

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
15 January 2009

Present: Pastor Karen Williams, Jane Henkel, Tom Hanson, Bill Nelsen, Jean Groppoli, Val Boettcher, Joy Montgomery, Michelle Atkins, Jenny Schoolman, John Dahl, Hope Pederson, Chuck Davis and Constance Nelson

Absent: Pastor Rich Larson, Tim White and Tim Pilquist

1. Our **meeting was called to order** by Chuck @ 7:02pm
2. **Pastor Karen led us in devotions focused on Matthew, Chapter 4: 13-17.** We shared thoughts on where we were sharing the gifts of our baptism with others and potential opportunities to increase our efforts via active participation in our Action Teams.
3. **Motion to approve December council minutes** was made by **John**, second by **Hope**. **Motion carried.**
4. **Hope** presented highlights from her Finance - Treasurer's Report with the good news that we had a strong response to Chuck's year end president's letter and we made our budget! In addition, YTD 2009, we are \$2.3k in the black!
 - We have had some questions from our membership regarding given the current economic climate, should we take a closer look at our current mortgages? Our BLC loan is essentially unsecured and we have a 30yr mortgage @ 6 1/8% and a Line of Credit at 4.25% versus for example, US Bank is currently at 5.7% for a 15yr mortgage. Hope intends to work with her Finance Action team (Jon Pedersen & Norm Grams) to investigate scenarios and will plan to circle back with learnings and recommendations for review at our February council meeting.
 - Pastor Rich (in abstention) and Pastor Karen each presented a written letter to Hope during council meeting detailing their intended plans for this year's Housing Allowance, Social Security, *et al.* **Motion** by Hope to accept the Housing Allowance letters, second by Jenny. **Motion carried.**
5. Action Team updates
 - Chuck advised that for **Worship and Action Team**, organ repairs were begun last Saturday with a completion target by Easter.
6. Pastor's reports
 - Pastor Karen provided key highlights/actions from Rich's report, in his absence, including a request for **two delegates to represent our church at the Conference Assembly on 7 Feb from 8:30—12:30** at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview. **Val volunteered as alternate.** Pending confirmation of his schedule, **John** volunteered and **Jean** also **volunteered to represent our congregation.**
 - Pastor Karen advised that Pony Preschool is doing very well and have approached us to request expansion opportunities. One scenario would include relocating Jean's office to create more space for Pony Preschool. **Motion** by John to appoint Roger Knuteson to renegotiate our contract with Pony Preschool and create an amendment to this contract regarding additional space, second by Bill. **Motion carried.**

7. Jean provided an update on the **proposed Photo Directory Program** options she has researched and her recommendation that we move forward with Olan Mills. If we use Olan Mills, they staff this effort and there is no cost to BLC. We discussed potential concerns about sharing our on-line BLC database member information with Olan Mills ... Jean will follow-up with Olan Mills to confirm their policy regarding sharing our information. Jean will follow-up with Olan Mills to get more information and report her learnings back during our February council meeting.
8. We reviewed the suggested **Action Team modifications** and finalized our planned council participation. **Next steps would include each Action Team Chair/Co-Chair drafting an updated description of their team's scope, mission & vision for the By-laws.** Chuck will publish the 15Jan09 version of our Action Teams to our membership and ask for their active engagement and participation going forward in this Koinonia effort.
9. **Motion** to adjourn by Val, second by John. **Motion carried.** We joined hands and closed with the Lord's Prayer and **adjourned @ 8:45pm.**

Constance Nelson, Secretary