

**Minutes from the Congregational Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church
on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2011 (approved by council)**

Mary Thomas called the meeting to order at 11:50 pm. A quorum was present. Pastor Randy opened the meeting in prayer. The minutes from the August 29, 2010 Congregational Meeting were approved as written.

Children's Ministry Update

Amanda Boniface

Amanda has worked at Bethel for about 1.5 years.
Programs: Kid Connection, average 33 children per week.
Vacation Bible School served about 100 children during one week in July, ~45 volunteers.
Gotcha restarted this year for 4-6th graders. There are different programs over the year. There is no children's ministry lead at the moment. Please volunteer.

Call Committee Update

Kelly Johnson

The call committee started in October 2009. Pastor Lori helped them with what they needed to do. They organized several small congregational group meetings, surveys, and compiled the congregational profile. The profile was sent to the Synod in September 2010. Shortly after they received the first candidates. Randy prescreened them. The committee interviewed 2 candidates and met them over a weekend, had dinner together, toured Bethel and showed them the area. The call committee visited the favorite candidate's congregation. Then they met again with the candidate. The call committee is presenting Rev. Gabriela Schroeder, called Gabi, from Kiel, Germany, for call as our associate pastor. There will be a meet and greet for the congregation and staff. Gabi has a strong background in theology, is interested in small groups, children, innovation and creativity. She is Pastor since 2005 in South San Francisco, has worked as hospital chaplain before that. She is married and has 2 daughters (ages 10,5). She studied theology in Berlin, Heidelberg, and Jerusalem. She has a doctorate in church history. Mary Thomas thanked all members of the call committee for their efforts and the huge amount of time required (~100 hours).

Council Update

Mary Thomas

Mary thanked all council, committee, ministry members, and staff. She talked about the accomplishments of the council during the last year:

- Finalized council position descriptions.
- Approved profile for pastoral call,
- Reviewed Synod's compensation guidelines package,
- Approved implementing Healthy Start.
- Ministry Faire
- Began updating Ministry descriptions, re-organization of sub-ministries. Generic ministry lead position finalized.
Need to wait for Adult Ministry Coordinator & Ministry Liaison positions to be filled for further work in this area to continue.

- Approved trial of joining West Valley Presbyterian's 5th Sunday Service Program
- Brainstormed ideas to consider for long-term planning by considering two questions:
How can we better reach out & serve the community around us? What would you like to change at Bethel?

Other Updates

Mary Thomas

Good Shepherd, rental agreement is going well.

Stelling Site

Initial candidate for Asian Ministry position withdrew. Pastor Randy is working with Synod to identify other candidates for this ministry. Site needs some substantive remodeling, e.g. bathrooms.

Audit Committee has met but their report is not finalized yet. No concerns have been identified thus far.

Web Site Remodel, work continues, thanks to all committee members.

Third Service put on hold until new Associate Pastor is on staff.

Adult Ministry Coordinator, part-time paid position to facilitate coordination between ministries and staff. There were several candidates. Mary announced that Patricia Myerholtz was selected. Welcome!

Wedding coordinator, is a new position that will be financed by funds from weddings; the coordinator will assist wedding parties in planning.

Next steps: Fill remaining open positions

Financial Update

Dave Tribby

Dave showed a graph of our weekly giving trends, showing budget and actual giving. Peak in December. Income: 790K general fund budgeted, on Jan 31, 2011 we were 8.5K (2.4%) under budget.

Expenses: 811K (more because of school reimbursements) cash expenses budgeted for year. As of Dec 31, 201 we were \$7.5K (2.9%) over budget.

Thank you for your support!

Bethel Lutheran School Update

Joan Christensen

After 2 years of decreasing enrollment, this year enrollment has increased. Younger grades increasing more, working on retention. School is working on marketing, word of mouth, inviting people to come on tours. Open enrollment begins the end of February.

Annual fund: purchased new playground equipment and curriculum for classes.

Bethel Leadership Membership

Mary Thomas

Current status of ministry leads

Building & Grounds: Tom Cole & August Colandrea

Children's Ministry : vacant

Congregational Life: Patrice Sera & Sharon Parady

Discipleship: Dave Denny & ?

Mission Outreach: Lois Brouillette & Dale Jones

Stewardship: Angela Brown & Chris Freckman

Worship & Music: Tom McAvoy & Brian Schutte

Youth: Marianne Nadell & ?

