

**Light of Christ, St. John's Windish, St. Peter's coming together as  
Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church  
Minutes of Joint Congregational Council Meeting  
October 25, 2022 at St. John's**

**Members Present:** Joe Bleier, Gina Brockway, Ron Dalla Piazza, Lou Dravec, Kathleen Fielding, Steve Granlund, Harmony Gubich, Tracy Heberling, Buzz Heidecker, David Kolman, Ron Leposa, Sharon Lintner, Michel Lloyd, Donna Mackaravitz, Linda Maule, Kenda Riley, Tom Seifert, Linda Toltesi, Paul Toub, Susan Vitez

**Members Excused:** Sandra Butch, Donna Musselman

**Members Absent:** Jimmy Bleier, Susan DeAngelis, Teryan Gerhard, Bonnie Harper

**Clergy/Staff Members/Guests Present:** Pastor Suzanne, Pastor Mike, Maria Skrilec, Catherine Ziel

**Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Gina Brockway (presider), David Kolman, and Ron Dalla Piazza.

**Opening Prayer:**

Offered by Pastor Mike.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve was made by Ron Leposa, seconded by Linda Toltesi. All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2022:**

Motion to approve was made by Joe Bleier, seconded by Tracy Heberling. All in favor.

**Updates from Treasurers: share ongoing updates with congregations**

Reports were submitted by Joe Bleier, St. Peter's; Maria Skrilec, St. John's; and Catherine Ziel, LOC. September results overall were not as good as hoped. A letter was drafted by the 3 presidents for the congregations that addresses financial commitment and continuing to be part of the church family.

Motion to accept reports was made by Linda Toltesi, seconded by David Kolman. All in favor.

**Staff concerns:**

**a) Staff reports as distributed for information**

**b) Any issues from the staff: none other than below**

**1) Search for replacement – Marian's position**

A "thank you" to Matt Pizel, Josh Gulotta, and Pastor Tom Keener for filling in for the executive assistant position. Matt is handling the email "blast", Josh is handling the church email and voicemail and the layout of the bulletin, and Tom is handling TWMA. An interview is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 4:00 PM with an applicant.

**2) Offering collection after service**

Sign up sheet was passed around during meeting.

How/where to deliver the offering to each location was discussed.

## **Committee Reports (reports as distributed):**

### **a-c) Property Committee (all 3 campuses), LOC, St. Peter's**

#### **d) Joint Committees (reports as distributed):**

##### **1) Blessed Angels in Ministry (BAM)**

Next meeting November 8.

\$350 was received so far for Thanksgiving gift cards.

About 1600 holiday cards will be signed for nursing home patients/residents.

Suggestions for other projects included signing cards for veterans and donating no longer used bicycles to Coalition for Appropriate Transportation.

##### **2) Worship and Music Joint Committee**

Evaluation of worship schedule was discussed. Does one worship service at 9:15 am work? Pastor Mike will draft a questionnaire for Joint Council's review, and it will be available in November in TWMA and as a bulletin insert.

Names of deceased members are to be gathered for All Saint's Sunday.

Holding a healing service was suggested.

##### **3) Tech team**

New computers will eventually be needed.

## **Old Business:**

### **a) Covid-19 updates**

Flu vaccine recommended. Covid, RSV, and flu are here at the same time.

Face masks are not going away soon.

### **b) Unity Team Report**

1) Recommendation from Unity Team, seconded by Tom Seifert, to donate LOC Sunday and Pre-school materials to other congregations and organizations. Still being three separate "corporations", the items belong to LOC; it was their vote only to distribute the materials.

2) The Unity Team Report included six recommendations (motions) for Joint Council to vote and act upon. Please refer to the report for details.

1) Recommendation from Unity Team, seconded by Tom Seifert. All in favor.

2) Recommendation from Unity Team, seconded by Tom Seifert. All in favor with addendum, i.e. no mortgage.

3) Recommendation from Unity Team, seconded by Tom Seifert. All in favor as amended, i.e. removal of "solely".

4) Recommendation from Unity Team, seconded by David Kolman. All in favor. Letters of intent were received from the City of Bethlehem for St. John's properties and from developer Duane Wagner for all properties. Both letters were negated. The letters were based on the appraised values of the properties, i.e. St. John's parking lot \$400,000, St. John's church \$1,070,000, St. Peter's \$1,350,000, and LOC \$675,000.

- 5) Recommendation from Unity Team, seconded by Tom Seifert. There was much discussion about contract for realtor Lucy Lennon, e.g. looking at other realtors. Lucy made first contact, is working without a contract, feels strongly that 2 of the properties were undervalued, feels all properties should be bundled for \$4.2 million. After a vote to end discussion, the recommendation was amended for a 6-month contract, seconded by Michel Lloyd. Results of Joint Council vote: 10 approved, 7 opposed, 4 abstained. The recommendation carried by a majority vote.
- 6) Recommendation from Unity Team presented two options for marketing/selling all 4 locations. Joe Blaire seconded motion "a" to bundle all 4 locations as 1 complete purchase. There was much discussion for and against bundling. For example, the City is interested in St. John's property for affordable housing and homeless shelter. Apparent that a decision could not be reached this meeting, Lou Dravec made a motion, seconded by Linda Toltesi, to table this motion. All in favor.

As recommended by Gina Brockway, Mayor Willie Reynolds and Realtor Lucy Lennon will be invited to address Joint Council at a special meeting at St. Peter's either November 1 or 3.

**c) St. Peter's Budget Approval**

The motion for council approval of St. Peter's budget was made by Steve Grunlund, seconded by Michel Lloyd. All in favor. The budget will be presented to the congregation to vote.

**New Business:**

**St. John's:**

**a) Parsonage**

The intention is to gift the parsonage to Jose Melendez, sexton, for his years of dedicated service to St. John's. The motion to gift the parsonage was made by Sharon Lintner, seconded by Linda Toltesi. All in favor. This item will be on the agenda for the November 20 meeting for a vote by the congregation.

**b) Council Nominations for November Congregation meeting**

Joe Boligitz, Ken Remaly, and Maria Skrilec will be on the ballot.

**c) Requests for use of facility:**

- 1) Bethlehem Emergency Shelter requested use for a Board meeting to be held on November 1, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Someone from St. John's will have to be on the premises. The motion to approve this request was made by Linda Toltesi, seconded by Ron Leposa. All in favor.
- 2) The Bethlehem/Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association requested for Heritage Day and Board elections to be held on December 17, with 11:00 AM arrival. The motion to approve this request was made by Susan Vitez, seconded by Linda Toltesi. All in favor.
- 3) Touchstone Theatre requested use of the parking lot (8-12 spots) for several events, e.g. tree-lighting ceremony 11/26 and Christmas City Follies. The motion to approve this request was made by Ron Leposa, seconded by Susan Vitez. All in favor.

**Light of Christ:**

d) Catherine Ziel explained the proposed budget for 2023. The motion for LOC Council approval of the budget was made by Lou Dravec, seconded by Tom Seifert. All in favor. The budget will be presents to the congregation for approval.

**St. Peter's:**

e) The Nominating Committee will be activated.

**All:**

f) **The** next meeting will be held on November 15, 7:00 PM, at St. Peter's. David Kolman will preside. The December 20 meeting will be at St. John's, due to a scheduling conflict with the NA meeting at LOC.

**Miscellaneous:**

Joe Bleier recommended that pastors' reports be presented to Joint Council.

**Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Joe Bleier, seconded by Linda Toltesi. All in favor. Time was 9:10 PM. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Susan L. Vitez, St. John's Council Secretary, for Donna Musselman