

**Minutes from the Congregational Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church  
(combined general meeting and worship)  
On Sunday, February 1, 2009 (approved)**

Miki Wallace called the meeting to order at 10:42 am.

There was a quorum: 124 members were present.

**State of the Church**

**Pastor Randy Pabst**

Pastor Randy Pabst preached about “The state of the church or question authority.”

What ever happened to authority?

Definition: authority is power over something or someone.p

What has authority in your life?

What was Jesus’ authoritative teaching that asounded everyone? See Mark 1. The mentally ill and outcast saw his authority.

**The past 12 months at Bethel:**

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with kickoff for the next 50 years. Masterplan: partnering with Jesus to make a difference.

**Seven initiatives:**

- 1) worship revitalization (attendance has not dropped). Reach out in worship to those who are not here.
- 2) Green initiative (solar panels). Begin a capital campaign.
- 3) Staffing changes, team building, 5 new staff.
- 4) Partnership with Good Shepherd Congregation
- 5) Positive changes at Bethel Lutheran Church. This is our biggest church outreach.
- 6) Mission partnerchip: In-Up-Out.
- 7) Stewardship

The economic crisis is really a spiritual crisis.

**Time to focus on the Sabbath (7<sup>th</sup> day):**

- a) Rest: step back and re-access.
- b) Study: Bible study groups, prayer, worship
- c) Get out of your comfort zone and do something new, volunteer, sit somewhere else in church.

**Radical hospitality** is the theme for Lent.

**Presentation of the Dorothy Meyer Award for Joyful Service Randy Pabst**

The award was presented to Carol Hooper.

**Minutes Approval**

**Miki Wallace**

The minutes of the May and August 2008 meeting were approved as written.

**Financial Report**

**David Tribby**

David showed a brief PowerPoint presentation on recent giving trends. Giving fell behind in Spring 2008, but nearly caught up in December 2008 (only 3-4% behind), but was down again in January 2009.

**Income**

\$895K budgeted  
On 1/31/09 \$26K (12%) behind  
\$865K revised income projection.

### **Expenses**

\$880K budgeted

In January the council ask Fara Brock and Pastor Randy Pabst to look for reductions in the amount of \$30K.

### **Brief Pastor's Report**

**Pastor Randy Pabst**

In addition to the sermon:

#### **Process for the capital improvement campaign:**

Upgrade church and school facilities.

Wanted to replace preschool and Torvend Hall 10 years ago, but then came the stock crash in 2001.

In February 2009 organize a facility task force.

March-July 2009 prepare a plan

August 2009 present the plan

Fall 2009 contract with ELCA to do a financial assessment.

Fall/Winter hire an architect for preliminary plan.

Winter 2010 secure a company.

Spring/Fall 2010 final drawings.

Spring/Summer 2011 construction.

#### **Bethel Church and School Organizational changes**

Pastor Randy showed us the new organizational chart. One position was cut and several reduced. Volunteerism will become more important. Staff is there to support and guide. The office is preparing a booklet of who is doing what.

### **Elections**

**Pastor Randy Pabst**

Pastor Randy thanked the nominating committee for all there work. Unfortunately, they could not fill all positions.

President: Scott Anderson

President Elect: open

Treasurer: Dave Tribby

Audit Committee: open

Synod Assembly (Fresno, May 28-30): LaVinnia Pierson, need 2 more members.

Miki Wallace asked for nominations from the floor. There was a motion to approve the slate of officers. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

### **Ministry Leads**

Evangelism Team: open

Women's ministries: open

### **Handover**

Miki Wallace welcomed Scott Anderson as new president.

Scott ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Marion Abney thanked Miki Wallace for her service.  
The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Submitted by Hella Bluhm-Stieber  
San Jose, February 4, 2009