

# BLC Council Meeting Minutes

Barneveld Lutheran Church

December 18, 2022

BLC Council met on Sunday, December 18, 2022, in Fellowship Hall at Barneveld Lutheran Church.

Council Members present: Dave Baumgarten, Ronda Bowe, Michelle Ihm, Melissa Lease, Megan Mieden, Otis Nelson, and Shelly Sandry.

Council Members absent: None.

Other attendees present: Pastor Rhia Strohm and Jo Ellen Uptegraw.

1. The meeting was called to order by Lease at 10:20 am.
2. A motion was made by Sandry/Baumgarten to approve the Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2022. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Action of Items

- a. Ministry Team Liaisons Reports/Updates

Reports/updates were sent via email. Additions to emailed reports/updates include:

- i. Health Team Update

1. Blood pressure checks will take place every other month in 2023.

A motion was made by Mieden/Baumgarten to approve the Ministry Team Liaisons Reports/Updates. Motion carried.

4. Financial Update

The month of November was the first time in 2022 that BLC has had a positive net income. We have seen income of >\$1,000 from Giving Tuesday and Tithe.ly.

There may be an issue with one-time payments through Tithe.ly that is causing a delay in BLC receiving the funds; someone will be looking into this to see if there is a setting that is causing this delay.

Passing the Plate has been helping. It's not a lot, but it is amounting to around \$50 each week.

Nelson approached Uptegraw about the finances of the church because he was concerned about how the church can keep paying the bills when we are "x" amount of

money in the negative each month. Uptegraw indicated BLC carries a balance of about \$60k that we have been pulling from each month that allows bills to be paid. Some of the funds are assigned to other uses, so they aren't used for general operating expenses, but the funds are all in the same account. The church has "reserve" funds that can be pulled from, if needed, but it is preferred not to utilize these funds.

What do we spend every month on different bills? The Profit & Loss sheet details this each month.

What is considered an ordinary expense that can be paid without Council approval? Some stuff never changes; every month it is always the same. But then there are other expenses that vary from month-to-month. In February 2022 a motion was made that expenses up to \$500 could be made without Council approval.

#### 5. Offering Process and Procedures

Baumgarten gave information out to Council on a new procedure.

Procedure will be updated accordingly.

Information regarding Noah's Ark collection should be added.

#### 6. Facility Use Agreement Update

Bowe attempted to contact three (3) area churches, but found most did not answer their phones. Below is a recap of the responses:

- Emanuel – no response
- Grace Lutheran – no response
- ELCA – they don't ask for any amount; donations are appreciated

There will be more to come on this.

#### 7. Snow Plow Insurance

Ihm emailed a question to inquire about whether the snow plow company has insurance.

Nelson spoke with Randy Schmid. He has to have liability insurance on his equipment in order to even get the equipment here. Otis will get copy of insurance for the church to have on file.

#### 8. Annual Meeting – Dates/Reports/Process

The Annual Meeting is set for one month from now; reports have had to be submitted for the annual meeting packet. Pastor Rhia will ask Marcia to work with Lois on getting this procedure figured out. Team reports will be due. If possible, reports should include a picture from each team's "work".

Lease to inform Lois to add this to the webpage.

9. Pastoral Contract Renewal

There is no contract for Pastor Rhia because she has a “call”, which is different than.

It was also brought up that a cost-of-living adjustment should be considered every year (not just for the pastor, but other positions, too). An email conversation will be started by Lease and see if we want to meet in person regarding this.

Any pay adjustments for a called pastor would need to get submitted through Portico because it impacts other pieces of the compensation.

10. Other Business

Membership Changes – This should be added to the agenda every month for review and approval.

Baptisms:

- Evelyn Mary Bergman baptized on 12/4/2022 (daughter of Mark and Claire)

A motion was made by Mieden/Sandry to approve the membership changes. Motion carried.

Nelson mentioned the water fountain in the hallway needs to be addressed. BLC should consider replacing or updating this.

11. A motion was made by Bowe/Sandry to adjourn at 11:35 am. Motion carried.