

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.

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

**2024 Council**

President: John White  
 Treasurer: Millie Fosberg

Vice President: Janice Burwash  
Secretary: Pam Dix

At-Large Members:

David Svaren (1 yr remaining)       Mary Nolte (1 yr remaining)  
 Nancy Hill Hoffman (2 yr remaining)      Eva Yeoman (2 yr remaining)  
 Kathleen Hasselblad (3 yr remaining)       Erin Rozema (3 yr remaining)

Pastor: Charis Weathers

in attendance

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**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS** (quorum 6 members) The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President John White, who declared a quorum of members present.

**OPENING PRAYER** Pastor Charis began the meeting with prayer.

**LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2024 MEETING.** It was MSC (moved, seconded, carried) to approve the minutes of the January meeting as presented.
  
2. **PASTOR'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**
  - a. February 1<sup>st</sup> marked two years that Charis has been at BLC.
  - b. RIC Sunday on January 28 was a great success. One person said the service had just the right blend of celebration and gravitas.
  - c. There have been two worship planning sessions, making plans for the seasons of Lent and Easter.
  - d. BLC offered two Ash Wednesday services—at 2pm and 7pm.
  - e. Charis is working with Millie and Janice on a LOI (letter of interest) for the National Fund for Sacred Spaces.
  - f. Charis would like to begin a discussion on a more systematic approach for pastoral care, with the option of including lay members in the visitation process.
  - g. Two new members joined BLC, there is a baptism scheduled for the Easter Vigil, and there have been two deaths of BLC members—Avis Robinson and Bob Olsen.

- h. Charis is interested in seeking a permit for BLC to be a DFDO (Donated Food Distribution Organization). If we applied for a permit, we would receive a no-fee inspection of the basement kitchen. Erin offered to work on this permit process, beginning later this spring.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024** There were no unusual expenditures, and both income and expenses were under budgeted amounts in January. It was MSC to accept Treasurer's report as presented.

#### REGULAR ACTION ITEMS

1. **LUTHERAN COUNSELING NETWORK UPDATE** This is on hold while we are finalizing a Building Use Agreement with Traci Drake. She had some concerns about the draft that she received, and the Executive Committee is hoping to work with her to finalize an agreement.
2. **SPACE REQUEST BY KARLA SMART/SKAGIT MUSIC** There was discussion about the impact this would have on our use of the building. David also shared information regarding tax implications, considering both the amount of rent that could be charged and whether Karla is actually under the umbrella of a non-profit organization. John will speak to Karla to get answers to our questions about the non-profit status. There is also concern regarding the impact the Tuesday music lessons in the Godly Play classroom would have on counseling happening in a room at the end of that same hall. This discussion will continue at the next council meeting when we have additional information.
3. **PLAN TO RETURN FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING TO BLC** The BLC Family Promise team presented a plan to resume hosting Family Promise quarterly, dependent of the installation of approximately 45 wirelessly interlinked smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensors—installed throughout the sanctuary building and the education building. MSC to resume hosting Family Promise once smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensors are installed. John and David will order one set and install them to make sure they are suitable for our needs. It was MSC to purchase additional sets once the test set has proven adequate.
4. **DE-ESCALATION TRAINING** John and Charis met with Ty Shroyer concerning de-escalation training. He is developing a program he calls Non-Violent Crisis Intervention. Ty will develop a PowerPoint online and if this program is approved will teach this program for BLC, primarily for council members and ushers. He will also develop a short 10- to 30-minute overview of the same information that could be shared with the entire congregation. The council approved going ahead with this plan for de-escalation training.
5. **JOINING NORTH SOUND ACH** North Sound ACH (Accountable Community of Health) was founded in 2015 to create an inclusive culture in our region by advancing equity, well-being, and a sense of belonging among the diverse residents of Island, San Juan, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties—including the members of eight Tribal Nations. It was MSC for BLC to take the steps necessary to join ACH.
6. **EDUCATION WING AND SANCTUARY BUILDING TEMPERATURE SETTINGS** As a cost saving measure the unoccupied temperature setting of both church buildings have been lowered for several years. It has been brought to the council's attention that a temperature lower than 58 degrees in the sanctuary could be potentially harmful to both the organ and the piano. It was

decided that the unoccupied temperature in the sanctuary will be reset to never fall below 60 degrees.

