

Bethel Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting August 23, 2015

Meeting called to order at 12:05 by President Nick Arnett

Quorum achieved – 100 members recorded

Opening Devotion

Pr. Ben

Ephesians 4:11-13

Paul reminds us that the church has a *variety* of functions and that all are needed; individuals within the church need to be different for breadth and depth of service to be realized

Mission Statement

Nick & Congregation

Affirmed

Minutes (from previous congregational meeting 3/1/2015)

Nick

No corrections; minutes approved as written

Lead Pastor Report

Pr. Ben

Pr. Ben affirmed that accepting the call to serve at Bethel was the right call. Activities of the past six months were outlined (cottage meeting with members, heading School Principal search committee, administration and oversight). Work to identify who we are – identify the personality and values of Bethel is in process; it will serve as the foundation in moving forward. Staff were acknowledged for tireless service; volunteers also acknowledged for their work within and outside Bethel.

Pastor of Worship & Discipleship Report

Pr. Gabi

Pr. Gabi clarified her new role. Her primary areas of responsibility focus on: worship planning; adult education (Sunday AM Bible study, Fun with Faith) in collaboration with Kathy Arnold; social justice (liaison to Mission Outreach), pastoral care, and communication (prayer list, e newsletter, Sunday bulletin review, worship screens, liaison with webmaster and face book administrator, brochures & graphics).

School Board Chairperson Report

Minnie Sudarsanam

- School Board members acknowledged
- Bible verse Isaiah 40:31
- Enrollment: Preschool is at capacity (licensed for 80 children), 2 year program also at capacity, 1st grade is low
- Highlights
 - 50th Anniversary celebrations were well attended
 - 28 orders for Memorial Bricks placed (fund raiser)
 - Marion Abney retired as principal
 - Dawn Dubois-Weber hired as principal
 - Opportunities for involvement exist

- Other notes
 - Dawn Dubois-Weber welcomed; extended thanks for support and welcoming her
 - Minnie has served faithfully as School Board Chair for 4 years; please consider serving in this role

Bethel Bus Update

Tom Hoegel

- Bus ministry began in 1985; current bus purchased in 2008
- Typically used every 3 days - ~ 100 times/year
 - youth, Out and About, ministry lead outings, i-Serve Sunday
 - ~ 1000 participants, 44 events, 23.12 average number transported
- Current bus malfunction: motor replacement needed (cost of \$7500, but due to design issues, will likely be continued source of malfunction)
- Current value of bus: ~ \$7500; used motor would cost ~ \$7500; likely resale with new motor ~ \$10,000
- Options: rent (~\$1000/day); lease (\$1200 – 2000/month); purchase \$75,000 used, \$135,000 new
 - Bethel has received a generous donation toward bus replacement
- No decisions to be made at this time, discussion for information only

Bethel Facility Update

Tom Hoegel

- Zoar Hall has drainage problems and significant dry rot in overhang area
- South/West exposures need repainting (entire exterior hasn't been painted since 1988)
 - Cost anticipated: ~ \$20,000
- Other projects (Torvend Hall, Fireside room on hold at this time)
- No decisions to be made at this time, discussion for information only

Financial Update

Eric Brown

- Giving trend is ~ \$620,000; FY 2014 slightly less than expected (\$2,200), FY 2015 anticipated to be \$620,000
- Spending \$13,000 < budget; net income \$10,5000
- Unencumbered assets (\$202,000; aim for \$68,000 minimum)
 - Bethel received a land donation, valued at ~ \$35,000 which will be sold
- Fiscal year 2016 budget changes
 - Including other anticipated revenue (Fusion rental, Thrivent Choice Dollars)
 - 3% COLA for staff
 - Increased salary for children's ministry position (commensurate with workload)
 - Full time position for Pastor Ben, .75 FTE for Pastor Gabi
 - No change to program budget
 - No allowance for Bethel Bus, maintenance
 - Savings
 - Refinance mortgage (\$25,000 savings; no pre-payment penalty)

- New copier lease (\$3000 savings)
 - PBX lease paid (\$2900)
- Anticipated \$654,000 expenses; \$625,000 giving: \$29,000 deficit
- Members brought forward concerns about deferring maintenance, extending life of mortgage
- Proposed budget approved unanimously

Constitution Change

Pr. Gabi

- View communion as means of receiving God's grace; hospitality a key value of Bethel
- Current communion practice is not in concert with our constitution
- Proposed revision:
C.4.03.01. Christ's table is an open table. Therefore, participation in Holy Communion shall be open to all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and who believe that He is truly present in the sacrament.
All children are welcome to the table, and Holy Communion is recommended for all children. To equip families in the faith formation of their children, a Holy Communion class is offered regularly to families who wish to participate.
- Motion to amend constitution approved unanimously

Elections

Nick

- Council
 - Congregation voted to approve Human Resources Officer (Scott Anderson), Young Adult (Leah Thomas)
 - Other positions remaining open: President Elect, School Board Chair, and Project Manager
 - Request for nominations from the floor – none received; positions remain vacant
- Audit Committee
 - Congregation voted to affirm Bill Westmore (San Sudarsanam to continue)

President Message

Nick

Nick discussed the three points of Bethel's mission statement. We are united in our faith of life through Jesus' death for us on the cross. We must prioritize how we are to grow and equip ourselves and others. We need to answer the call to serve independent of our understanding the direction of that call. We are all called for – and equipped – to serve.

Closing Prayer

Pr. Gabi

Meeting adjourned 1:45 PM

Submitted by Mary L. Thomas
Communications Officer

28 August 2015