

## Bethel Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting February 2, 2014

Meeting called to order at 11:55 AM by President Hella Bluhm-Stieber

Quorum achieved - 80 members present

### Opening prayer

Pr. Gabi Schroeder

Prayer for God's guidance in seeking to discern our role in Bethel

### Affirmation of Mission Statement

Pr. Gabi & members

### Minutes from past congregational meeting (Nov. 3, 2013)

Hella

No corrections; motion to approve minutes made, motion seconded; minutes approved as written

### Associate Pastor Report

Pr. Gabi

Report focuses on five ministry directions identified from small groups' discussions this summer

- Engaging communication
  - Develop ways to facilitate more meaningful means of communication with one another
  - Revising position description of communications specialist so that contact for information dissemination is clear
- Sunday morning
  - Restructured service schedule to accommodate Sunday morning Bible study
  - Over 70 people are participating in "The Story"
- i-Serve
  - Outward ministry
  - Three 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service offerings in 2014 (August 31 excluded due to proximity to Labor Day Retreat)
- Relationship building
  - Way to bring evangelism in; shows others what it's like to live with God
  - Role is being filled via Caring Connections (Pr. Ken Bancroft, Patricia Myerholtz, Stephens Ministers)
    - Aim to reach out to include *all* members
- Children & Families
  - Seek ways to equip parents to raise Christ-centered children
  - Social activities, Mom's meetings, family picnics
  - Establish resources to purchase new children's books, resources in library
- Outward Evangelism opportunity – Service Worship Conference occurs on March 8, Saratoga Federated Church
  - Means to consider new ideas and ways to revitalize worship experience

- [www.serviceworship.org](http://www.serviceworship.org)
- New Caring Connection cards developed – and will replace current cards when supply exhausted
  - In addition to documenting attendance, provide contact information and prayer requests. Members will be asked to identify anyone who appears to be absent for a period of time so that the person can be contacted and support provided as needed

### **School Board Chairperson Report**

Minnie Sudarsanam

- Theme: “Bethel Builders InC” (in Christ); Bible verse Col. 2:6-7
- Recovery from preschool room arson fire ongoing
  - New construction to include enlarging damaged classroom, replace tile and kitchen flooring, relocate storage, washer & dryer, and re-shingle half of Torvend Hall
- Annual Fund: Commemorative Brick Project
  - Annual fund serves as financial means to assist with school programming, facility needs, and scholarship fund
  - Section of walkway between church and school designated to be replaced with bricks
    - Individual bricks can be purchased and engraved as a means of honoring/remembering an individual
    - Ministries also encouraged to purchase bricks
    - Program will be offered annually – plan to replace bricks with engraved bricks over time
- Members of school board acknowledged
- Bethel members, school parents and staff thanked

### **Council President Report**

Hella

- Highlights
  - Despite many challenges, many positives occurred throughout the year
    - A productive leadership retreat was convened where mission goals were drafted (and later finalized by a subgroup)
    - The council was involved in many meetings with the call committee, staff, and Synod
    - The reality of our budget was addressed
      - A consultant was hired from the Alban Institute to assist a council subgroup with develop an appropriate staffing pattern and sustainable budget to support Bethel’s mission
    - Facilitated a highly successful Stewardship campaign
    - Encouraged participation in small group discussions and were involved in the resultant initiatives from those discussions
  - Open positions still remain within council and other committees

## Financial Report

Hella

- Dave Tribby acknowledged for developing the content for the financial update
- We are still in need of a Fiscal Officer
- Recent giving – is much closer to our budget
- General Fund is 0.4% above budget
- Total income received is 1.1% less than budget
- Total expenses are 1.2% under budget. Net income is almost six thousand above budget (excludes depreciation)
- Note that we are not yet paying for a senior pastor position
- Note that we have not yet obtained additional income from renting our sanctuary

## Elections

Hella

- Council
  - Motion made to affirm youth member at large (Mel Brouillette) and ministry liaison (Trish Cunningham); motion seconded; vote carried
  - Motion to approve Robyn Winegardner as member-at-large; motion seconded, vote carried
  - Request for nominations from the floor for fiscal officer and president elect
    - No nominations received; positions remain vacant
- Nominating Committee
  - Two members at this time; three additional members needed
  - Request for nominations from the floor for nominating committee members
    - No nominations received; positions remain vacant
- Audit Committee
  - Motion to approve Kathryn Montano as new member; motion seconded, vote carried
- Synod Assembly
  - Synod requires four lay members from church to attend; two women, two men
  - Two women have volunteered to attend; two men needed to volunteer
  - Request for nominations from the floor for male representatives
    - No nominations received; positions remain vacant

## Dorothy Meyer Award

Hella

- Award given to Bethel member who volunteers and participates in many Bethel ministries and functions while exhibiting Christian ideals and principles in all aspects of daily life
- Award given to Dave Arnold in recognition of his tireless work on maintaining and updating our website, work on designing our current projector and screens in the sanctuary

**Call Committee**

Angela Brown

- Committee consists of 9 members who have been meeting weekly for one year
- Congregation thanked for providing input for ministry site profile via participation in Fireside Chats, small group discussions
- Ministry site profile submitted in December; awaiting list of potential names from synod
- Developing list of interview questions
- Request prayers from members as process continues

**Old Business**

Hella

- Out-going Council members thanked
- Council, Executive Board and Staff acknowledged
- Pr. Gabi acknowledged for her efforts in instilling new life within the congregation
- Staff and Pr. Gabi acknowledged for taking on more responsibility with changes in staffing
- Members thanked for their support
  - Hella thanked Hannah Lutke, first Youth Member-at-Large for her service

**New Business**

Hella

- Passing of virtual gavel to Mark Evashenk as Council President
- Hella's tremendous effort and hard work acknowledged and thanks bestowed

**Closing Prayer**

Pr. Gabi

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM

Submitted by Mary L. Thomas,  
Communications Officer  
February 2, 2014