

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, June 27, 2023

2023 Council

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President: Rochelle Hill | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice President: John White |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer: Millie Fosberg | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary: Janice Burwash |

At-Large Members:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Dierst (1 yr remaining) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Nolte (2-yr remaining) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy Hill Hoffman (2 yr remaining) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eva Yeoman (1 to 3-yr term) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Svaren (2 yr remaining) | Open (1-yr term) |

Pastor: Charis Weathers

- in attendance

6:00 pm CALL TO ORDER – (quorum: 6 members) The meeting was called to order by President Rochelle at 6:03pm.

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Charis opened the meeting with prayer.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: It was MSC (moved, seconded, and carried) to approve the May minutes as amended, with an edit to the paragraph related to the treasurer's report.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Charis shared some highlights from this past month, including:

- Receipt of \$7,500 Grace Grant from the NWWA Synod that will be used to strengthen our connection with the Upper Skagit Tribe, especially the tribal elders.
- The local fire marshal may require that we install a "commercial" fire alarm system in order to operate as an Emergency Severe Weather Shelter. Madeleine from Skagit County is helping us navigate this request.
- The multi-cultural Pentecost service was a success and we will definitely continue offering these types of services.
- Wallito was baptized on June 25!

- June was busy with PRIDE and Berry Dairy Days events, sometimes occurring on the same day. Millie offered to lead a Community Engagement team to help coordinate and prioritize these events next year.
- BLC families and Pastor Charis will be participating in the combined VBS happening at Salem Lutheran July 31- August 3.

TREASURER REPORT: Millie reported that the finances are looking good. There were two large checks received and expenses continue to be below budget. We have not yet dipped into the \$27,000 that we were planning to take from reserve funds. Millie also reported the history of the Puget Sound Energy bill and why that has increased, noting that our budget amount was based on months when we were not having worship in the building. The budget payment amount has been adjusted to a more realistic number. MSC to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. SECURITY CAMERAS: We have received a quote from Best Buy for security cameras: approx. \$2,700 for 8 cameras—Wi-Fi not hard-wired—including installation. It was suggested that we need to look at this project as one part of a bigger building safety project.
2. NWWA SYNOD GRACE GRANT: We have received a \$7,500 Grace Grant from the NWWA Synod. Pastor Charis reminded the council that the Grace Grant request was focused on building accessibility to make the space more welcoming for members of our community partner--the Upper Skagit Tribe. Pastor Charis and Kay Knott feel that building access should be a priority, which would mean a keyless entry system with a keypad and individual access codes. John will take the lead on researching possibilities for keyless entry with our existing glass doors. This is another piece of the building safety project.
3. JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY: Rochelle received a thank you letter from Josephine. They now have 550 pounds of bird seed and \$161 to buy more bird seed, this exceeded their expectations.
4. VBS AT SALEM LUTHERAN: Multi-congregation VBS is happening at Salem Lutheran July 31 through Thursday August 3; 5:30-8pm. There are a couple BLC families who are interested, and Pastor Charis will also be attending. Millie will coordinate BLC's involvement, including supplying one of the evening meals.
5. DISCUSSION OF PASTOR'S EVALUATION. The questions have been revised and the next step will be for the Personnel Committee to go over them and then bring them back to the council. There was a question about the appropriateness of going to the entire congregation with these questions. Millie is going to be added to the committee as an advisor and will look into synod resources and how other congregations handle staff performance reviews.

ONGOING TEAM REPORTS

1. TECH TASK FORCE: John has not yet had a chance to meet with Brad; he will work on setting this up.
2. CLEANING UP THE MEMBER ROLLS: Janice is working with Jacob to make sure that everyone in the BLC directory has the correct "status" (active member, in-active member, regular attender,

deceased, transferred.) It is taking time to catch all the updates that need to be made. This is still a work in progress but is progressing.

3. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Linda Rudy had been asked to look into this but she has not reported back. John will take over leading this project.
4. BLC COUNCIL MANUAL: Janice passed out draft copies of a BLC council manual that contains information from both the BLC congregational constitution and a handout from the synod on serving on a church council. Some duties are spelled out explicitly in the constitution. But with other duties, especially those that came from the handout, it needs to be determined if this is how things are assigned at BLC—or how we want duties to be assigned going forward. We will share this document in a format that council members can add comments to, and Janice will note those portions that are from our constitution and therefore need to be included as noted.
5. BLC GROUPS: Janice has received info from additional BLC members will send council members an updated copy that can be reviewed and edited.
6. VISIONING PROCESS: John and Charis are working on a survey that can be sent to the congregation for their input on projects that BLC could be involved in, based on our new vision and mission statements.
7. STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS REPORT: We need to create regular, simple financial reports and make them available to the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBER MARY NOLTE: Mary was out of town but joined the meeting via a phone call.
2. SUMMER COUNCIL MEETINGS: It was decided that there will be no council meeting in July, but we will meet again as usual in August.
3. CHARIS & DEBORA'S BLC WEDDING RECEPTION, JULY 9: Everything seems to be in place. The neighbors have been informed about the street closure and Fran Hansen is coordinating the refreshments and volunteers.
4. SKAGIT HERALD ARTICLE: Nancy contacted the Skagit Valley Herald and a reporter from the paper came out and spoke to both Nancy and Pastor Charis for an article that will be in the paper following the wedding reception. Pastor Charis noted that she made a point of making sure the reporter knew about the many ways that BLC is involved in and supports our community—beyond being a welcoming and affirming congregation.
5. 2024 BLC BUDGET: John explained the budget process from past years. The finance committee will be asked to prepare several 2024 budget options. These will be shared with the council prior to the August 22 meeting so there is ample time for questions before we need to approve a budget for presentation at the September 24 annual meeting.
6. BLC ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION: According to the BLC constitution the annual report needs to be completed and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. Pastor

Charis will work with Jacob on starting the process. Janice will get contact information to Jacob so that he can reach out to anyone who needs to write a short report for the annual report.

7. DEBRIEF FROM “MEET THE COUNCIL” AT JUNE 18 COFFEE HOUR: The council members who attended shared some of their takeaways.
 - We need to create a few hard copies of the weekly eNews, for people who don’t have or use email. (There were copies available the Sunday after the meeting.)
 - We need to create and share simple financial updates with the congregation.
 - There was a conversation about how often these coffee hour meetings with the congregation need to happen—monthly, quarterly, every other month. We will try every other month for now, hopefully with different council members each time. Rochelle felt that even if just a few people show up it’s worth making the effort.
 - We will work on making sure members of the congregation know who the council members are and that they are always accessible if they have questions or concerns.
 - Some members may feel that the council operates in secret, so the council discussed ways to make members aware of council decisions. Including: temple talks to share decisions and updates, including council meeting highlights in the eNews, and encouraging members to talk to Pastor Charis and council members when they have questions or concerns.
8. 2024 CONTINUING ED FOR CHARIS FOR LEADERSHIP SKAGIT: It was MSC carried to pay Charis’s tuition for Leadership Skagit when it comes due in August 2023 using 2024 continuing education funds.
9. BUILDING MAINTENANCE RELATED TO HVAC.: David reported that we have a bid for \$3,585.70 to resolve several problems with our HVAC system (replacing two blowers and one inducer motor). It was MSC to proceed with this project using funds from the Building Fund.
10. OUTDOOR LIFT MAINTENANCE: David shared that an inspector from the state had come to look at our outdoor lift. David asked for approval to arrange for someone to come and inspect and service the lift. It was MSC to authorize David to spend up to \$2,500 for elevator inspection and maintenance, using money from the Building Fund.
11. BUILDING SAFETY PROJECT: Circling back to the security camera project, it was MSC to proceed with this project—based on the quote from Best Buy—using money from the Building Fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Annual Meeting September 24, 2023

CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT Pastor Charis shared a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: August 22 at 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Burwash
Congregational Secretary