

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

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

**MINUTES from:** Monday, Feb. 21, 2022 (prepared by Jennifer Nelson)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** P = Present A = Absent **MEETING HELD IN PERSON**

Wanda Bock -P	Pam Crouse – P	Andy Denison – P	Bill Evans – P
Alexa Giddings – P	Bun Hanson - P	Ted Hakala - A	Audrey Kusilek - P
Dave Myre–P	Mackenzie Narins - P	Jennifer Nelson – P	Tammy Roberg - P
Deberra Slagstad -P			

**STAFF MEMBERS:** Pastor Arthur & Dawn Paul

### PREPARATION:

*Devotions – Deb led the devotions with a parable of a broken front door.*

*Sharing Joys & Concerns – Joys for refugee program in EC. Concerns for a nephew in rehab. Prayers for a Father-in-Law.*

*Pastor Arthur offered an opening prayer.*

**Introductions:** Bill led the group in a “get to know you” activity – all introduced themselves and listed a couple of reasons for “why am I here”.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda DM/AK- Discussion – what is our mask policy during our meetings? P Arthur responded that this topic would come up later. Motion carried.

**Open Forum**– none

**Call for Nominees and Election of Officers** – slate of officers has been presented. The practice has been that a slate has been presented at the Feb meeting. These candidates were approached prior to the meeting and have already affirmed their willingness to serve. A call was made for nominations from the floor. DM/BH nominated Audrey Kusilek for VP. Audrey is willing to serve. DM/TR nominated Wanda Bock for Secretary. Wanda agreed to serve. Motion made to close nominations AK/BH – discussion – none - nominations are now closed. Motion made to “Voice vote” Andy Dennison for President and Paper Ballot Vote for VP & Secretary positions PC/JN – discussion – none - Motion carried. Voice Vote was held to elect Andy Dennison President - 11 yes, 1 abstention. Voice Vote carries. Paper Ballots are handed out. Motion made to have only members who are present vote DM/WB – discussion – What is precedent? Have we called members before who were not present and allowed them to vote? Hybrid meetings we have allowed “non-present” members to vote but not when the meeting has been in-person only – Motion carries - 1 abstention, 3 nays, 8 yeses. Paper Ballots were tallied, Jennifer Nelson was elected Secretary and Deb Slagstad was elected VP.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion made to approve the January minutes JN/BE – Discussion – Audrey was disappointed to read in the January minutes that there was an extra weeks’ vacation granted to staff; this represents a 2% increase, yet it was presented to the congregation that the salary line item would remain flat for 2022. P Arthur responded that this was not “considered” a financial consideration (it does not “cost” the budget to add a week of vacation). This item was recommended by P Arthur and approved by Council as a way to honor and recognize our staff for all of their hard work during a difficult year and a time when our finances could not support a COLA increase in wages. Motion carried - 3 abstentions, 0 nays

**Financial Report** – Motion made to accept the financials BE. Discussion - thank you to Dawn for the tallies on the designated funds and for moving the \$98,000.00 to the general gift fund. This was done under conversation with Wendy. Some discussion about the different reports.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Moving Forward at Bethany** – P Arthur led this discussion. Work on Unity. What are the basics of the faith? A good place to start after conflict. Fellowship together. Face to face contact. Leadership Expectations.

**Governance (Leadership) and Management: The role of the Council** – P Arthur led this discussion. Safely Regathering Task Force is disbanding. We're looking at moving to "mask optional" for all but 8am service.

Motion made to extend our meeting by 30 minutes DS/PC – discussion – it would be good to plan ourselves in the future to NOT have to do this every meeting. Unanimous motion carried

**Motion** made to move to masks optional for all BUT 8 am service AK/BH – discussion – does this effect funeral meals? Yes. We can add this. Does this effect blood drive? No – we've been doing the blood drives through the pandemic. Can Lunchbox be back inside? Yes. 1 abstention, motion carried.

**Next Steps in Regathering at Bethany** – P Arthur led this discussion. P Arthur will do some of his "new" Pastor pieces after Easter, these were put off due to situation when he arrived.

**Financials: 2022 Giving Levels** – P Arthur gave an update. People are responding and numbers are looking better. Audrey asked about Angie's nursery proposal. The nursery staff shows up under the "other salaries" line item. We're seeing members "restart" their giving now.

**Financial Forum Planning** – volunteers needed. Plan these to be quarterly updates on financials and update on any other topics pertinent. Audrey, Wanda, Bun and Alexa volunteered. P Arthur will get this group going. Comment made to try to stay away from in-between services as this cuts out Education and Music participants. This group could also discuss more ways to communicate with the congregation.

## **REPORTS**

See attached. Discussion – Property Committee report has a lot of things on their "to-do" list. Do we have a timeline for these projects?

**Closed (Executive) Session** – Meeting moved into closed session.

Motion made to extend the meeting 15 minutes PC/DM – discussion – none. Motion carried.

Motion made to extend the meeting 10 minutes DS/BH – discussion – none. Motion carried.

**Motion** made to adjourn the meeting - DS/MN -Discussion – none. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Executive Council Meeting:** Monday 3/14/2022 @ 5:30pm

**Council Meeting:** Monday 3/21/22 @ 5:30p

**Assignments:**

**Mar Devotions:** Jennifer

**Mar Collections:** 8am Audrey  
10am Jennifer