

Constitution History

- The Model Constitution from the ELCA includes articles that are required to be included in each congregation's constitution and articles that individual congregations can elect to include or exclude.
- BLC chose to exclude the line *"The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$_____ for items not included in the budget."*
- It was recommended by an attorney in the congregation advising the Constitution committee to exclude this language. This allows the BLC Council the most flexibility possible in their decision making and spending.
- Constitution approved by the Congregation in May 2017.

PPP Loan History

- The Council approved a plan to apply for a PPP loan.
 - The 2020 Council heard concerns that this action was taken without consulting the congregation or seeking congregational approval.
- There was concern that even though there was a long application window, funds from the program may run out.
- The PPP funds were used to pay salaries during 2020 as the program intended.
- After the 2020-2021 fiscal year closed, BLC had a surplus that was used to fund the Sharing Our Blessings grants.

Potential Action

Council is considering next steps, if any, and would like feedback from the congregation about how to formalize our learnings from this experience. Should the council pursue changes to constitution or are there other ways to document this experience?