

## Bethel Lutheran Church Winter Congregational Meeting

February 3, 2013, 11:57 am – 1 pm

Rick Westwick opened the meeting at 11:57 am.

There is a quorum: 97 members signed in.

### Opening Devotion

Pastor Carol Been

If you want to build a ship... Teach them to long for the tremendous width of the sea  
(Antoine de Saint Exupéry)

### Affirmation of the Mission Statement (In, Out, Up)

Pastor Carol Been

### Approval of minutes of the Summer Congregational Meeting Rick Westwick

Bill Hanson made a motion, Donna second. Minutes were approved.

### Interim Lead Pastor report

Pr. Carol Been

Bethel had lots of changes, interim process in August 2009, then again in November 2012. Members feel that we already did this and do not want to do this again. 5 tasks Carol wants to pay attention to: Heritage, Identity, New Leadership, Denomination Connections, New Future.

**4 spiritual questions:** What has formed us? Who are we now? Who is God calling us to be? How are we going to get there? You are calling a lead pastor to join your vision, but the vision needs to be clear. What are our core values?

Our numbers have changed, mainly during the economically difficult times. But we are also about \$40K behind in expected giving. Do we need a new plan?

#### Carol's proposal: Back to Basics:

**A – Active Listening** (Seminar Feb 9 and March 9) Meet, listen and learn – identify core values and stories, what motivates and energizes.

**B – Building up Community** (prayer and vision (40 Days of Prayer Triads – begins Ash Wednesday; dream together (leadership retreat, April 27)

**C – Committing to Your Future** (Stewardship of time and talents (Spring), invite new lead pastor to join you)

### Associate Pastor report

Pr. Gabi Schroeder

Gabi reviewed the different areas that were emphasized in her letter of call. She highlighted two areas:

**Cultural diversity** has an internal and external component. Worship: Missa del Mundo, Fun with Faith classes on Judaism, Indian Christians, and Palestinian Christians.

**Evangelism & Mission Outreach.** We need to follow up with people who are missing or who hurt. Help promote service worship in more ways.

Please see the other reports online.

### School board chair report

Minnie Sudarsanam

Minnie thanked the School Board members: Marion Abney (Principal), Carol Been (Pastor), Gabi Schroeder (Pastor), Jenny Edstrom, Shandi Holder, Kyle Fujimoto, Dan Gaardsmoe (Financial Officer), Steve Klinger, Minnie Sudarsanam (Chair), Rick Westwick (President)

**Minnie read the Mission statement:**

Bethel Lutheran School is a Christian school whose mission is to actively engage students in a strong academic and enrichment curriculum with the goal of developing the fundamental skills and unique talents of each student.

Our experienced staff along with dynamic programs encourage faith development, increased self-confidence, creative expression, and compassion for others.

Minnie referred to the **Bethel Lutheran School Report**, that will be on the Bethel website under the congregational meeting PowerPoint slides.

She thanked Marion Abney and all the staff. She also thanked the congregation for all their prayers and financial contributions.

**Open School Board Positions**

Secretary and for annual fund committee

**President report**

**Rick Westwick**

Rick read the devotion from “Christ In Our Home” for Wednesday, January 30, 2013 from Jeremiah 1:8: Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you. Because God is with you, you can help make the world (and Bethel Lutheran Church) a better place. Please consider participating in a Bethel ministry or committee or in a leadership position.

**Fiscal Officer report**

**Dan Gaardsmoe**

The call process is our strategic plan. Everybody needs to refresh their financial pledge to Bethel. We need to have a clear vision in order to increase our giving. Therefore we are planning a comprehensive stewardship campaign in the Spring.

**Elections**

**Rick Westwick**

President:	Hella Bluhm-Stieber	2013
President Elect:	Mark Evashenk	2013
Communications Officer:	Mary Thomas	2013-14
Fiscal Officer:	Open	2013-14
School Board Chair:	Minnie Sudarsanam	2012-13
Human Relations Rep:	Donna Kuester	2013-14
Youth Member at Large:	Hannah Lutke	8/2012-8/2013
Ministry Liaison:	Open	2013-14
Project Manager:	Open	2013-14
Member at Large:	Open	2013-14
Member at Large:	Open	2013-14

Minnie and Hannah are in the middle of their terms. Hella is automatically becoming president after being president-elect last year. That is why we need to elect only 3 people.

