

Minutes of the January 21, 2007 Congregational Meeting Bethel Lutheran Church, Cupertino, California

Minutes recorded by Joan Christensen

Opening: Bill Hanson, President, called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. Pastor Randy opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Quorum: 140 members signed in for the meeting. (10% of our voting membership or 61 people were sufficient for a quorum.)

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the June 4, 2006 meeting were reviewed for approval. The minutes were approved.

Revision of Constitution: The ELCA has made some changes to the model constitution, which we are adopting. In addition we are accepting some recommendations made by our CPA firm. Motion to approve. Questions regarding details of property ownership as part of the ELCA changes. Motion approved to accept changes to the constitution.

Financial Report: Eusebio Menezes

Euo reported that a desire for the school to apply for WASC accreditation and the need for external financial reviews for the church and school led us to engage the services of a CPA firm in 2006. Some of the changes this led to was a change in fiscal year, to match the school year, September 1 to August 31. All transactions will now go through our profit and loss statement. In prior years we had self-financed a loan to complete a construction project on Zoar Hall. It was found that we did not have the cash to cover all restricted and designated funds, so there was a recommendation to close or “freeze” the restricted and designated funds. Reasons for lower cash included lower enrollment in the school and not as many annual prepayments, lower need in the community for full time care, lower giving to the church from members. We made a request for additional giving in the fall of 2006, and the congregation has responded very well. Euo reported on the 14 month period from July 1 2005 to August 31 2006. Net operating income for the 14 month period was -\$104K with depreciation included, -\$16K without depreciation. Current year net operating income at \$65K. Income target for the church for FY07 is \$924K. Expense target at \$860K. Euo’s recommendations: 1. Need to continue strong giving. 2. Catch up on pledges 3. Continue to keep expenses low. School forecast for revenue for FY07 is \$1.5M, with projected net ordinary income of \$11K. We need to add more students, find ways to tailor our programs to meet needs of parents, and increase fund raising efforts. Euo emphasized that there have been no misappropriations of funds. Thanks to the response from the congregation, we now have time to explore financial options, and we need to continue to grow and invite.

Thanks to the congregation: Pastor Rick Sherrill

Thanks to ...

the congregation for the improvement in the financial situation

an anonymous donor for the new sound board

Thrivent for a \$50K grant with Holy Cross & Mount Cross to grow endowment

Staff of church and school for continuing to do a magnificent job of loving children into God's kingdom

Bill followed up with thanks to the council for responding by forming additional committees

Ministry Leads:

Current & New

Buildings & Grounds – Tom Cole & John Liming
Children's Ministry - Rayanne Gustlin & Yvonne Loo
Community Life – LeSonia Leimer
Discipleship – Steve French
Evangelism – Marion Abney
Mission Outreach – Dale Jones
Stewardship – Dave Tribby & Mark Burke
Worship & Music – Elayne Rehn and Robin Kettner
Youth – Molly Schrey, Bob Burkhart, Mark Evashenk

Outgoing: Patrice Sera & Lois Brouillette

Congregational representatives to synod Assembly– Cindy Arnett, Nick Arnett, Sue Pabst. Approved

Audit Committee – Pastor Rick thanked the current audit team for the extra work this year in incorporating the CPA recommendations. Dave Lofgren was approved to serve a second 3 year term. We also thanked the current members, Dave Lofgren, Diane Janz, and Ralph Miller

Nominating Committee:

New: Karen Fox, Sharon Parody, for one year term

Continuing: Judy Xelowski, for one year term.

Two remaining members will be appointed by the church council.

Thanks to this year's team: Eleanor Incerpi, Dale Jones, Judy Xelowski, Donna Kuester

Church council Nominations: Pastor Rick (representing the Nominating Committee)

President (2 yr term) Miki Wallace

Vice President (1 yr term) Michael Vaughn

Financial Officer (2 yr term) Dave Tribby

Human Resources Advisor (2 yr term) Laura French

Ministry Liaison (3 yr term) Lois Brouillette

At-Large (3 yr term) Nick Rowen

Continuing:

Communications Officer – Mary Fields

At-Large – Rich Pierson

Project Manager – Vern Bollesen

Question: According to the constitution, have we made the change from a Vice President role to president-elect? We have not begun the change yet.

Completing terms: Bill Hanson, Euo Menezes, Robyn Winegardner, Joy Freeman, Connie Anderson

A video introduction of Miki Wallace was shown as she could not attend the meeting.

Dorothy Meyer Award presented by Pastors Rick & Randy to Bill Hanson and Euo Menezes with many thanks to Bill for guiding us through the transition as Pastor Randy joined our staff, and to Euo for helping to bring about financing for our video/lighting improvements and Rick's housing arrangements, as well as the extra work and leadership this past year with the accounting system changes and the financial struggles. Bill thanked those who mentored him, including Pastor Torvend, Pastor Kintze and Paul Hovland, and encouraged all to find people to mentor them. Bill also thanked God for using him. Euo thanked the council and all of the congregation for their support.

Announcements – Pastor Randy

1. Master Planning Team being organized. First meeting Feb 9 to create a framework for the future
2. Updates of Stelling Church Property (formerly Redeemer Lutheran) – we have had to wait for the congregation to go through the legal closure, at which point the property will be released to the synod. Bethel will enter a property management contract with the synod. We have worked with Bill Hanson's daughter-in-law's father, Pastor Elness, who speaks Mandarin & Cantonese, to speak with other Chinese churches in the area, to explore ministry possibilities moving forward.
3. Mark the dates: 50th Anniversary: Nov 10-11, 2007 (50th Anniversary of Bethel's first worship service). March 15-16, 2008 (50th Anniversary of Organization) for celebrations

Pastor Randy thanked the staff, council, ministry leads and Pastor Rick for all their work and support throughout the year.

Pastor Rick closed the meeting in prayer at 10:37 am.