

Bethel Lutheran Church
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting August 27, 2023

| Minutes | |
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| Members Present: A quorum was confirmed with 75 members signed in. Meeting called to order: 12:03 PM. | |
| Topic | Discussion and Decisions |
| Agenda and Opening Prayer | Tony Stieber welcomed everyone, reviewed the Bethel Core Values, introduced the Council, and presented the Agenda. Pastor Ben Sandin led us in prayer. |
| Approve Meeting Minutes: | Motion to approve the February 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes and the March 2023 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes was seconded and approved. |
| Pastor's Report: Pr. Ben Sandin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Capital Campaign is still ongoing. We began in Aug/Sept 2022. Financially, our goal was \$1.5 million. Our congregation has held true to our core value of generosity with over \$2m in commitments to the campaign. The support for the future of Bethel has been wonderful. Parsonage renovations have been completed, and Pastor Ben and Kelly moved into the Parsonage on Monday. Pastor Ben provided a quick summary of the Capital Campaign plan: 2022 was for Fundraising, 2023 was for the Parsonage, and 2024 will be for Torvend. ● Engaging the Community is not just evangelism, though that's part of it, but as an organization and as individuals, Pastor Ben wants us to show up and be a community presence. Example, for the last 2 years, Bethel has had a table at the Cupertino Arbor Day festival. Where else can we go? What else can we do? ● Meaningful Connection: For those who have taken the IDI, there are many opportunities to bring our authentic selves to meet others. He asks us to make space and time to connect with new people, not just outside but inside the congregations. ● Growing in Faith: lots of opportunities to do this alone or as part of a group in the coming year. |
| Ministries Report: Lisa Laxson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 60 ministry teams at Bethel ● Worship teams, music, tech, emails, Kid Connection, youth activities, social, educational, food banks, foster kids, mission trips, quilting. ● Lisa thanked all members of ministry teams, and all those who support them. ● Ministry Fair will be held on September 10th. |

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| <p>Facilities Report: Tom Hogel</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ELCA Youth Gathering – after a 6 year break, it’s back. Bethel youth will attend with people from all over the world in New Orleans ● BOOCT Goes South – Bethel Out of Covid Tour 3 – will be attached to the gathering. They will visit a plantation run by descendants of former slaves, then to the MLK memorial and Atlanta. Fundraisers will include Easter Breakfast and the 1-99 board. ● Storm Damage – The first week, one of our 100 ft redwoods came down, and Tom has been working with insurance to replace awnings over the children’s area and fences. ● Parsonage renovations were achieved on time and on budget. Mike Coleman was the lead on that and led the volunteers. ● Torvend Hall upgrades will be happening this year. They will work on bathrooms and auxiliary rooms, and will move into the outdoor space 24-25. Mary put together some beautiful images to help us envision the new look of Torvend. ● We will be getting LED screens for the sanctuary and some Eagle Scouts will be helping with beautification and water wise projects around the property. |
| <p>Endowment Committee: Ralph Miller</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing members are Ralph Miller, Dave Larsen, Mariann Jones, Robin Kettner, and Margit Schmitt. ● The fund balance is 200,000, up 5% from last year ● Goals for 2023 include bringing a ministry funding proposal to the next congregational meeting, and holding a Trust Planning seminar with an ELCA representative. |
| <p>Financial Report: Dave Tribby</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dave described the role of the Finance Committee. ● Ongoing giving to the General Fund – because we were running a little behind giving, we decided not to hire the staff member specializing in outreach. ● Because capital campaign giving was so generous, we are able to pay down our loan earlier than anticipated, saving us some interest fees. ● Although the Capital Campaign helped us to purchase the Parsonage, owning the Parsonage is a cost that belongs in our General Fund. ● We anticipate that by the end of 2025, we will be able to complete all our financial obligations associated with the Capital Campaign. ● Dave talked about last year’s projections vs. this year’s reality of Capital Campaign Spending. ● FY24 assumptions are positive. No predicted changes to congregational giving are expected. Our giving goal is \$720k. Rental income is expected to increase slightly (about \$2500, due to rent increases and the reopening of summer camps \$3000) Interest rates are up, which is good for us. ● Expense assumptions also are increasing (higher cost of utilities and insurance) Our Parsonage expenses are changing (from renting to owning) which will save us about \$28k per year. Bethel staff salaries are increasing (cost of living). Pastor Kelly’s new role |

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| | <p>as pastor at a new church means that they are paying her insurance costs. Overall, the expenses have only changed a little.</p> <p>Total Expenses -\$1052216 Total Income \$1040244 Net Income -\$16972 Dave says he doesn't feel queasy about the deficit because we have sufficient money in reserves, if giving doesn't improve.</p> |
| Adoption of the budget (vote) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget was approved by the congregation. <p>Tony took time to thank Dave Larsen, Fara, Ann Marie, Mary Deutscher and the Finance Committee</p> |
| New Business (vote) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeking a nomination of a Youth Member for the Council • still seeking a nomination for a HR Council Member • The Nominating Committee is seeking additional members. Dianne Stauffer was nominated and elected to the committee. |
| Synod Assembly | Ellen and AJ Aist, Pastor Ben and Tony Stieber will attend the assembly for the election of the new Bishop. |
| Eric Hansen Award 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holly Lofgren – served in the San Jose Family Shelter, worked with At-risk teens, consulted with non-profits, volunteered at Mr. Cross and Habitat for Humanity and Second Harvest Food Bank, and is developing a program for homeless shelter dinners. <p>Tony spoke with Holly, who was surprised and delighted by the nomination. She will donate her \$500 prize to Mt. Cross.</p> |
| Closing Prayer | Pr. Ben Sandin |
| Meeting adjourned | 12:50 PM |

Submitted by: Margit Schmitt, August 27, 2023