

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.

March 20, 2024

2024 Council Meeting Minutes

President: John White (P)
Treasurer: Millie Fosberg (P)

Vice President: Janice Burwash (P)
Secretary: Pam Dix (P)

At-Large Members:

Mary Nolte (1-yr remaining) (P)
Nancy Hill Hoffman (1-yr remaining) (P)
Kathleen Hasselblad (3-yr term) (P)

Eva Yeoman (1-yr remaining) (A)
David Svaren (1-yr remaining) (P)
Erin Rozema (3-yr term) (A)

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President John White, with a quorum present.

Opening Prayer was offered by Pastor Charis.

Leadership Reports:

- Council Minutes:** The February 21, 2024 meeting minutes that were prepared by Janice Burwash were accepted after a motion, second, & vote.
- Pastor's Report:** Highlights from Pastor Charis include:

There were almost 30 people at the **Taize service**, which is a high number compared to other Advent and Lenten evening gatherings. The **Lenten meals** later in the season had more sign-ups than the beginning.

The Lenten series, "**The Week that Changed the World**," has been going quite well. I've received several comments of thanks and appreciation. We've had some wonderful children's messages as well, especially the one by Robert Hasselblad. His cartooning the gospel godly play sessions are fabulous. The **Maundy Thursday, Good Friday**, and **Holy Saturday** services are planned (the first two being new liturgies), and I'm excited about them.

Youth Group, led by Grant Burwash, has been working on making Magic the Gathering cards that are related to the Bible (mostly). Because younger siblings of youth group members also play Magic they have been invited to join. I look forward to being able to play the game with them. In **Godly Play** the kids have been working on the Gospel reading for Easter. Owen is providing some leadership, which is awesome. There is a **youth camping trip** in the works for the first weekend in May, at Rasar St Park; they voted on car camping rather than backpacking. The only teenager who attends regularly, Ryenne Dierst, did a **job shadow** with me in early March. I brought her to the weekly text study with local pastors during which we discuss lectionary texts, she accompanied me to a meeting to talk about forming a new pastoral care team, we had lunch together, and then we created some bulletin covers. It was good to be together for the day, I was honored she asked, and I think she got a better idea of what I do as a pastor at BLC.

Easter worship should be appropriately celebratory. Sean has a ukulele bonanza in the works, and I'm working with Eva to plan a fabulous, multi-faceted children's message. Speaking of Eva, she has gotten our **BLC TikTok** up and running! We have a decent number of views already, no doubt due to Eva's creativity and skill with algorithms J

Janice, Millie, and I worked to submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI) to the [National Fund for Sacred Spaces](#)** for their grant program; it was due on Feb 29, and we submitted it on Feb 28. I think our best hope is to receive a grant to be able to complete a Building Conditions Assessment, which will help us reapply for the grant in a coming year. In regard to [PSE's Green Power Solar Grant program](#), Carrie Sinclair continues to work on securing needed data. We will likely need to secure a few solar panel installation estimates for the grant application. This application will open for submissions in June.

Kathleen Hasselblad and I got together this month to discuss the creation of a **pastoral care team** at BLC. I was encouraged by the level of interest for this team in our last council meeting.

Leadership Skagit continues to go well. My cohort is getting good work done on creating signage for Jay Bowen's story pole sculpture in Riverwalk Park in MV.

New member Sarah Rabel met with me recently. She was interested in coordinating a **new book group**. In the process of discussing this the scope expanded to include refreshing the **BLC library**. Janice has been looped in, too.

This month I started a one-hour week (Wednesdays at 4pm) continuing education program called the [Transformed Listener's Initiative](#), which gathers on zoom. It is a no-fee pilot program that lasts for 18 weeks, at the end of which we will receive \$1000 for continuing education.

3. **February Treasurer Report:** Given by Millie Fosberg, the report was accepted after a motion, second & vote.

Regular Action Items:

1. **Personnel Policy:** John checked with the Council members for any questions. The **policy was** accepted after a motion, second & vote.
2. **Animals in Church Policy:** John and Janice shared a few different **policy options.** **After some** discussion, Janice committed to bring a final draft to our April meeting for approval.
3. **Lutheran Counseling Network:** The Council reviewed the draft document to date and considered some revisions. Millie committed to contacting LCN to clarify the roll of the LCN representative at BLC, the address for LCN and who is authorized to sign the document agreement. Janice committed to following up on insurance information. Millie & Janice were meeting with Traci Drake to clarify some concerns.
4. **Solar Panel Grant:** Charis stated the grant process is moving forward.
5. **Tree Removal:** David shared the status and issues of the two trees in the NW parking lot of BLC, the recommendations and timeline for the tree removal. It was moved, seconded and passed to remove both trees.

Discussion items:

1. Lay Care Team ministry: Charis and Kathleen have met together and looked at some short-term options and long-term goals. They have also emailed Mary Nolte, Erin Rozema, and Nancy Hoffman. It was noted that Josephine Care Facility offers some caregiver training.
2. Coffee with Council Members: John gave a quick update on the last presentation. A question about retreat opportunities was brought up.

Standing Reports:

1. **Emergency shelter status & Burlington Fire Marshal Approval:** John met with a representative from Washington Alarm on March 20 and hopes to get an estimate from the contractor in the next two weeks. .

2. **Building & Grounds:** David and John will install new Smoke Detectors just received.

Next Council meeting: Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer was given.

Adjournment of meeting was at 8:35

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Dix, Secretary