

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
August 11, 2015 5:30 pm

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

Call to order: Keith called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Keith led devotions.

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

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

Pastor's Comments

Chair Comments

Presentation and Discussion

Ed Strand presented the July financial report and the budget adjustments that will need to be made due to the cancellation of the contract with Augustana.

- 1) July financial report
 - a. The income year-to-date is -\$6,535.10. The losses are due almost entirely to the decrease in income from tithes and offerings. Expenses are actually down 5% YTD.
 - b. Due to this net loss, and the fact that August has historically been the worst month, the possibility of using undesignated memorials to replenish the general fund was discussed.
 - i. **A motion was made by David with a 2nd by Laura to authorize the use of undesignated memorials to replenish the general fund for unforeseen expenses. All approved, motion carried.**
- 2) Augustana contract cancellation
 - a. The contract with Augustana brings in \$26,500/year of income to Bethlehem.
 - b. After reviewing the differences in salaries, and the fact that Pastor Jake will assume the Sunday School Superintendent duties, it is estimated that an annual budget shortfall for these items will be -\$4,972.52.
 - c. A budget shortfall of -\$1,465.43 (on top of the current ytd loss of \$6,535.10) is projected for the period of July – December 2015.

Bus Repairs and options

- 1) The bus a/c is not working, the door is not closing properly and the steps need to be reinforced. In its current condition, the bus would not pass an inspection.
 - a. The bus is a 2005 or 2006 and has 115,000 miles on it.
 - b. There will be maintenance and upkeep over the coming years, but with the cost of a new van, it was felt that it is best to repair the current one.
 - c. The feels that undesignated memorials should be used to cover the cost of the above repairs (approximately \$1,350).
 - i. **A motion was made by Judy with a 2nd by Marc to authorize the Management of Property committee to use undesignated memorials to repair the door, reinforce the steps and fix the air conditioning on the bus. All approved, motion carried.**

Report from Property and Management – Glen Noyes

1. An updated list of bids for building repairs was provided.
2. It was noted that the steeple needs to be repaired due to a lightning strike. The insurance company has been notified and will be investigating.
3. An update on the current projects being completed includes the following and will be completed by Bradco Restoration:
 - a. Main steeple masonry (\$13,950). A portion may be covered by insurance
 - b. Small steeple masonry (\$7,400)
 - c. Recaulking of windows and doors (\$4,465)
 - d. Tuckpointing on the east side (\$935)
 - e. **A motion was made by David with a 2nd by Laura to approve the contract with Bradco Restoration and authorize the Property and Management committee to use money from the building fund to cover the above costs. All approved, motion carried.**
4. After discussion of the above, the council and Glen discussed, again, the other pressing maintenance issues of the church, including the stained glass windows, furnace and boiler issues, tuck pointing, and brick work.
 - a. Water is infiltrating the walls through the frames of the stained-glass windows. The plexiglass covering the windows has hazed. Replacement of the wood frames with metal frames, and the plexiglass with double pane windows was \$183,190 in 2012. An updated bid will be acquired and presented at next month's meeting.
 - b. The furnace and boiler system for the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and Sunday School addition have been modified several times and remain inefficient. Replacement cost is \$89,241.
 - c. The council has decided it is time to move on these issues. Pastor Jake will contact Mission Investment Fund (an ELCA credit union) for information on how to proceed, loan information, etc...
 - d. Updates from Pastor Jake and Glen will be presented at the September meeting.

5. Presentation from Brad Russell
 - a. Brad is part of a support group called “Recovering in Christ” and would like to use a room at the church 1 night/week for this group to meet.
 - i. The group follows a 12 step program that believes Jesus Christ is a part of a person’s recovery.
 - ii. Brad will work with the office regarding scheduling and security issues (making sure all attendees are out before locking up).
 - iii. **A motion was made by Jeanne with a 2nd by Laura to allow this group to use space at the church for their weekly meetings for 1 year. All approved, motion carried.**

Action Requests from Committees

New Business

Old Business

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

Announcements

1. Next meeting is on September 8 at 5:30 at the church.

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