

# Burlington Lutheran Council Meeting

*Being God's Love in Our Communities*



All are welcome in this church community. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, sexual orientation, doubts or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandment to love God and love neighbor.

**Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

## 2023 Council

- President: Rochelle Hill
- Treasurer: Millie Fosberg

- Vice President:
- Secretary: Janice Burwash

At-Large Members:

- Jeremy Dierst (1 yr remaining)
  - Nancy Hill Hoffman (2 yr remaining)
  - David Svaren (2 yr remaining)
  - Pastor: Charis Weathers
  - in attendance
- OPEN** (fill remaining 2-yr term)
- Eva Yeoman (1 to 3-yr term)
  - John White (Fill remaining 1-yr term)

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CALL TO ORDER (quorum 6 members) President Rochelle called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

OPENING PRAYER Pastor Charis led the council in opening prayer.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL It was MSC (moved, seconded, carried) to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2023 meeting as presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT There will be a discussion later in the meeting on possible developments in church security. The church opened for one day earlier in the month as a warm weather shelter, but there were no guests. The most recent sessions of Church 2.0 (art emphasis) and the Simple Dinners + World Religion classes have been well received and well attended. Eight BLC members attended the Synod Gathering at Salem on May 13. Pentecost will be a multi-language celebration followed by multi-cultural potluck. There will be two opportunities for BLC members to connect with the community in June: Berry Dairy Days in Burlington and Mount Vernon Pride.

TREASURER'S REPORT Millie shared the April 2023 financial report. Offering in April was only \$922 below budget projection. Year-to-date offering is \$1,848 behind budget. Expenses are running below budget as well. But there will be an increase in electricity and natural gas costs. Millie will look back and see if there is a corresponding increase in use. We received another one-time lump sum offering that will be divided and noted as monthly income. It was MSC (moved, seconded, and carried) to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

#### OLD BUSINESS/ONGOING TEAM REPORTS

1. DESIGNATION OF \$5,000 GIFT FROM SHEPHARD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN IN CONCRETE We have received input from a member of the congregation on options for the \$1,000 tithe we intend to give to community projects. One suggestion was giving towards "small appliance packages" for Martha's Place—the new low income/homeless housing complex in Mount Vernon. The cost of three of these appliance packages would be about \$500 and this would be a donation to Catholic Community Services. MSC that we make a \$500 donation to Catholic Community Services to purchase three appliance packages for Martha's Place. It was decided that we will hold the remaining \$500 to see if another community need is brought to our attention. We will continue the discussion at a later meeting on the best use for the remaining \$4,000. This also generated a discussion about letting members of the congregation know that they can bring ideas for community support projects to the council. John also reminded the council that we had previously talked about having several council members available during coffee hours for questions and discussion.
2. TECH TASK FORCE John talked to Brad about this, no new information to report.
3. CLEANING UP THE BLC MEMBER ROLLS Janice and Charis met to work on this and the next step will be for Janice to get together with Jacob to update the Servant Keeper information and then reprint the list to check for accuracy.
4. SELLING T-SHIRTS THROUGH PRINTFUL No report.
5. PASTOR CHARIS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK John reported that the original vision for the survey they created was to use it to get feedback from the entire congregation. There was conversation about whether this needs to be shared with the entire congregation, or possibly just a smaller representative sampling of members. Another option would be to let the congregation know that the personnel committee is conducting a performance review for Pastor Charis and ask anyone who has input to contact a member of the personnel committee. John and Millie will create a document that has topics for short responses. The congregation will also be aware that their responses cannot be anonymous, to allow dialog where there are issues or suggested areas for improvement. The personnel committee (Charis, Rochelle, and Jeremy) will meet with John and Millie to determine the next steps.
6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Rochelle noted that the personnel committee needs to get together with Kathleen Hasselblad to move forward with this. With the goal of creating an updated personal handbook.
7. BLC COUNCIL MANUAL Jeremy and Janice have not met but they do have a copy of a document that was handed out at a previous meeting that gives guidelines for church councils. They will work on using this information to create a BLC Council Manual .

8. BLC GROUPS Janice will be sharing the current draft of this document with members of the BLC Women for their input
9. VISIONING PROCESS John will continue to work on this, changing the focus from a congregational meeting to a Google Document open for congregational input.
10. STEWARDSHIP REPORT Millie will write a quarterly financial report to be included with a Stewardship wrap-up and sent out to members with their quarterly giving statement.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. VACANT COUNCIL POSITIONS (VICE-PRESIDENT AND AT-LARGE MEMBER) John has agreed to step into the vacant Vice-President position. Linda Rudy and Mary Nolte have expressed an interest in filling one of the vacant at-large positions. It was noted that as Linda is a paid employee there would be a conflict of interest with her serving on the council. It was MSC to approve Mary to fill the open 2-year position.
2. SECURITY CAMERAS We received two quotes for security cameras: one wired and one Wi-Fi. The quote for wired cameras was \$12,000. A Wi-Fi camera system would cost less than that. Rochelle talked about questions we need to ask ourselves in terms of what we hope to accomplish with the installation of security cameras. It was felt there was a need for cameras inside the buildings to track possible intruders while the building is occupied, as well as people attempting to enter or vandalize the building when it is unoccupied. It was suggested that we continue to look into the Wi-Fi option and possibly prioritize the locations, then starting with installation in the top priority locations. Charis shared that she has submitted a grant application to Homeland Security that if received would cover some or all the cost of these security upgrades.
3. GRACE GRANT REQUEST Charis shared that she is also applying for a Grace Grant that would cover the cost of building updates related to our continued connection with the Upper Skagit Tribe and Tribal Elders. It was MSC to approve and support this grant application.
4. JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR BIRD FEEDERS AND BIRD SEED Rochelle received a letter from Josephine Caring Community sharing a need for bird seed to fill feeders that hang outside some of the residents windows. It was suggested that we continue to include this request in the weekly news and allow BLC members to contribute personally to this need.
5. MEDIA COVERAGE FOR CHARIS' WEDDING Charis wondered about asking the local paper to highlight her marriage to Deborah, with an article published after the reception. Another suggested option would be an article to highlight BLC's support for the LGTB+ community in general. The consensus seemed to be in support of an article, with the wedding as a "hook" and then further information on BLC's mission in the community.
6. JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH There are multiple options for BLC members to be involved with. It was decided that we will participate in the Mount Vernon Pride event on June 24. Millie will take over organizing BLC's participation in Berry Dairy Days on Saturday, June 17.

7. VBS AT SALEM LUTHERAN There will be a multi-church VBS at Salem Lutheran Church July 31 – August 3 from 5:30-8:00pm. We will get more info and put out the word to see if members of the congregation with children would be interested in participating or helping.
8. LIGHT REPLACEMENT IN SUNDAY SCHOOL WING David has been replacing light fixtures in the education building. He asked for permission to replace the twelve remaining lights at a cost of \$480. It was MSC to approve the cost of replacing the remaining lights.
9. REVISIT DONATION FROM REICHERT FAMILY FOR SCHOLARSHIP Millie spoke to the Reichert family and let them know we felt their guidelines for the proposed scholarship were too limiting. Their family representative said they could remove the stipulations that the applicants be studying either music or medicine. It was MSC to accept the donation with this change. It was also noted that the scholarships would be open to *all* BLC students. The funds will cover five \$1,000 scholarships, and students will be considered using the same parameters as the current Knutzen scholarship.

CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT Charis led the group in closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Annual Meeting: September 24, 2023

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Congregational Council Secretary,

Janice Burwash