

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, November 28, 2023

2023 Council

President: Rochelle Hill

Vice President: John White

Treasurer: Millie Fosberg

Secretary: Janice Burwash

At-Large Members:

Dierst (1 yr remaining)

Mary Nolte (fill remaining 2-yr term)

Nancy Hill Hoffman (2 yr remaining)

Eva Yeoman (1 to 3-yr term)

David Svaren (2 yr remaining)

Open (Fill remaining 1-yr term)

Pastor: Charis Weathers

in attendance

CALL TO ORDER (quorum 6 members) The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Vice-President John White.

OPENING PRAYER Pastor Charis led the group in an opening prayer.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL It was MSC (moved seconded and carried) to accept the minutes of the October meeting presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT See submitted report

TREASURER'S REPORT Offerings to date are slightly above expectations, which means that we will be withdrawing less from the reserve funds. Expenses are tracking with 2023 budget and Millie noted that we have not yet spoken to el Camino about a possible building use fee increase. This may be on hold while they are in transition between pastors. It was MSC to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Millie attended an ELCA zoom presentation for church treasurers, and from that presentation there are some things she will suggest looking at in the new BLC financial policy.

OLD BUSINESS

1. WEST EXTERIOR DOOR KEYLESS ENTRY KEYPAD David has created a book that can be used to train people on the new keyless entry. The initial plan is to assign each council member, including Pastor Charis, a code to unlock the door. Then other members with current keys will be given access codes. There was a discussion about access into the fellowship hall, and if there is a reason to have a code for BLC members and another code for non-members who may be using the classrooms, etc in the education wing. David has been talking to Nate Yunge about a better light for the west end of the building; one that would come on automatically at dusk.
2. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY John briefly walked the council through the new Financial Management Policy, which deals with the disbursement of funds. There was a discussion about whether there needs to be a policy related to accepting funds, for example gifts given in memory or honor of someone. MSC to accept as amended, with the title of the policy changed to: BLC Financial Management Disbursement Policy.
3. FIRE MARSHAL AND EMERGENCY SHELTER STATUS We are still waiting for an estimate of the cost of a fire reporting system. More building and occupancy information is needed by the company we have asked to give us an estimate.
4. SECURITY CAMERAS Jacob is still working on resolving this issue. Best Buy does not feel it is their issue to resolve and Jacob is having trouble connecting with Arlo to get their assistance with a resolution. There was discussion about a possible grant available to safety.
5. DE-ESCALATION TRAINING Ty is willing to meet with John and Charis on options for de-escalation training. John will set up a time for that to happen.
6. SPACE FOR LUTHERAN COUNSELING NETWORK SERVICES There is space available, but the council needs to reach a decision on charging a rental fee for the space. Millie reported that she was finally able to get information that it is customary for churches to offer space free of charge as a service to the community. It was MSC to allow Tracy Drake to use space at BLC for counseling without paying a building use fee. The next step will be to establish an agreement with Tracy on her use of the building for counseling services. It was also suggested that it would be helpful to have her come talk to the council about expectations.
7. GETTING A BLC CREDIT CARD FOR BLC YOUTH DIRECTOR There was more discussion about getting a card for the youth director, Millie will investigate the best options for doing this.

ONGOING TEAM REPORTS

1. BUILDING AND GROUNDS David asked for permission to call The Drain Doctor to deal with a plugged drain at the northwest corner of the education wing. At the same time he would like to have them look at other drains around the building to see if there are other potential future issues. It was MSC to authorize up to \$1,000 related to having Drain Doctor come. David also asked for permission to remove two trees on the north side of the education building. It was MSC to allow David to remove the trees.

2. VISIONING PROCESS John and Charis will get back to this project in early December.
3. TECH TASK FORCE David will contact Brad Dana to get the information that he has gathered to date related to this project.
4. PERSONNAL COMMITTEE John shared the draft of the Personnel Policy. Two issues still to be resolved are EAP (Employee Assistance Program) and travel insurance. The plan is to bring a final draft to the council at the December meeting. David will talk with John about some issues that may need to be revised. There was discussion about the proposed Pastor's agreement for 2024. One item that was discussed was regular days off per week for the Pastor. Also, do we need to have alternate pastoral care available on our pastor's days off? The synod also suggested that the church supports the pastor's wellness with a possible monthly stipend for a health/fitness membership. There was also discussion about pastor's pay for 2024. Another piece of the Pastoral agreement is focus areas for the coming year. John asked for feedback on the focus areas before the document is finalized at the December council meeting.
5. STEWARDSHIP See Pastor's report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. GIFT CARDS FOR BLC STAFF It has been traditional to purchase gift cards for BLC staff. Millie shared that last year's gift cards were based on years of employment, and she suggested that we consider giving the same amount to all the employees. Employees would include Sean, Jacob, Grant, Ellie, Linda. **It was suggested that we also get a gift card for out-going council president Rochelle.** It was MSC that we give \$100 Visa gift card to the five employees noted above, plus Randy Dalaba. **It was MSC to give Rochelle a \$100 gift card to the Skagit Valley Co-Op.** Charis will take care of getting the gift cards.
2. 2014 COUNCIL RETREATS John proposed the idea of two half-day council retreats, once each in January and February. Possible topics to be covered: visioning, new council teambuilding, and initial prioritizing of church and council work for 2024. John will send out an email with possible dates.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, December 19, 2023

CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT

Congregational Council Secretary,
Janice Burwash