will be food. July will be at the Cumberland airport. August will be at Narrows Park (fishing, pontoon-ing, boating). These events are being planned to bring us together. These will be intergenerational events. Please tell your committees about these events. Please talk this up! They want these events to be free. They don't want to charge for the meals. They are estimating the meals to be at 5.00/person. They would be really happy if 100 people came. This group may need some financial support for the meals.

Also, Worship and Music is recommending that Saturday 5:30 services come back. There is a very distinct group that attends this service. There are specific things that people like about that service (calmer atmosphere, better time for some etc.). They don't want to go forward with adding Saturday services back into the schedule until we have help for Pastor Peter but they don't want Council to forget about this. Bethany will be in the AquaFest parade. Please consider joining us.

2. Wendy Markgren – Is here to do a financial update. Audit update...generally the audit has been less formal. Done by a member who has auditing background. This is typically free. To do a full, professional audit, we are looking at 12-15k in expense. Wendy's firm does audits and would discount the cost because we are a church, however, they could not do one for us as she is already affiliated with us. We would have to select a firm that is truly independent. Per the constitution we need to do an annual audit. We have always just found members who have experience. We need an audit committee of 3 members who are elected by the council. This is not to say that anyone thinks there is anything wrong but per our constitution, it is prudent to follow through. **Motion** made to have a certified audit done for 2020 MD/DM. Discussion – do we have the funding for this? Wendy responded that no, it is not in the budget. A certified audit does not guarantee that there isn't fraud. Wendy's opinion is that we would be better served doing an in-house audit. We have good policies in place and the certified audit will be very costly...in addition to the fee, it would "cost" a lot in staff time as well. Mike Bock is willing to lead this effort. **Amendment** made to the original motion to be an inhouse audit instead. JN/DS – discussion. Amendment Motion carried. Original motion is amended to be to conduct an inhouse audit. Discussion on original motion – do we have to put parameters on the audit? Mike Bock will chair this group. Motion carries.

Building Fund – was originally just to pay the mortgage. The fund was changed in 2017 to include mortgage as well as major building expenses. The current building fund has around 60K. The current mortgage payment is 4525/month. Normally Wendy recommends 3-4 payments to be held in the account. The parking lot still needs to come out of the 60K...so there would be around 40K left. Wendy thinks it would be good to possibly move \$25K from the building fund to pay down the mortgage. **Motion** made to pay down 25K of the mortgage now and ask the audit committee to make a recommendation on next steps. BE/BW. Discussion. Motion carried.

Increase Amy to full time – Wendy doesn't have any concerns financially about doing this since we are down a pastor at this time.

Mark Nymo – update from SRTF. Mark started with an acknowledgment: He is a stranger to Council deliberations but it's encouraging to see good people make tough decisions for the betterment of Bethany. Wish more people could see Council at work!

New CDC guidelines. Less than 5% chance a fully vaccinated person can get COVID and even smaller chance that they will need hospitalizations and/or die. What can we do to protect the unvaccinated? Is it our job to protect the UV? What is the best we can do? Barron County vaccinated rate is still low. Has Laura Sauve made any changes to the Barron County recommendations? Not yet. What do we think those changes would look like? Recommendation from SRTF the next two Sundays are already well planned out...lets leave them alone. Next Sunday is Confirmation Sunday and a lot of planning has already gone into that. The following Sunday is Memorial Day weekend and that service is already planned outdoors. After Memorial Day, indoor, in person 8am service would be open to members and will be masked. The 10am, outdoor service would be masks optional. **Motion** made to accept the recommendation made from the SRTF. BW/DM – discussion, none. 11 yes/1 no. Motion carried.

#### Old Business:

1. Pastoral Care while Pastor Peter is gone doing Navy duty, he has compiled a list of "on-call" pastors who can cover pastoral care. The list is in the church office, along with Pam Crouse, Dawn Paul and Amy Brekke. Is there any consideration for Scott Burns? P Peter will inquire as to Scott's status. P Peter will send the list to Council as well.
2. Call Committee Update – Jennifer updated that MSP is at synod...we are in waiting game. We will be meeting soon to begin going over interview questions.
3. Amy Brekke's increased hours? – recommendation from personnel committee to increase Amy's position to full time in the short term. Some confusion on job duties. There is some overlap but this could be explained by some of Angie's FMLA leave. Some clarification was offered on the salary numbers. **Motion**

made to accept the new job description for Amy and accept the salary as presented. BW/DM discussion - none. Motion carried.

*I am not sure how to track the email motion that we have done. We did a motion to allow Amy's increase previously via email. Now we did one here tonight as well. In addition, we end up doing one later this week because the original salary numbers were incomplete.*

Via Email 5/20/21: **Motion** made that council accept Pastor Peter's recommendation via special email vote. BE/JN – Discussion – none. 10 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

3. **Motion** made to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. DM/WB – discussion, none. 11 yes, 1 no. Motion carried. Deb began with an update. See attached handout. Handout from Deb is just our brainstorming ideas not anything that is set in stone. Council, please review and think on this topic. We will revisit it at the next meeting.

**Staff Reports:** attached.

**Committees Reports:** attached.

**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 6/8/2021 @ 10:30am

**Council Meeting:** Monday 6/21/21 @ 5:30p

**Assignments:**

**June Devotions:** Alexa Giddings

**June Collections:** Mal Bailey 8am

Alexa Giddings 10am