

## Bethel Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2017

**Members Present:** a quorum was present

**Meeting start:** 12:08 PM

Topic	Discussion	Action
Devotion: Opening prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastor Ben</li> </ul>	
Meeting minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes from previous Congregational meeting approved.</li> </ul>	
Pastor's Report: Pr. Ben	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission statement was read</li> <li>• Thank you for being present.</li> <li>• Bus payments start in February, 2018, may try to get a capital campaign going to possibly pay the loan off by the end of the year.</li> <li>• Budget should be even- no surplus, no big debt</li> <li>• Discussion on questions of relevancy of the church and other challenges:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are the committed!</li> <li>• The question is more who is not here and why aren't they here? Less social pressure than the past? Increased time commitments? Not speaking of day to day life issues?</li> <li>• Evangelical mega-churches are more black and white in their approach when it comes to most things and don't seem to be struggling for membership and participation.</li> <li>• Protestant churches have struggles with retaining younger generations after high school. Younger generations are (mostly) not seen as much because we are not speaking in a way that is relevant to their experience of life.</li> <li>• We are more in the grey. Instead of wrestling with an issue and coming to a conclusion, we don't engage. When the church has spoken, it is often too little too late and upsets the status quo.</li> <li>• What to do?- There are no easy answers.</li> <li>• 500th Anniversary of the Reformation that changed the Church forever. Is there another Reformation coming?</li> <li>• The message hasn't changed in 2,000 years, but how it is conveyed changes. We (the broader church) need to address this before too long</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Ministry Reports: Sue Lampkin		
School Report: Doreen Baldwin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission statement review</li> <li>• 2016-2017 highlights reviewed</li> <li>• WASC report - we are accredited for the next six years.</li> <li>• Pre-school and elementary are on track</li> </ul>	

Business Report and Finances: Dave Larsen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For FY 2018- budget assumptions: \$40,000 increase in general giving from \$650K to \$690K</li> <li>• \$55,000 loss of facility use income in the coming year with the change in the afterschool program</li> <li>• Long Term Loan Dept includes the bus loan, mortgage</li> <li>• Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– General fund \$23,000 increased projections</li> <li>– Facility use/rental fees- on target</li> <li>– FY 2016 and FY 2017 giving 3% increase</li> <li>– Staffing and ministry and programs</li> <li>– facilities: we are green business certified – the 1st church and school in Cupertino to be given this honor.</li> <li>– Sanctuary refresh</li> <li>– AV: replace sound board- electronic drums- conference room made from Pastor Gabi’s old office</li> <li>– loans and leases</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call for a vote by hand- the FY18 budget was unanimously approved.</li> </ul>	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Officers: President elect Sam Sudarsanam as approved by the congregational vote</li> <li>• Eric Hanson Award for 2017 was awarded to Lois Brouillette</li> </ul>	
Old Business		
Meeting adjourned 12:56 PM by Tom McAvoy	Next Congregational meeting: February 4, 2018	
Closing prayer:	Pastor Ben	

Submitted by Dianne Stauffer