

**MINUTES FOR A SPECIALLY CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
Elgin, Illinois
Thursday July 23rd, 2020**

Our Mission:

Called by Christ to grow in faith, share God's Love and serve people everywhere

Rachel Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:13pm

Pastor Carol Book opened with a prayer.

Agenda: Seek congregational approval for sharing space with a Synod sponsored, Latinx worshipping community.

Presentation: Karin Jones provided a summary of the proposal that the BLC Council has submitted to the Synod for review. The proposal is available in electronic or printed form.

Ronnie Malave spoke about our beautiful church home and how it is vital to add to our church and grow. The intention of this proposal isn't to change anything in our existing church. It is our love for one another and our hearts that make this church what it is and makes him want to add others to what we have. "This might succeed, and it might not, but it will be a small investment in helping many people know how wonderful our church is." He hopes that we approve this and take a chance on growing.

Karin Jones summarized the most common questions that we have received from the congregation and the meetings that we have had. Questions and answers were included in the email today from Pastor Carol.

Pastor Carol then added comments, including the story of Abraham and Sarah from the book of Genesis.

Rachel Campbell asked if there was a motion to approve the sharing of our space with a Synod sponsored LatinX Worship community. Sue McIntyre moved to approve sharing our space with an ELCA Synod sponsored, Latinx worshipping community. Steve Jernberg seconded, and Rachel opened the floor to discussion.

Steve Jernberg asked about who the Pastor would be reporting to and who would be the new team. He also wondered how it would work if damage occurred and how it would work with insurance. The Synod would call this new Pastor, and the Synod would be overseeing the progress and growth. The church use will have many items/concerns addressed in a space usage agreement/covenant between the two congregations regarding sharing space.

Sherry Liske asked about the Mission developer being under a contract. In this case, the mission developer will be under contract with the church and Aurora, and the pastor

will be under call for his time at Bethlehem, but be called by the synod, not by Bethlehem. His direct support will be the Synod Director of Mission Rev Robert Biekman.

Tom Ayres commented that people have survived under much worse conditions and circumstances than our current situations and that many unchurched families would benefit from a church being made available in the community.

Fred Harnish added that when he was the BLC president, and we were developing our shared space with St. Establen, both congregations grew and welcomed new families. It was a good experience for all involved. He also shared a quote, "What you are is God's gift to you; what you become is your gift to God." He truly believes this will be a good thing for our church.

Nancy Calderwood asked if we approve this how will he grow a congregation in the community. Pastor Carol Book explained that he would begin with one on one meetings and introductions in the community and with our families and welcoming committee getting to know the community and us. There will also be a social media component that will be incorporated in spreading the word and making people aware of the new congregation.

Sherry Liske added that when she does her ministry work in Mexico, and there are worshiping/church opportunities made available in the areas that she serves, the people come.

Inez Tornblom stated that she feels she has received all the info.

Discussion concluded.

Pastor Carol Book explained that we would be voting by texting or leaving a voicemail on Peg Youngren's phone. We then allowed 10 minutes for the votes to be submitted while the votes are calculated. Rachel Campbell advised that the majority attending had voted to approve the Latin X Ministry.

Pastor Carol offered a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Jones