

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**12 February 2009**

**Present:** Pastor Rich Larson, Jane Henkel, Jean Groppoli, Tim White, Joy Montgomery, Michelle Atkins, Hope Pederson, Jenny Schoolman, John Dahl, Chuck Davis and Constance Nelson

**Absent:** Pastor Karen Williams, Tom Hanson, Bill Nelsen, Val Boettcher and Tim Pilquist

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1. Our meeting was called to order by Chuck @ 7:05pm
2. Pastor Rich led us in devotions reflecting that today is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NAACP and we find ourselves at present part of a nation undergoing considerable change, including living in a significant economic recession and electing our first black president. We then read together the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing".
3. Tammy Steinberg & Jay Adam joined our meeting as guests representing Luther Point Bible Point Camp. They shared details on the "Opening More Doors Together" Capital Campaign which has an overall goal of garnering \$ and/or pledges for \$1.2M by June 2010. They have received initial funding of \$50k from Thrivent Financial. We were requested to identify a member of BLC who would be willing to serve as a campaign coordinator (or co-coordinators?) for our congregation. The fund raising goal is \$100-300/worshipper in the 78 associated congregations and we now have the paperwork and forms to move forward for BLC's participation.
4. Motion to approve January council minutes was made by Jenny, second by Hope. Motion carried.
5. Hope shared a summary comment from her Finance - Treasurer's Report that we are YTD down ~\$2k in giving net Dane's Place.
6. Chuck proposed rollout of our revamped Action Teams to our congregation via his March letter in the Bethlehem Star to create awareness and generate increased involvement of our membership in these teams. Chuck will be sending all chairs/co-chairs an email requesting that they update their mission statement by 19 February for him to include in his letter. We also plan to present brief informational talks (<5min each) for each Action Team during our March church services.
  - March 1 ... Local Outreach & Visitation Ministries
  - March 8 ... Worship & Action Team & TBD
  - We will determine Action Teams to present on March 15, 22 and 29 at our March council mtg
7. Action Team updates
  - On behalf of the Creation Care Team, Jane shared the executive summary from our recent energy audit results. The full audit report was presented to John Dahl for future consideration by the Facility Management Action Team.
  - Jean shared an update on the proposed Photo Directory Program with positive endorsements from individuals from other churches who have recently used Olan Mills. Olan Mills will staff this effort at no cost to BLC. Jean requested council approval to proceed with Olan Mills and asked that we select dates. Motion by John to move forward with Olan Mills for photo dates around 10-11 April and week 27 April, second by Jenny. Motion carried.

8. Pastor reports

- Rich shared that today we signed the lease with a new Dane's Place family (our 5<sup>th</sup> family since Fall05) - Jill, her two teenage daughters and a new baby. We have formed a Dane's Place Steering Team with Bob and Adrienne Johnson serving as key liaison from BLC with our new family. We also received our \$3k grant from the Saint Paul Synod.
- Rich invited council members to attend the "Toolkit for Congregational Leaders" event on Saturday, February 28. Rich volunteered to accompany anyone who would be willing to attend and advised that this event would offer a good opportunity to network with leaders of other congregations. Cost is \$15 per person and more info can be found at the link: <http://www.spas-elca.org/congregations/toolkit.php>

9. Rich introduced the theme of potentially **reaching out to those in need at BLC and in our greater community**. We brainstormed ideas such as:

- Hosting a community meal ... or helping another organization with a meal (Presbyterian & Episcopalian churches currently partner to host monthly meals in Stillwater)
- Developing a job opportunity networking event
- Offer a bulletin board for people to post job needs and wants
- Build a kiosk for brochures with existing community resources and services
- Create coffee house environment in the connection for individuals between jobs to network
- Create a year round wish tree in our connection for members, perhaps our community in general, to anonymously allow people to donate and fulfill a wish/need

Rich asked for **task force** volunteers: **Rich, Jane, & Tim volunteered.**

10. **Motion** to adjourn by **Joy**, second by **John**. **Motion carried**. We joined hands and closed with the Lord's Prayer and **adjourned @ 8:45pm**.

*Constance Nelson, Secretary*