A motion was made to elect Mark as president elect, Mary as communications officer, and Donna as HR Rep. The motion was second. The motion passed.

### **Nominating Committee**

**Rick Westwick**

Liz Barton - Continuing

Sam Sudarsanam - New

Mary Alexander - New

2 remaining appointed positions are open. Rick asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. A motion was made to elect Sam and Mary to the nominating committee. The motion was second, and passed.

### **Audit Committee**

**Rick Westwick**

Tony Stieber: Continuing. The remaining two positions are open.

### **Election of Synod and Parish Assembly delegates**

**Rick Westwick**

Synod Assembly is in May in Fresno, Parish Assembly in the Fall.

### **New Business**

**Rick Westwick**

### **Constitution changes**

**Mary Thomas**

There are many mandatory from the ELCA.

- Designated by ‘\*’ within framework
  - Some are additions
  - Some are clarifying
  - Some are substantive (e.g., process to terminate relationship with ELCA)
- A few changes were developed by Council to enhance relevance of constitution to Bethel
- Changes may be found in Constitution found on Bethel website
    - Mandatory are **red**, Bethel-specific are **green**
  - Specific issues germane to Bethel highlighted in following slides
    - Call process (ELCA change)
    - Member meeting notification
    - School Board By-laws

#### **• \*6.03: Church Affiliation**

- Clarification change
- This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod. These special circumstances are limited either to calling a candidate approved for the roster of ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to contracting for pastoral services with an ordained minister of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion.

#### **• \*C9.07 The Pastoral Office**

- During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation

Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served.

- **C10.03 Congregation Meeting (change developed by the council)**

- Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail to all members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.

The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.

Electronic notice of meetings may be provided rather than notice by regular mail provided that all members are informed in a timely manner.

### **School Board Bylaw Changes**

- The Bethel School Board is a standing committee of Bethel Lutheran Church. The Bethel School Board shall oversee the management of the school to ensure its actions are in congruence consistent with the philosophy and mission of Bethel Lutheran Church.

- **School Board Membership**

- Appointed members may complete their term if there is a change of status during that term, in that they are no longer a member of Bethel Lutheran Church or not the parent of a student enrolled at Bethel Lutheran School.

- **Terms**

- The Chairperson elected at the annual meeting shall serve a term of three two years.

The first set of regular board members appointed subsequent to the adoption of these bylaws shall serve for staggered terms of up to three two years. Subsequently, members as needed shall be appointed each year for terms of three two years.

- Members shall not be eligible to serve more than two three successive full terms.

- **Responsibilities**

- Encourage school families to participate in a faith community.

### **Constitution Changes**

Mary asked if anybody had questions regarding the changes. There were none. If you have questions later please contact Mary or any council members.

There was a motion approve the changes that need to be ratified at our summer meeting.

Donna made a motion to approve, there was a second. Motion passed.

We need to ratify the decision at the next meeting. Changes need to be forwarded to Synod office.

### **Call process status**

Looking for new members for the call com. Synod timeline is at least 10 months.

Working on question to ask the congregation. Will be setting up opportunities for giving input. Surveys, 1 on 1 communication...

### **Call committee: Eric Edstrom**

### **Dorothy Meyer Award**

### **Rick Westwick**

Awarded yearly to a Bethel member that exhibits the Christian ideals and principles in all aspects of their daily life and volunteers and participates in many Bethel ministries and duties.

Congratulations to the 2013 Dorothy Meyer Award winner: Liz Tribby!

The award winner will have her name on the award plaque and \$500 will be donated to the charity/organization of their choice.

**Pastor Gabi and Hella thanked Rick for his service on the council.**

**Passing of the gavel**

**Rick to Hella**

**Closing Prayer**

**Pastor Gabi**

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

San Jose, CA, February 3, 2013

Submitted by

Hella Bluhm-Stieber