

## **Minutes from the Congregational Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 30, 2009**

Scott Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:03.

Pastor Randy opened in prayer.

There was a quorum: 85 members were present.

The minutes from the February 2009 Congregational Meeting were approved as written.

### **FY'10 Budget**

**Dave Tribby**

In projecting FY'10 income, Dave identified an 11 year trend that rolls with the economy in a sinusoidal fashion: up in the '90's, down in 2000 and 2001, then up 2004-2007 and down again for the past two years. We have received 128 faith commitments, which is inconclusive. Looking at the most recent fiscal year through July, we have received about \$800k. Therefore, we have built a budget around an \$800k figure as follows:

Base Expectation:	\$800k	(down 10% from FY09 of \$885k)
Challenge:	10k	(same as FY09)
Total:	810k	(down 10% from FY09 of 895k)

Looking at the expense side, comparing to FY09, we anticipate \$108k in savings offset some by \$22k in anticipated incremental expenses, to give us a spending budget of \$796, 457 or approximately \$800k. Many thanks go to those who have figured out creative ways to cut expenses without negatively effecting ministry so far.

Dave pointed out that this budget ignores depreciation, which means we are not setting aside funds for unplanned repairs or replacements. Therefore, when the church runs into unexpected needs, we will need to do a special appeal to the congregation just as we did for the new roof this past year.

The budget passed unanimously.

### **Election of President Elect of the Church Council**

**Pastor Randy Pabst**

The congregation voted unanimously to approve Mary Thomas as President Elect of the Church Council.

## **Process for Calling an Associate Pastor**

**Pastor Randy Pabst**

Two activities are happening in parallel right now. First, Pastor Randy is working with the synod to secure a trained, interim pastor. He is seeking a person trained in congregational assessment who can help with the process of calling an Associate Pastor. The synod supplies one name at a time and Pastor Randy will pass along one name to the Church Council for approval.

Second, a Call Committee is in the process of being formed to begin the process of seeking a new Associate Pastor. The Call Committee will start by developing a congregational ministry profile focusing on the role and ministry of an Associate Pastor for Bethel. Their work will be as transparent as legally possible. Then, they will receive and screen candidates provided by the Sierra Pacific Synod. After interviewing candidates, they will refer the best one to the Church Council for approval. Upon the approval of the Church Council, the candidate will be referred to the congregation for approval and call. This process may take 9 –12 months.

## **Book of Faith Initiative**

**Pastor Randy Pabst and Dave Denny**

Pastor Randy and Dave Denny provided an overview of the Book of Faith Initiative. The goal of this program developed by the ELCA is for all congregational members to become fluent in the Book of Faith – the Bible. This program will be the emphasis for Bethel this fall and will include themes for weekly worship, Adult Ed bible studies during both services and a possible Monday evening program 7:30-8:30. Classes begin Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Materials will be available for Ministry Teams. There is a website ([bookoffaith.org](http://bookoffaith.org)) and blogs.

Both Dave and Pastor Randy are very enthusiastic about this initiative.

## **Stelling Site Presentation**

**Pastor Joseph Chiu**

Pastor Chiu showed photos of Good Shepherd Community Church. Highlights include 3 music teams (a lot for such a small community), baptisms this past year of four young adults and one baby, a wedding, Mandarin services in conjunction with English services and a Work Day yesterday to clean up the Stelling Site and make it more beautiful. Pastor Chiu shared that Bethel's volunteers were a good example to Good Shepherd and he was encouraged by the "blessings of the partnership." He ended by reading a section from Psalm 133. They are continuing to move forward to formalize the relationship with Bethel.

## **Other Business**

**Pastor Randy Pabst**

Pastor Randy opened the floor for questions. The only question asked was about the outcome of the ELCA National Convention held two weeks ago. Pastor Randy said he would send information out summarizing the key decisions at that meeting.

An announcement was made that Tom Hoegel is offering the Mission Trip to Mexico to those unemployed free of charge.

The meeting was adjourned by Scott Anderson at 1:00pm

Pastor Randy said a closing prayer.

Sunnyvale, August 31, 2009, submitted by Laura French.