

Minutes from the Congregational Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 7, 2010

Scott Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

Pastor Randy opened in prayer.

There was a quorum: 83 members were present.

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

Financial Update

Dave Tribby

Dave showed a graph of monthly giving trends in comparison to the budget over the last 2 years. September and October 2009 were behind in giving, but in December we caught up. January was low again (15.8% below budget)

Income: The general fund budget for this fiscal year is \$810K. End of January we were \$14K under budget. Dave's concern is that we were 15% under budget in 3 out of 5 months this fiscal year.

Expenses: We planned for a \$800K in cash expenses. We were able to hold down expenses through staff cut backs, etc. End of January expenses were down \$13K because of very diligent spending by the staff.

Pastor's Reports

Pastor Lori Eickmann

Interim time is a time of change. Jesus says: "Do not be afraid". Are we willing to be open? The call committee had several meetings and talked to many different groups at Bethel. Lori also talked to many individuals. She introduced the members of the call committee who were present. What does it mean to be church in the 21st century?

Some ministry highlights and an overview over the last half year

Pastor Randy Pabst

The Worship & Music Ministry is looking at how we can revitalize worship. Should we add an evening service?

Pastor Rick Sherrill was here for 8+ years.

The Book-of-Faith Initiative had 75 participants last fall.

Stelling Ministry: Pastor Chiu is ready for ordination, but he has to give up his secular job. This would be a financial challenge.

There are positive changes for **Bethel Lutheran School**. Despite the principal's resignation in the fall, no students left. Staff salaries were reduced because of financial difficulties. BLS now has a new principal, Marion Abney.

Marion Abney

Marion emphasized that BLS is **our** school. The school is 45 years old. She encouraged everybody to go on a school tour or come to Wednesday morning chapel. They will have a "Run for Haiti" and a health fair on March 13. The school also offers PE, art, and music. Marion encouraged church members to become involved in the school by volunteering at the school as prayer partner, to befriend a child, to help in the school library or at the health fair in March. She

asked everybody to tell friends and neighbors about the school. They have an annual fund drive with the slogan “Kids First”.

Facility upgrades

Pastor Randy Pabst

Last year we installed a new roof. We need to restart our capital improvement assessment. A task force was created and could use more members. The purpose is to replace and upgrade Bethel Lutheran Church and School’s facilities for the next 50 years of ministry. The timeline is to prepare a plan from March to July. To present the plan in August. In the fall we will contract with the ELCA to do a financial assessment of our church.

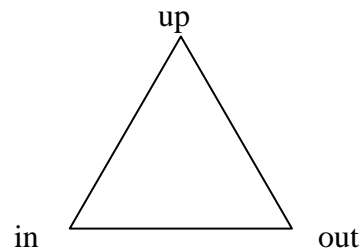
Randy emphasized that we need to become a missional church, we cannot just maintain what we have. A missional church “seeks to participate in what God is doing in the world. I want Bethel to become a place where we and all who are touched by our ministry **experience Jesus.**”

The shape of our vision is a triangle, with in, up, out.

Up = grow and equip (in our mission statement)

Out = care for and serve (in our mission statement)

In = welcome and invite (in our mission statement)



The method for the vision

- Worship as center point of our experience of Jesus.
- Fluency in the Book of Faith.
- Radically hospitable community
- Grow our outreach

Questions:

1. Why did fee-based events go \$7K over budget? Dave said that 3 events went over budget. It is always difficult to predict the income and expenses for fee-based events. The problem with the Labor Day retreat expenses is, that most expenses come in during the previous fiscal year, but the income comes in during the next fiscal year. That distorts things. The finance committee is looking more closely at this.
2. How does the church adjust for annual and monthly giving? Dave said that unfortunately accrual account does not allow to even out this income over the year.
3. How do you predict the financial situation for this year? Dave said that cash flow is still a challenge. We need prayers and financial support.

Scott thanked Pastor Randy for his leadership in these difficult and challenging times.

Elections

Scott Anderson

Scott presented the slate of officers.

President: Mary Thomas

President elect: open

Member at large: Rick Westwick

HR Council position: open

Ministry Lead Coordinator: open

Audit Committee: Anil Dias, open

Endowment Committee: Holly Lofgren, open

Synod Assembly: LaVinnia Pierson, Anita Tighe, Nick Arnett.
The congregation voted unanimously to approve all candidates for their positions.

Scott presented the **ministry leads**.

Building & Grounds: Tom Cole, August Colandrea

Discipleship: Dave Denny

Evangelism: open

Mission Outreach: Dale Jones, Lois Brouillette

Stewardship: Angela Brown, Chris Freckmann

Worship & Music: Janice Martinson, Jean Teed

Youth Ministry: Molly Schrey, Mark Evashenk

Congregation Life: Patrice Sera, Connie Anderson

Childrens Ministry: Amanda Klinger

Scott welcomed our new president, Mary Thomas.

Mary acknowledged all council members who are leaving. She asked the congregation to keep the council in their prayers. Mary said that she welcome suggestions.

Announcements

Pastor Randy Pabst

There are some longtime staff members who need to be recognized. There is also a special award that will be given out.

Pastor Lori closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.

San Jose, February 7, 2010

Submitted by

Hella Bluhm-Stieber