

Bethel Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting August 24, 2014

Meeting called to order at 12:08 by President Mark Evashenk

Quorum achieved – 89 members recorded

Opening Devotion

Pr. Gabriele Schroeder

I Cor. 1:18 – 30

Most of us work in the corporate setting – we live in the world but are not called to be of the world. We are challenged to live by Christ's standards

Minutes (from previous congregational meeting 2/2/2014)

Mark

No corrections; minutes approved as written

Associate Pastor Report

Pr. Gabi

Report again focuses on five directions of ministry identified from small groups' discussions last summer

- i-Serve
 - Viewed as important to many members
- Worship
 - Sunday morning worship schedule altered to accommodate Sunday morning Bible study/adult education
- Children & Families
 - Need leadership in this area
 - Call committee has identified this as an important area for pastoral call
- Engaging Communication
 - Area to improve upon
 - Need single source for information dissemination
 - Currently much communication is via one-way information dissemination from Bethel leadership to members
 - Blogs or other social media may facilitate conversation among members
- Relationship Building (Evangelism)
 - Forming relationships with others first, then bring to Christ
 - More efforts needed in this area

School Board Chairperson Report

Minnie Sudarsanam

- 50th anniversary theme Mark 10:14
- Enrollment improved for 2014 overall
- - Grades 1-5 (same)
 - Jr K & K (low)
 - Preschool (higher)
 - Includes new 2 year-old preschool program (7 children)
- Marketing efforts improved (new website which is easily accessible on mobile devices, YELP)
- Construction repairs from arson fire complete
- School accreditation process progressing
- Fund raising – Commemorative Brick Project
 - 65 bricks purchased, 16 from various Bethel Ministries
 - Funds will be used for children’s bathroom renovation, new student database software, tuition assistance
- Challenge Robyn Winegardner
 - All Bethel members to participate/attend one BLS activity by 12/31/14

Call Committee Update

Call Committee Members

- Conducted/participated in many venues to obtain good understanding of Bethel’s needs
 - Data used to develop Ministry Site Profile – used by synod to match with data from Rostered Leader Profiles
- Excellent candidate found (whom the Call Committee recommended to call), but declined to pursue due to cost of living in Bay Area
 - Used synod guidance – found amount not sustainable for renting or home purchase
- Ministry Site Profile delineates five areas of vision desired in a senior pastor
 - Preaching/worship
 - Administrative skills
 - Evangelism and mission
 - Recruit and equip leaders
 - Strategic mission planning
 - Experience in growing a church
 - Experience in working with church and school
 - These areas were validated with Synod office to ensure the qualities best match with meeting our needs
- Candidates vetted by call committee, then by Synod
 - Interviews by Skype
 - In-person meeting
 - Confidentiality to protect candidates
 - Nothing in Rostered Leader Profile regarding current/past salary

- Call Committee commissioned to call a lead pastor
 - Council continues to review this decision
 - Current plan is to continue with this commission

Budget for FY 2015

Eric Brown

- FY 2014 update
 - Giving stabilized over current year at \$625,000
 - Spending 17% below budget
 - Giving 6% below budget
 - Church unencumbered assets \$188K
 - Includes net ordinary income surplus of \$82K
- Facility Use income projected to be \$51K
- Budgeted expenses (excluding depreciation) \$751K
- Income (facility use & fee-based events) \$91K
- Net Expenses \$660K
- Projected Giving \$625K
- Net income deficit \$35K
 - Covered with unencumbered assets
- Long term – growth will lead to new income
- Thanks to the congregation for continued financial support

Elections

Mark

- Council
 - Congregation voted to approve President elect (Nick Arnett), Fiscal Officer (Eric Brown), and Youth Member at Large (Leah Thomas)
- Nominating Committee
 - Congregation voted to approve Hella Blumh-Stieber and Jack Wedgewood
- Visual Arts Committee
 - Congregation voted to approve Liz Barton to chair committee
- Remaining vacancies
 - School Board Chair
 - Technical Administration Chair
 - Nominating committee member
 - Endowment committee members (2)
 - Request for nominations from the floor for nominating committee members
 - No nominations received; positions remain vacant

Closing Prayer

Mark

- 1 Peter 4:10

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM

Submitted by Mary L. Thomas,
Communications Officer

August 24, 2014