**Bethesda/Immanuel Joint Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 11, 2021**

6:30 p.m.—Zoom ID: 83293541222 Password: 511991

**Call to Order**: at 6:33 p.m. by Ed Metelica

**Check-in from Bethesda**: Ed Metelica, Jane Hauser, Yvonne Cox, Paul Lundberg, Mark Ludeking, Lynette Benzschawel; C**heck-in from Immanuel**: Al Reedy, Gordy Anderson, Sharon Bestul, Leanne Homa, new council members—Diane Hall and Mike Herrick; Ex-Officio member—Pastor Mary Meierotto

**Devotion by S.A.M. Mary Meierotto:** A video from the NW Synod on Creation Ministries and the Resolution in Support of Creation Care; followed by a prayer.

**Secretary’s Report**: MM to approve by Paul, 2nd by Mark and vote unanimous

**Pastor’s Report**:

Mary continues to meet with numerous groups each week—including weekly Northwest Wisconsin Synod meetings, S.A.M. meetings every other Tuesdays, Monday lectionary meetings, Thursday book studies, Lake Superior Bridge Builders’ meetings regarding our Russian asylum seeker (as well as transporting and supporting them to court hearings in Milwaukee), Sunday Services, funerals and the many calls from others needing her help.

Mary received a call this morning (2/11/2021) from our Northwest Wisconsin Synod Bishop, Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson, who complimented our two churches for being “Bright Spots” in our Synod. This is in particular for our support of the Asylum Seekers program through which we are hosting a Russian family, and our Native American worship services each month. Mary has been instrumental in sponsoring these two programs—among her other concerns and duties.

Immanuel member Brad Schultz died this past week and Mary will preside over his funeral on Zoom this coming Sunday.

The JOY (Just Older Youth) group has been meeting once a month and it’s going well.

Mary has also finished her Covid-19 vaccines! Woohoo! It would be nice to be able to get the church secretary vaccinated as well, but Ashley does not currently meet guidelines.

**Old Business**:

1. Online Services—after much discussion and a review of Wisconsin Council of Churches guidelines, church services will continue to meet online for the next month. Further discussion of determining a phase-in plan will be on the agenda at the next joint council meeting.

**New Business**:

1. Walking Together will be held on Saturday, February 20th. Registration can be accessed on the synod website.
2. Synod Assembly is scheduled for April 15th and 17th on Zoom. There are 5-6 Justice Resolutions to approve. Bethesda and Immanuel are encouraged to each “send” one male and one female member as voting delegates. Volunteers are needed.
3. EPIC--Yvonne and Ed attended this conference last year in person. Yvonne watched several segments on-line this year. The segments are available on the Synod website. Each segment is approximately 10 minutes long.
4. LSBB (Lake Superior Bridge Builders) proposal on the basement work at Bethesda. The floor plan has been created for a 3-bedroom apartment to be built in the basement of Bethesda as a home for our asylum seekers during their first year in the United States. Paul Lundberg reported the floor plan will be taped-out to get a better idea of what will work. Once certain preliminaries are decided, only then can bids be requested for professional plumbing and electrical work. Volunteers are needed for the carpentry and other work with supervision by experienced carpenters.

**Other Business:** none

**Next Meeting: March 11,2021 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**

**Adjourn**: 7:30--MM to approve by Lynette, 2nd by Ed, vote unanimous

Recorded and Submitted by Leanne Homa, Council Secretary from Immanuel