

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.

Friday, April 21, 2023

2023 Council

President: Rochelle Hill
 Treasurer: Millie Fosberg

Vice President: Brad Dana
 Secretary: Janice Burwash

At-Large Members:

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

Pastor: Charis Weathers

in attendance

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

Rochelle shared the news that Brad Dana needs to step back and has resigned his position as vice-president of the council; Rochelle asked for prayers for Brad and his family as they go through this time.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT Millie reminded the council that some expense line items seem to be trending high, but in many cases that is because expenses have been divided into twelve equal payments but in reality, many expenses are one annual payment—for example our license for worship music. For the month of April offerings are trending up. Also, John White created a comparison of giving in 2022 and 2023 showing that for the first quarter of 2023 giving is up. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

OPENING PRAYER Charis arrived at 6:19pm and led the group in prayer.

PASTOR'S REPORT Highlights from the Pastor's report: Holy Week and Easter services were all great! There were 11 new members who joined BLC during the Vigil Service and 13 people attended the recent newcomer's lunch. Charis will try the Lenten neighborhood meal idea again during Advent. There is a new session of church 2.0 starting up, and there will be a series of Thursday evening meals and teaching on world religions. Pastor shared two upcoming times when she will be away for multiple days for church-related learning experiences. Pentecost will be tri-lingual (English, Spanish, and Lushootseed). Pastor asked the council for permission to spend the week following Memorial Day working remotely from Portland; the council gave their approval.

GUEST(S) No guests

OLD BUSINESS

1. UPDATE ON EXPTEME WEATHER SHELTER David has recommended that we approve the most recent update of the MOU (memorandum of understanding) with Skagit County and that we authorize Rochelle to sign the agreement. It was MSC (moved, seconded, and carried) to accept the MOU and authorize Rochelle to sign the document as representative of the council.
2. UPDATE ON SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS \$5,000 DONATION Eva gave a report on the options for updating our sanctuary AV equipment. The recommendation is not to purchase a TV, but rather to purchase a new projector and work to eliminate the issues with the current screen. There was a discussion about the best way to finance this project and other similar improvement projects—and ongoing maintenance needs. Janice suggested that the council consider tithing \$1,000 of this gift as previously recommended but holding the remaining \$4,000 to cover any possible year-end income shortfall. This would involve finding other funding to cover the cost of the AV update and possible digital file storage project. We will continue to investigate this AV update project and get an idea of the costs and work involved. Pastor Charis asked the council to consider adding security cameras to the church (exterior and interior) as another future project.
3. UPDATE FROM TECH TASK FORCE As this was something that Brad was working on, the other members of the task force will need to get up to speed on the work he had already done. John will speak to Brad and bring a report to the May meeting.
4. UPDATE ON CLEANING UP BLC MEMBERSHIP ROLLS Janice and Charis shared language from the BLC constitution as to what constitutes an active, voting member. They will begin work on updating the church rolls using these guidelines.
5. UPDATE ON SELLING T-SHIRTS THROUGH PRINTFUL This project is still a work-in-progress. Charis will report as there are updates.

ONGOING TEAM REPORTS

1. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Charis, Rochelle, and Jeremy will continue with creating an Employee Handbook—now that Brad will no longer be involved in the process. They will report as they make progress.
2. BLC COUNCIL MANUAL Nothing to report currently; Janice offered to help Jeremy with this project.

3. BLC GROUPS AND PROJECTS Janice reported that the list has been updated with the information she received last month. She will continue to add information to this document (including lead member contact information and meeting times).
4. VISIONING PROCESS John shared an update and Charis suggested that the next step in the process could be asking for BLC members to offer input through a survey or something similar.
5. STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS REPORT Millie will be creating a quarterly financial statement to share with the congregation that also includes an update on the Fall Stewardship drive.

NEW BUSINESS

1. TABLE AT SVC SOUTH ASIAN STUDENT CLUB EVENT IN FERNDALE
<https://sites.google.com/view/svc-south-asian-club/home> The council approved promoting this event to the congregation and asking for financial support to cover the \$650 cost of sponsoring a table.
2. JOINT VBS WITH SKAGIT CLUSTER Charis let the council know that there is a discussion among the Skagit Cluster churches to combine forces to offer Vacation Bible School. She will report back to the council as the conversation continues and plans are made.
3. PASTOR CHARIS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW John raised the question of conducting annual performance reviews for paid BLC staff (Charis, Sean, Jacob). John and Millie will work on creating a performance feedback process for Charis and share their progress with at the next meeting.

Rochelle reported that the first meeting of Pacific Northwest Washington Gender Alliance (PNWWGA) at BLC went well and that the group appreciated being able to use the space. Several attendees also expressed surprise at the LGBTQIA+ support and ally information that BLC has available on display.

Millie announced there will be a Snohomish County Pride event on Saturday, June 3.

CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT 7:47pm

Congregational Council Secretary,
Janice Burwash

REMINDERS

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 23

NEXT VISION SESSION: AFTER WORSHIP SUNDAY, JUNE 4

ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24