

BETHLEHEM CHURCH COUNCIL

October 11, 2016 5:30pm

Members: Judy Bradow, Jeanne Schetnan, Marc Sikkink, Laura Skogen, Kim Langbehn, Val Johnson, Tom Rasmusson, David Nyklemoe, Keith Olson, Stephanie Gerhardson,

Not Present: Sally Nelson, Donavan Rasmusson, Darcy Koeckertiz, Glen Noyes, Brad Russell

Call to order: Marc

Devotions: Pastor Tom opened with devotions from Acts Chapter 15 followed by prayer.

Open Forum: A member of the congregation attended the open forum time to express their concern about the Pray-Ground and food and beverage in the sanctuary. They were thanked by the Church Council for bringing their concerns forward, and talking with the church council.

After council discussion a motion was made by David Nyklemoe and seconded by Judy Bradow that the council refer the requests/concerns to the Discipleship Committee and Pastors. Their recommendations are to be brought back to the council in a timely manner.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Keith Olson and seconded by Kim Langbehn to approve the secretary's report after a minor correction.

Treasurer's Report: Offerings are up. We have paid \$27,000 to benevolence so far this year compared to \$16,000 at this time last year. Considering we started with \$4,000 less this year and without the income from Augustana Church in Elizabeth we are doing fairly well despite a minus \$33,113.23 balance.

Action Item : A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Keith to hold our benevolence payment, disbursement of Thrivent Choice Dollars, and any other non-essential payment/disbursements at this time due to low cash flow and re-evaluate next month. Motion carried.

Items for Business:

- A. **Action Item:** A motion was made by Keith Olson seconded by Kim Langbehn to continue with the current staff health care benefits plan, Gold+, for 2017. Motion Carried.
- B. **Action Item:** A motion was made by Keith Olson and seconded by Laura Skogen to not accept Laura Pearson's resignation as Sunday School Music Director but to grant a leave of absence, leaving the position open until the end of the program year. Motion carried. We thank her and we wish Laura her and family well during this difficult time of her father's illness.
- C. **Action Item:** Brad Skogen updated the council on the Call Committee process. Two candidates will be interviewed. A third candidate expressing interest in the position has since accepted a call to another congregation. A motion was made by David Nycklemoe seconded by Keith Olson that when Bethlehem calls the Associate Pastor we issue a "co-terminus call" which means if at any time the Senior Pastor should resign, the Associate Pastor must submit their letter of resignation within 12 months of the Senior Pastor's resignation. Motion carried.

- D. Marc Sikkink will be at the church when the first phase of the stained glass window project begins. This first phase is scheduled for completion prior to Christmas, the second phase will start in the Spring of 2017.
- E. The AV equipment will be installed in "My Place" and "The Sanctuary" this week and ready for services this Sunday.
- F. Beyond the Building Commitment Sunday, October 16th plans are in place as reported by Ketih Olson. Pastor Jon Olson will be our guest preacher. A Celebration brunch will be served at 9:30am. Stewardship/Consecration Sunday is November 13th.
- G. Current donation and expenditure policies were distributed to council members for our files. A motion was made by Tom Rasmusson and seconded by Judy Bradow to have bills relating to the Beyond The Building Campaign reviewed and approved by the finance committee prior to paying. Motion carried. The council will look at the over all process next month.

Announcements:

Hour of Worship Pipe Organ Tour here Friday, Oct. 21 at 7:00pm

No Sunday school October 23rd as it is MEA weekend.

Confirmation worship service is Sunday, October 30th at 10:15.

All Saints Day is November 6th as well as Breakfast at Bethlehem.

Next Council meeting is Tuesday, November 8th at 5:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Schetnan, Vice President for Sally Nelson, Secretary