

**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.**

**April 17, 2024**

**2024 Council Minutes**

President: John White (P)

Vice President: Janice Burwash (P)

Treasurer: Millie Fosberg (P)

Secretary: Pam Dix (P)

**At-Large Members:**

David Svaren (On Council through 2024) (P) /Nancy Hill Hoffman (On Council through 2024) (P)

Mary Nolte (On Council through 2025) (Z)      Eva Yeoman (On Council through 2025) (A)

Kathleen Hasselblad (On Council through 2026) (A)/Erin Rozema (On Council through 2026) (Z)

Pastor Charis Weathers (On-going member) (Z)

(P) Present, (Z) Present via Zoom, (A) Absent

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Council President, John White, with a quorum present. There were no guests present.

The Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Charis.

**Leadership Reports:**

The **March 21, 2024, meeting minutes**, prepared by Pam Dix, after Motion, Second & Vote (MSV) were approved as amended.

The **April 3, 2024, special meeting minutes**, prepared by Pam Dix, after MSV were approved as amended.

Highlights of the **Pastor's Report** given by Pastor Charis included:

When I received word in the afternoon on the Thursday of Holy Week that my dad had been transported to the hospital via ambulance I needed to quickly find leadership for at least that night's service, and Good Friday. I have been told that Maundy Thursday, with its storytelling and opportunity for speaking blessing to one another, was a holy time of vulnerability and community building. Traci Drake led well, even with the barest instruction from me.

Terry Kylo led the Good Friday service, which involved a very unusual communion. Many thanks to our bread bakers for their efforts, especially Jon and Mary Peachey.

Because my dad had stabilized, and because my incredible wife stayed to support my parents, I was able to return north on Saturday morning. It was so good to be present Saturday evening for the Easter Vigil, baptizing Xaviara Aurora Thorne, and using her new name for the first time.

**Easter**, shall we say, **was epic**. We heard joyous ukuleles, placed gorgeous flowers on the cross, the children had an equitable Easter egg hunt, we sang and sang, and the Easter sermon tumbled out with conviction, strength, and meaning. I did my first sung liturgy. About 100

people were in attendance. That Sunday felt like Easter - full of resurrection and joy and togetherness and welcome. I can't imagine missing it.

This congregation has been so supportive in the midst of the tumult. I couldn't be more grateful. I am grateful that this Council and BLC in general continue to provide support and encouragement for me to attend to my parents as needed. Some good news is that my mom intends to move to Bellingham about a year after my dad passes, so she'll be close by.

The **March Treasurer Report** given by Millie Fosberg after MSV was approved. Millie noted that with Easter being March 31, that offering was counted in April. Burlington Lutheran also received a "Matching Funds" gift of approximately \$4855 in April. Millie noted the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) Rebate Check is still on hold and not released by the government. She will be putting in a monthly update about finances in the church E-News and suggested finances be the topic of an upcoming "Coffee with the Council" presentation. Stewardship mailings traditionally go out twice a year. After some Council discussion, the ushers will start passing the offering plate, after Sean has played the first verse of the offering music, beginning this next Sunday. Pam will make an announcement prior to the offering to let folks know that there will be someone at both ends of the pew, making the passing of the plate intentional. Her message will be posted in the church E-News.

#### **Regular Action Items:**

**Animals in Church Policy:** Janice reported that the draft policy was ready for discussion and vote. It was MSV to accept the final draft presented. The document recognizes that some people have allergies, mobility issues when animals are present, or have been traumatized by animals and church should be a safe place for everyone. The church welcomes service animals but requests that other animals not be brought into the building. The document will be published in the E-News and posted by the church doors.

**Synod Assembly,** May 18, 2024 will be held in Des Moines, WA. Representing BLC will be Pastor Charis, John White and Eva Yeoman. John mentioned we could have another volunteer to attend. Pam Dix said she would be willing to attend.

#### **Discussion items:**

1. **Lutheran Counseling Network:** John sent a letter to LCN last Sunday, which unfortunately went to spam. Janet Cederberg reached out to Millie, who reforwarded the email. John will follow up again at the end of next week.

2. **Visioning:** John went over several items from "Actioning in 2024" and discussed what is needed for "Communication to Congregants".

Compiling an information tri-fold about our church and its many opportunities for involvement was discussed. An option of holding a soup or luncheon for folks who attend regularly but aren't members is being considered, giving people the opportunity to share what they like about BLC and what being a member involves. Pastor Charis, John, David, & Mary will work on this.

Succession planning with Grant as Youth Leader needs to be addressed.

Pam has compiled the Talents/Personal Involvement sheets compiled last fall. She will forward copies to Pastor Charis, John and identified activity leaders.

Janice is working on the Council notebooks. She also sends out letters to guests who fill out the yellow cards Sunday mornings, as she gets them.

Sarah Rabel and Janice have met a few times in regard to getting the old library area ready for church Book Club meetings. One idea suggested was to contact the quilt ladies to work on a quilt to commemorate the church's 120 year anniversary with a wall hanging.

Eva Yeoman and Pastor Charis have our Tik Tok account up and running. Information is also put on our church website, Instagram & Facebook.

Children/Youth involved with church services: There were several involved with the Easter Ukulele music, including the youngest who was only 6 years old. Lucy is an offering helper.

Increased need for training to use the elevator: Nancy Hill Hoffman, David Svaren and John White are able to help, as well as Debbie Schwarz and Pam Dix.

3. Decision Circle: was not discussed.

4. Lay Care Team ministry Update: Kathleen, Nancy and others interested will pursue training offered through Josephine Care Facility. More information next month.

5. Coffee with Council Members: Look at this at our meeting in May

6. Annual Meeting: In September start preparing the budget for 2025 with the Finance Committee and present this budget for review prior to this meeting.

7. Improve ventilation: A grant has been applied for. We will put an exhaust fan in the upstairs Sunday School room and in the church balcony.

### **Standing Reports:**

1. Emergency shelter status & Burlington Fire Marshal Approval: John emailed his contact at Washington Alarm. It will be a couple of weeks before he can get to us and give an estimate because of a backlog in his design work. John will keep in contact.

2. Security Cameras: David updated the church council on the current status of the cameras. He and John will continue to monitor this issue, as well as church door security, putting this on our May agenda.

3. Tech Task Force: David reported that there is nothing new.

4. Building & Grounds: David reported that he and John will be putting in Smoke Detectors within the next two weeks. The tree removal final cost was only \$3100 including taxes. This actually was \$1100 less than was quoted.

5. Personnel Committee: Janice reported that the Personnel Policy is in progress. Job descriptions are currently being worked on by Sean and Grant. .

### **Announcements:**

Due to a conflict with her work schedule, Eva Yeoman resigned from her position on the church council. This position went through 2025.

Next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer was given by Millie and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dix, Secretary