

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' commandments to love God and love neighbor.

August 21, 2024

2024 Council

President: John White (Y) Vice President: Janice Burwash (Y)
Treasurer: Millie Fosberg (Y) Secretary: Pam Dix (Y)

At-Large Members:

David Svaren (On Council through 2024) (Y) Nancy Hill Hoffman (On Council through 2024) (Y)
Mary Nolte (On Council through 2025) (Y) Heidi Yeoman (On Council through 2025) (Y)
Kathleen Hasselblad (On Council through 2026) (Y) Vacancy for Erin R. (Through 2026)

Pastor Charis Weathers (On-going member) (Y)
Present (Y) Absent (A)

John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a quorum present. He welcomed guests: Linda Rudy, Financial Administrator, & Lisa Svaren, Finance Committee member

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Charis.

Leadership Reports:

1. The July 2024, meeting minutes prepared by Pam Dix were approved with a MSV (move, second, vote) to accept them.
2. The **Pastor's report** given by Pastor Charis highlighted the upcoming **Welcome Back to Church Sunday** on September 8 with the both **Youth Group and Children's Church** starting up. Robert Hasselblad will be leading Cartooning the Gospel for the Children's message and during Godly Play. September 15 is God's work our Hands Sunday. September 22 is New Member Sunday (6 people joining so far!) as well as our Annual Congregational Meeting.

The **PSE Solar Grant** application was submitted on its due date, August 14! Charis spent many hours on this application. She's grateful especially to Carrie Sinclair for her volunteer work as the overseer for writing the grant and submission, as well as John and David for their time and energy working with the two installers who put in bids. Information about this grant will be added to the eNews so that the congregation can be praying for a positive outcome. Grants are awarded in November-December.

Our **Letter of Intent to the National Fund for Sacred Spaces** for their grant program (submitted February 29) was turned down. We did not receive a reason, but it

was probably due to not having solid financial numbers for the repairs we would like to do. Having a Building Conditions Assessment is something we should probably do in the future to have a better idea of the health of the building.

3. The **July Treasurer Report** prepared by Millie was approved by MSV, to accept the report. Millie mentioned that giving in July was behind but we are also behind on our spending for the year. We are approximately \$15,000 short of our 2024 budget.

Regular Action Items:

1. **2025 Budget Proposal:** Millie Fosberg and Linda Rudy led us through the Finance Committee Worksheets. After much discussion and clarification, it was agreed to base the 2025 budget on an increase of 5% of giving with MSV. It was also decided by MSV to increase payroll by 4% for staff with these actual details decided later.
2. **Recommend 2025 Council slate** – John went over the status of Council members as of tonight. An * means a vote by the Congregation is required.
President – Janice Burwash, Vice President – **TBD***, Treasurer – **TBD***, Secretary – Pam Dix*,
At Large – Mary Nolte, Heidi Yeoman*, & Kathleen Hasselblad. Openings are one* 2-year replacement for Erin Rozema and two* – 3-year positions for David Svaren and Nancy Hill Hoffman. People who have expressed an interest in being on the Council are Lisa Svaren (2-year position), Jeremy Dierst, Ronnie Lidstrom, Lulu Miller, Linda Rudy and Allison White. (Total of seven people/positions on ballot)
3. **Amendments to the BLC Constitution:** John brought forward the Recommendation to amend the last sentence of Section C10.01 of the BLC Constitution to read: The annual meeting of this constitution shall be held between November 15 and December 15 of each year. Also recommend amending the first sentence of Section C12.02 to read: The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation as scheduled per section 10.1 of this constitution.

John referenced how hard it is to project our next year's budget four months prior to the end of the year. He will introduce this amendment at our September Annual meeting and bring it to vote in another congregational meeting in January. This will also allow the Treasurer and Financial Administrator to give us a true financial status then in January.

4. **Annual Reports for Congregational Meeting:** John has sent notification requesting reports from those required individuals.
5. **Annual Meeting Draft Agenda:** John made this available to Council members but will discuss next month.

6. **Consideration of a motion requesting Gary Gregg to develop a plan and cost estimate to install a large screen TV in the BLC Sanctuary.** After discussion it was MSV to ask Gary to develop a plan and give a cost estimate for the Council to consider.

Discussion item: Jay Bowen has offered to donate 10 – 15 of his paintings to BLC. As an artist, Jay's work is highly regarded by many and we would be honored to accept his gift. The paintings would be displayed in various areas of the church.

Announcements: **Next Council meeting:** Wednesday, Sept 18 at 6:30 pm.

Janice gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dix, Council Secretary