

**Minutes from the Congregational Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church
on Sunday, August 26, 2012 (approved)**

Rick Westwick called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. 84 members attended the meeting. A quorum was present.

Opening Devotion

Pastor Gabi opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of February 2012 Meeting Minutes

Rick Westwick

A motion was made and second to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2012 Congregational Meeting. They were approved as written.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Gabi Schroeder

We affirmed the Bethel Mission Statement by reading it together.

Pastor Gabi talked about the core aspects of our baptismal calling & shared ministry: Up, In/Into, and Out.

She talked about the different areas, we have worked on in the past year and the areas we have to work more on:

Worship

Warm & welcoming

Meaningful & relevant

Inspiring & Uplifting

Affirming & prophetic

Beautiful (music, drama, worship environment, etc.)

Acknowledges the diversity among us (age, gender, culture, abilities, worship practices)

Worship as "Hub"(center) of our total life as a congregation (everything else flows from it and should be lifted up during worship as well)

Service

Outwards oriented

Biblical

Stewardship of the earth & God's people

Age-appropriate

Service as a form of worship

Accompaniment/partnership vs. Charity

Promotes spiritual growth/faith development

Evangelism

Evangelism encompasses In-Reach and Out-Reach.

In-Reach (faith development, caring community, reaching out to potentially inactive members)

Out-Reach (bringing the message of God's forgiveness & love to those who need...)

Evangelism is like a pendulum between Outreach and Inreach.

We need to focus more on follow-up with people who went away or who are on the sidelines.

Simple model of Evangelism: awareness (publicity, signage one-on-one, community service, website, school), invitation (appearance, warmth, neatness, greeting, time & talent, relevance), retention (follow-up). This is a circle.

We need more people to join the Evangelism Committee.

Bethel's recent history

Pastor Randy Pabst 2004-2012.

Pastoral challenge 2011-2013, living our faith campaign, 4 committees & task forces.

Year 1: Radical Hospitality, Year 2: Loving Service/iServe

Call process: the council met with pastor Nancy Nelson, Bishop's Associate, from the bishop's office. The council is working on figuring out what kind of pastor we are looking for.

We are looking for an interim minister, but there are many open positions in our synod at the moment, and not enough ministers who are trained as intentional interim ministers.

The council is currently working on a job description for an interim minister. Once this is approved, it will be sent to the synod.

School Board Report

Minnie Sadarsanam

Minnie started in this position in April 2012.

Bethel's school theme phrase and verse is "Go for the goal", from Hebrews 12: 1-2.

Positive enrollment trend

School enrollment is up, close to the numbers from 2 years ago.

15 student class max.

3 yr and 4F (tull-time program) pre are full

2 classes each for JK and KC.

More preschoolers moved to elementary

Upgrades/Additions: Artificial turf, room reallocation, technology enhancements (improved bandwidth), new lunch program, sharing campus with Fusion

Staffing: new preschool director and after school care teacher have been hired.

Marketing 2011-2012: open houses, brochures, banners, tables at local events, Bay Area parent ads, promotional video, working on enhancing website.

Programs

Strong academics including accelerating math by one year

Enrichment programs: art, music, PE, computer class, Spanish

Christian emphasis on: curriculum, behavior/caring, mission work (money, soup can labels, box tops)

Church and school involvement

Attend events

Events: walkathon, Christmas plays, Jump for Heart, Taste of Italy, Track Meet

Volunteer (time and talents sheet)
“Kids First” Annual Fund
Pray

School Board Members:

Marion Abney, Principal
Jenny Edstrom,
Kyle Fujimoto,
Dan Gaardsmoe
Shandi Holder,
Vonny Kleveland,
Minnie Sudarsanam.
Steve Klinger
Pastor Gabi Schroeder

**Fiscal Officer Report/2013 Budget
Current church finances**

Dave Tribby for Dan Gaardsmoe

Dave showed the congregational giving trend for the last 2 years.
Planned giving is below budget by \$65K deficit. The deficit was covered by reducing expenses and by Thrivent Choice funds.
Since Thrivent funds are not guaranteed, they will go towards reserve.

Church finances Sep. 11-July 12:

Spending is below budget by \$30K.
Staff changes reduced salary expense.
Benevolence based on actual giving.
Some ministry projects were put on hold.
Net ordinary income -31K
All expenses cannot be met.
Without depreciation and fee-based events, net ordinary income: \$12K
FY12 depreciation budget is \$78K
Unencumbered assets is 70K for church
Goal is 66K to cover monthly expense

Fiscal Year 2013

Projecting FY'13 Income

Happening now:
FY'12 projected income \$70K under
FY12 expenses \$30K under

Projection

Base expectation \$740K (2012: \$770K)
Challenge \$10K (2012: \$10K)
Total: \$750K (2012: \$780K)

FY'13 Budget: what is changing

Saving anticipated: -45,824
Increases anticipated: 18.656

Gabi gave a prayer.

Adoption of the FY2013 Budget

The 2013 budget was approved unanimously, no nays, no abstentions.

Old Business

Pastor Randy retired on 7/31/2012. We will continue the Living or Faith Campaign.

New Business

Elections for Council

Rick Westwick

President Elect: Hella Bluhm-Stieber

Youth Member at Large: Hannah Lutke

Both positions were approved unanimously.

Open positions

Communications Officer

Evangelism committee members

Endowment committee members

School board secretary

Please contact Pastor Gabi or any council members with suggestions and to volunteer for any of these positions.

Intentional Interim Pastor process status

The council requested an intentional interim pastor from the synod and is finalizing the interim pastor job description.

Pastor call process status

The Council is determining the type of pastor to call that meet the needs of Bethel LCS for the current and future. After that a call committee will be established. We estimate to have the call committee in place in September.

Closing remarks

Rick Westwick

He read Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm.

San Jose, September 10, 2012

Submitted by

Hella Bluhm-Stieber