

Bethel Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting February 1, 2015

Meeting called to order at 12:05 by President Mark Evashenk  
Quorum achieved – 93 members recorded

**Opening Prayer & Comments**

LaVinnia Pearson

LaVinnia thanked Bethel for the ability to serve in a pastoral capacity over the past six months and reminded the congregation of the challenge Pastor Gabi faced as a solo pastor. She acknowledged Pr. Gabi's work at Bethel and reminded the congregation that we should embrace both Pr. Ben and Pr. Gabi as well as the other staff in their future ministry together

**Mission Statement**

Mark & Congregation

Affirmed

**Minutes** (from previous congregational meeting 8/24/2014)

Mark

No corrections; minutes approved as written

**Associate Pastor Report**

Pr. Gabi

Video montage presented highlighting: worship, music ministry, Bethel School, children / youth/families, ministry fairs and guides, discipleship, Labor Day Retreat, Congregational Life, Out 'N About, i Serve

"In Christ's name we gather. In His name we go."

**School Board Chairperson Report**

Minnie Sudarsanam

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Bible verse Mark 10:14
- Theme: Celebrate God's Kingdom
- Highlights
  - Preschool is at capacity (65 children)
  - WASC accreditation in progress (1<sup>st</sup> of 3-year process)
- Opportunities for involvement
  - Purchase a Memorial Brick (last order 4/17/15)
  - Volunteer
  - Attend a school event
  - Pray for the school

- Attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet at Bethel 4/18/15
- Other notes
  - Thanks to those who have participated in the Brick Project and to those who serve on School Board
  - Marion Abney is resigning in June, but will continue to serve as principal until the position is filled
  - Minnie reminded us that as God chose King David to lead because he loved Israel, so he chooses leaders because he loves us

## Financial Update

Eric Brown

- 8/14 report: Giving was 5% below forecast, resulting in resetting planning programs
- December giving was 3.7% above forecast
- Thanks to members for contributing so generously
- Current fiscal year update (9/1 – 12/31/14)
  - General fund: up 3.7%
  - Total income: up 3.6%
  - Total expenses: down 7.3%
  - Net income – cash basis (excluding depreciation): \$28,000 over budget

## Elections

Mark

- Council
  - Congregation voted to approve Communications Officer (Mary Thomas), Ministry Liaison (Marianne Nadell), and Member-at-Large (Dave Tribby)
  - Other positions remaining open: President Elect, School Board Chair, Human Relations Representative, and Project Manager
    - Request for nominations from the floor – none received; positions remain vacant
- Nominating Committee
  - Congregation voted to affirm Hella Bluhm-Stieber and Jack Wedgewood (San Sudarsanam to continue)
- Endowment Fund
  - Congregation voted to approve Margaret Lund and John Lind to serve

Synod Assembly Voting Members (meeting convenes May 29 – 31, Sacramento)

- 4 voting members needed: 2 males, 2 females
  - Nominations requested from the floor – none received
  - Any interested member should contact Pr. Gabi

**Dorothy Meyer Award**

Mark

- Given in honor of Dorothy Meyer to acknowledge the joyful contribution of a member in service to Bethel
- Award given to Greg Myerholtz

**Torvend Hall**

Tom Hoegel

- Video from Tom informing members of an upcoming “TLC” project to update Torvend

**Call Committee Update**

- Video clip from Pr. Ben Bergren voicing his eagerness to join Bethel as and hopes to initially focus on meeting one another and learning the “Bethel way” of executing things

**Thanks Extended**

Mark

- Outgoing Council Members: Trish Cunningham, Donna Kuester, Victor Chinn, Mark Evashenk
- Executive Committee
- All Council and staff
- Bethel Membership
  
- Special acknowledgement of Mark’s contribution awarded

**New President Message**

Nick Arnett

- School attendance increased
- Church attendance stabilized
- Finances improved
- Religion is often a scapegoat for the world’s problems
  - We offer new opportunities
  - “Take your candle and go light the world”
- Invitation to a spiritual challenge
  - Provide an anonymous act of kindness daily for 30 days

**Closing Prayer**

Nick

Meeting adjourned 12:55 PM

Submitted by Mary L. Thomas,  
Communications Officer

8 February, 2015