

Bethel Lutheran Church

Special Congregational Meeting October 9, 2015

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

78 members recorded

**Opening Prayer**

Pr. Ben

**Mission Statement**

Nick

Affirmed

**Constitution Updates**

Pr. Gabi & Mary Thomas

Pr. Gabi described the Model Constitution as a covenant between the ELCA and Bethel. Every two years, a national assembly convenes and in part, updates are made to the model constitution. Those updates are mandatory for all churches to incorporate as part of their covenant with the ELCA.

Mary reminded the membership that the changes (which are too lengthy to view as slides) were posted on the Bethel website. However, they predominately relate to three major areas:

1. The ELCA now approves communicating with church membership via electronic means. This is something Bethel had previously approved via an amendment to our by-laws.
2. Ending a relationship between pastor and congregation beyond death of the pastor. The revised language expands on the description of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or inappropriate actions on the part of the congregation as means by which this relationship may be ended.
3. Discipline of church members (when warranted) is expanded. The most significant change in this area expands steps to be taken at the synod level if needed rather than remain with church council.

Motion to approve the amendments to the Bethel Constitution made and passed unanimously

**President Elect Position**

Nick

Vote to approve Ann Marie Kinitzer as president elect passed unanimously

**Nominating Committee Update**

Sam Sudarsanam

Other positions remain open  
School Board Chair

Project Manager  
President elect-(in January)

Nominating Committee  
Members encouraged to contact Sam or Hella if interested in serving in this capacity

**Capital Campaign**

Nick

Bethel Lutheran School will pay \$27,500 of the needed repairs to Zoar Hall from the school budget  
\$9,000 needed to complete this work; will use the Church Building Fund for this purpose

**Bethel Bus**

Nick, Pastor Ben, Tom Hoegel

- Nick stressed the dual role for a Bethel Bus – fellowship and service; fellowship strengthens us so that we can serve; it also provides easy opportunities to invite others to join in activities
- Our old bus sold for \$5K + \$3K trade in allowance by Grech (despite not taking the bus)  
We have spent \$4500 thus far in rental buses and vans; several events were cancelled due to lack of transportation
- Many options investigated; best option appears to be the purchase of a new bus = \$140,820
- Proposal to purchase a passenger bus via a fundraising campaign to obtain a minimum of 50% total purchase cost plus 12 months payments for financing the remainder owed
- Important to ensure that the membership is committed to this project if passed so that additional FTE reductions will not be necessary if we don't meet our current budget
- No time line for this campaign – the project will not move forward until funds secured
- Proposal approved with two against, none abstaining

**Closing Prayer**

Nick

Meeting adjourned 1PM

Submitted by Mary L. Thomas,  
Communications Officer  
10/13/15