7. **AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE/SOCIAL TIME MEETING WITH COUNCIL MEMBER(S)** John will set a date in March for an after-worship conversation with council members. Once a date is determined council members will let John know if they are available.
8. **LIVE (Living into Vocational Engagement) PROJECT** For a fee of \$500 we could purchase a bundle that would give all BLC members access to the education opportunities available through the LIVE Project. This will be advertised in the weekly eNews and Millie will give a short temple talk about this opportunity and ask people to contact the church if they would be interested. We will make a decision about purchasing the LIVE Project bundle once we see if there is enough interest.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **CHURCH FINANCES 101** Millie gave an overview of the latest monthly YTD financial report to help the council members understand what to look for when they review the monthly financial reports.
2. **PASTORAL CARE** Charis is hoping to create a system that supports her time spent offering pastoral care to BLC members. One part of this could be members going with Charis on visitation calls. The other need is for an organized team of members who are trained to visit members in need on a regular basis. In the past Josephine Caring Community offered Care Team training but that may no longer be an option. Kathleen, assisted by Erin, Nancy, and Mary will come up with a plan to start a Lay Care Team ministry at BLC.
3. **LETTER OF INTEREST FOR SACRED SPACES FUNDS** Charis, Millie, and Janice are working on a Letter of Interest for Sacred Spaces Funds that could potentially be used to repair water damage from a roof leak around the steeple, install reporting fire alarms, and possibly an elevator. The first step in the process would be a Building Needs Assessment.
4. **SOLAR PANEL GRANT** In her Pastor's Report Charis included a link to information about a PSE (Puget Sound Energy) Solar Panel grant opportunity and shared that she has recruited someone who would be willing to complete the grant paperwork for us. The council members were asked to use the link in the Pastor's Report to find out more about the grant program, prior to a discussion on the topic at the March meeting.
5. **SYNOD ASSEMBLY MAY 18** John and Eva will be delegates from BLC. We could have one more adult woman, and a youth delegate under 18 years.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **EMERGENCY SHELTER STATUS** Washington Alarm is developing an estimate for the installation of a reporting fire alarm system.
2. **SECURITY CAMERAS** David noted that several cameras have been stolen, and he will be working with Arlo to get all remaining up and running.

3. **TECH TASK FORCE** David has gotten the information that Brad Dana had compiled on the best options for getting our records backed up in the cloud. He reported that Brad also gave him a server that can be used for this project. Another aspect of this project is to determine which records need to be retained. David will continue to report on progress with this project.
4. **BUILDING AND GROUNDS** David and Jeremy Dierst took out the trees next to the building on the north side of the education wing. There is some water damage that needs to be remediated in the kitchen. There are also several exterior lights that are being replaced.
5. **BUILDING SECURITY** Charis shared an incident with someone getting into the building due to el Camino not locking the building up when they left. This has been a reoccurring issue and may need to be addressed with someone from el Camino.

#### UPCOMING ITEMS

1. **PERSONNEL POLICY** There will be a final draft of a Personnel Policy for the March meeting.
2. **FOR DISCUSSION AT AN UPCOMING MEETING**
  - a. Decision Circle
  - b. Council membership extensions in 2025
  - c. Revision to BLC constitution to adjust VP position to 3-year commitment
  - d. Animals in Church Policy Janice and John will work on a draft policy to bring to the March meeting.
  - e. Follow up to January council retreat

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Millie noted that 2024 is the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sanctuary building.

**NEXT MEETING** – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 AT 6:30 PM

**CLOSING PRAYER /ADJOURNMENT** Janice shared a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Janice Burwash  
(Filling in for absent secretary, Pam Dix)