

**Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
May 22, 2024**

**Present:** Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson, Karen Stout.

**Guests:** Paul and Carol Stoelting

President Jane Nelson opened the meeting with prayer at 11:45 AM.

**Report of the Exploratory Committee**

Paul Stoelting summarized the extensive report made by the Exploratory Committee (EC), with questions and discussion following. It was recommended by the EC to only consider an attached expansion to the current building, in which the current vestry would be taken down. Next steps in the process were determined to have a concept plan drawn up in order to be able to get information from a builder-advisor regarding general cost/time estimate, exterior dimensions on property, etc. A summary will be made for the congregation in order to bring the matter forth for a vote at the next Annual Meeting.

**Secretary Report**

Patty reported on advertising: new ads were drawn up, as well as new enlarged color ads for the opening and closing weeks. Patty obtained stickers for bell ringers. She circulated sign ups for welcome treats for the pastors. Coffee and cupcakes will be provided after the opening service by Patty, Jane and Barb. Patty will be using a new app (Mail Shot) for the weekly letters and letters to groups.

Jane moved to accept the Council Meeting Minutes dated October 17, 2023; Ron seconded and the motion passed.

**Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Ron Fischer presented the financials as of December 31, 2023 with Bethany's total current assets in checking, savings, money market and CD of \$193,160.10. The Endowment Fund has \$838,585.67. Bethany received \$80,286 in offering and \$500,100 toward the Endowment Fund. Our total income was \$640,902. Total expenses were \$63,699. Patty moved to accept the Treasurer Report, Barb seconded. Motion passed.

**Property Report**

Randy Nelson presented a report.

1. The exterior of the parsonage still needs to be painted as the painter was not able to complete this last fall.
2. The pump for the dishwasher will be put in next week.
3. Discussion included repairing and establishing the parsonage porch to its original.
4. The walkway to the vestry is in need of repair.
5. The power at the church was upgraded to 200 amp service last week.
6. The windows and sashes at the church are in need of repair.
7. Window shades are in bad shape after the winter with signs of mold/mildew. Randy is going to take 3 shades to Milwaukee for cleaning and then will put them up, and take the other 3 shades for cleaning after the first 3 are back so that we will not be completely without shades during this process.
8. BLC is in need of a maintenance person who can be on call.

**Old Business**

**Headstone Cleaning**

Jane will lead and ask for volunteers to help with this task on June 20. Each volunteer will need to bring distilled water (1-3 gallons) for this job.

#### **Cemetery on website**

Jane is making a Cemetery Fact Sheet to put on the onBLC website.

#### **All Church Potluck/Friday Night Welcome to Pastor**

“Friday Fellowship” will start on June 28, at Patty’s house, from 4:00 to 6:00, with people being asked to bring a beverage to share/an appetizer. Other dates will be July 26 and August 30.

Jane offered to host the August 30 Friday Fellowship.

#### **New Business**

##### **Vacant Council Positions**

There are 2 council positions to be filled for the next year + 2 months.

##### **Church Service Online**

Ryan Sherman is working with Jane to get BLC services online converted from Livestream to YouTube by our first service, May 26th.

##### **Pastor Clare's offer**

The offer from Pastor Clare of a book discussion or a grief discussion was determined to not meet BLC’s needs at this time; we thank her for the offer. The council felt a Bible study for 1 - 2 hours would be of more interest to the congregation.

##### **Discussion of communion wafer discussion**

The current gluten free option seems to be working.

##### **Changes to the Constitution**

Discussed sections of our Constitution which differ from the EHF legal document, and will bring 2 of these items to the Annual Meeting to be voted on.

##### **Discussion of 2nd Sue Christensen gift**

Patty learned from discussions with Dick Christensen that Sue and Dick would like the money of Sue’s second gift (\$1,000,000) to go to the church and the parsonage, and money should be separated from the Heritage Endowment Fund. Dick would like input from the Council, and more discussions are needed; Ron should be part of those future discussions.

##### **Date of Next Meeting**

Sunday, June 30 after church will be the next council meeting.

##### **Date of Annual Meeting**

Sunday, July 14, 2024

##### **Adjournment**

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer, and adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Stout, council secretary