

Bethel Lutheran Church
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting February 5, 2023

Meeting Minutes	
<p>Members Present: A quorum was confirmed with 85 members signed in. Meeting called to order: 12:00 PM.</p>	
Topic	Discussion and Decisions
Agenda and Opening Prayer	Brett Deutscher reviewed the Bethel Core Values and Agenda. Pastor Ben Sandin led us in prayer.
Approve Meeting Minutes:	Motion to approve the September 11, 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes was seconded and approved.
Pastor's Report: Pr. Ben Sandin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come See Go Be: campaign & future vision. Pastor Ben's focus has been to set the future vision of being an inviting church that is sent into the world. We are investing in our future with dollars, our intentions, and hopes for the future. God is working among us to encourage and provide for what we need in the future. • Community Engagement: widening the circle. Love our neighbor in a way to go out in the community and meet them where they are, on their terms. Be asking, how do I show up in areas where our neighbors are? • Spiritual Growth: deepening our faith. Deepening and strengthening our relation with God both individually and collectively. • Thank you for your partnership: Pastor Ben acknowledge this is the first full year in ministry together. We are doing this together! A Pastor may be called, yet we need everyone to work together in the spirit of partnership.
Capital Campaign Budget Approval (Vote): Brett Deutscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance: Ann Marie Kenitzer reviewed the team members, process and objectives, rationale and the recommended budget and timing for allocating the Capital Campaign funds. • Parsonage: Jamie Laughlin reviewed the Parsonage Team members, goals, search criteria, and next steps for selecting a purchasing parsonage. • Torvend: Brett reviewed on behalf of Tom Hoegel and the Torvend Hall Improvement Team, the members, objectives, project plans and timing of what Installment #1 covers, and the overall total plan for Torvend Improvements. • The following capital campaign budget limits were approved by Congregation vote. 1) Parsonage price upper limit of \$2.0M with guidance go lower if possible, maximum mortgage of \$590K and keep within \$75K/year allocated to Parsonage in Bethel's annual

	<p>budget, 2) Installment #1 of \$480K for Torvend Improvements, and 3) authorizing a short-term loan of up to \$550K.</p>
<p>2022 Ministries Review: Tom Hoegel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the 2022 Annual Report were made available in the Narthex and viewable on Bethel’s website. Also a link was provided in the special eNewsletter the day prior to the meeting. • Tom shared in a video thanking everyone for sharing their gifts. He is blessed to take on the new role and responsibilities with 38 years of service at Bethel. Tom shared that he is blessed to have lay leadership specifically working closely with the Labor Day Retreat team, Out and About, Men of Monday, and Senior High Youth. Big thank you to Rachael Sudarsanam for her energy, inspiration, and leadership with the Youth! • Staff and Ministries continue to serve our congregation and community. All are encouraged to take the opportunity to try a new Ministry in 2023.
<p>Financial Report: Dave Larsen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY’23 Financial Update (Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2022): General fund giving is trending 5.3% below forecast and total income is 4.9% behind. Expenses are ~\$4500 below forecast. • Dave encouraged everyone to continue to send in ongoing operational general fund money as well as the capital campaign commitments.
<p>Approval of New Council Members (vote): Brett Deutscher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brett reviewed and thanked the current Bethel Council. He thanked the nominating committee for their work in finding excellent candidates to serve in open positions. • Prior to the vote, any additional Nominees were solicited from the floor for Executive Committee and Council open positions. • New Executive Committee Officers: The congregation voted to approve Doreen Baldwin as President Elect, Margit Schmitt as Communications Officer, and Dave Tribby as Fiscal Officer. Tony Stieber will transition now from President Elect to President. • New Council Members: The congregation voted to approve the following new Council members: Jenny Edstrom and Ellen Aist as Members At Large, and Lisa Laxson as Ministry Liaison. • The following positions remain open: Project Manager, and Council HR Representative.
<p>Approval of Audit / Nominating Members (vote): Brett Deutscher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Committee: Darrell Kettner will continue as a committee member. The congregation approved new members Jill Burkhart and Jennifer Greene. • Nominating Committee: Robyn Winegardner will continue as a committee member. The congregation approved Brett Deutscher as a new member. • Synod Assembly Representatives: The next Synod Assembly will be held September 15-17 in Burlingame, and will include electing

	a new bishop. Bethel has 2 spots for congregational attendees, 1 Youth attendee, and Pastor Ben. No nominees were identified at this time. Bethel will continue to look for volunteers to attend.
Endowment Update: Ralph Miller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing members are Margit Schmitt, Mariann Jones, Ralph Miller, Robin Kettner. Thanks to Jack Wedgwood for his service! • The Council nominated Dave Larsen for the open term, and he was approved by congregational vote. • The fund balance is down 14% over 2022 due to the market. • Goals for 2023 include bringing a ministry funding proposal to the next congregational meeting, and holding a Trust Planning seminar with an ELCA representative.
Dorothy Meyer Award 2022	The Dorothy Meyer Award for 2022 was presented to Lori Callahan. Tom presented in a video acknowledging Lori as “a living smile.” It is awarded yearly to a Bethel member that exhibits Christian ideals and principles in all aspects of their daily life and participates in many Bethel ministries and duties. The recipient can direct a \$500 donation to the charity of their choice.
Introduce New President: Tony Stieber	Tony thanked Brett for his service over the last few years, leaving things in very good shape. Also thank you to all the outgoing Council members. He is excited to work with Pastor Ben and Fara.
Closing Prayer	Pr. Ben Sandin
Meeting adjourned	1:03 PM

Submitted by: Ann Marie Kenitzer February 5, 2023