Transitional to New Council

Mary thanked the out-going council members: Vern Bollesen, Alan Radig, Dave Tribby. She also thanked those remaining on the Council: Hella Bluhm-Stieber and Joan Christensen.

New Council Candidates

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| HR Advisor | Donna Kuester |
| Member-at-large | Mary Thomas |
| | Vacant |
| Ministry Team Liaison | Molly Schrey |
| Project Mgmt Advisor | Bill Weberg |
| President Elect | Rick Westwick |
| President | Mark Evashenk |
| Treasurer | Vacant |

There was a motion to accept the slate of candidates. The motion was second. There was anonymous approval for slate.

Interim Associates Pastor's Report

Lori Eickmann

It was a good process to work through the call for a new minister.

It started with hopes and dreams in December 2009. What is the church of the 21st century? There was a leadership retreat in Spring 2010.

There were two congregation-wide events last summer. There was strong concensus to build on our strengths: school youth, Bible study, music. We want to work more on new ways to bring people in, how to better serve our community.

Randy developed the pastoral challenge to bring us forward. Another retreat and task force was created, and developed the "Living our Faith campaign".

Lori noticed that we are willing to engage in discussions on difficult issues, e.g. Human Sexuality issue and Female images of God in scriptures.

She is very happy to have done ministry with us and is happy about everything what is going on.

Mary thanked Lori for all her work here.

Opportunities for Service

West Valley Presbyterian 5th Sunday Service

Dale Jones

Last Sunday several Bethel members went to West Valley. For the last 1.5 years WVPC community did service projects in a month that has 5 Sundays. Members start with a 15 minute service at the church and then go out to their assigned project. They had 80% members participate. They do projects in the community, and some projects can be done by families, others by individuals with physical limitations. Examples included: handing out meals in St. James park, collecting cans in neighborhood –(will send them thank you and invitation to church), some cleaned up yard, helped in somebody's home. Other projects involved work with established organizations e.g. Rick went to City Team and served 100 homeless people. This is another way to worship God by serving others. WVPC is inviting Bethel to join them to do this. Jackie Jones will be Bethel's rep on WVPC's planning committee for their next Service Sunday.

Mission Statement Affirmation**Pastor Randy**

Randy read the mission statement.

There was a motion, which was seconded to affirm mission statement.

Living Our Faith Campaign**Pastor Randy & Pastoral Challenge Task Force**

15 month brief review. How can Bethel be more responsive to the multi-cultural multi-ethnic community that surrounds us? There was a Leadership retreat in Oct. 2010. A task force was formed from that. Members: Sam Sudarsanam, Donna Kuester, Rick Westwick, Doreen Baldwin, Tom Hoegel, Pr. Randy.

There is a 2 year emphasis**Sam Sudarsanam**

Year one: Focus on Radical Hospitality

Year two: Focus on Loving Service.

- First step to study “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”
- Leadership retreat on March 5 to explore how all ministries and small groups can implement and expand as “inclusive serving” groups.
- Attend the Synod multi-cultural workshop in Walnut Creek, April 1-2 (Bethel Bus).
- Host a workshop after Easter that focuses on the Asian/Indian cultures.

Next step: year of radical hospitality, starting in May**Donna Kuester**

How can Bethel become more radically hospitable through INVITATION & WELCOME?

- Strengthen our welcome zone.
- Equip everybody, how do we talk to strangers?
- How do we invite them?

Year of loving service:

- Learn more about the needs of this community and explore resources we have to respond.
- Work more closely with area congregations
- Enhance all ministries

Year one: 4 teams:**Rick Westwick**

- Revitalize Welcome Zone
- Committee to explore strengthening relationship between church and school
- Task force to go to community leaders, city leaders... to gather info to needs, concerns...
- Task force to oversee multi-cultural /ethnic events and workshops

Dorothy Meyer Award**Pastor Randy**

Recipient Brad Martinson. Brad was such a help with the electronics of our facility. Brad spent hours and hours of work to help install the new phone system and get it up and running.

Items from the Floor**Mary Thomas**

Rick thanked Mary for all her service to this congregation.

Transition to new Council President

Mary welcomed our new president Mark Evashenk.

Mary Thomas**Opportunities to serve**

Council

Fiscal officer

Member at large

Ministry leads

Pastor Lori closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

San Jose, March 5, 2011

Submitted by

Hella Bluhm-Stieber