

Bethel Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting May 5, 2024

Minutes	
<p>Members Present: A quorum was confirmed with 75 members signed in. Meeting called to order: 11:47 A.M.</p>	
Topic	Discussion and Decisions
Agenda and Opening Prayer	Doreen Baldwin welcomed everyone, and presented the Agenda. Pastor Ben Sandin led us in prayer.
Amend Articles of Incorporation	<p>Dave Tribby reviewed the reasons the Executive Committee recommended a change to Bethel’s articles of incorporation.</p> <p>Bethel holds a Religious Exemption, which allows us to avoid property taxes on property we use for religious purposes.</p> <p>We would like to add a Welfare Exemption, which allows a wider variety of activities that benefit the local community, such as running a food pantry or providing housing to our pastor.</p> <p>The California State Board of Equalization requires two clauses in our articles of incorporation to obtain a Welfare Exemption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irrevocably dedicating assets to a charitable purpose ● Ensuring assets are distributed to a similar organization should we dissolve
Vote	<p>The congregation voted to approve the change to the articles of incorporation at Bethel to include the following wording:</p> <p>Part 1 (which updates the definition of Bethel’s nonprofit status): This Corporation is a nonprofit religious corporation and has all of the powers, duties, authorizations, and responsibilities as provided in the California Religious Corporation Law. Notwithstanding any other provision in these Articles, the Corporation may not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation. Notwithstanding any other provision in these Articles, the Corporation may not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Code.</p> <p>No part of the net income or assets of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private person.</p>

	<p>Part 2 (specific wording required by the state board of equalization): The property owned by this organization/congregation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.</p> <p>Upon liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of this organization/congregation, its assets, remaining after payment or provision of payment of all debts and liabilities of this organization/congregation, shall be distributed to an organization organized and operated for a charitable, scientific, hospital, or religious purpose meeting the requirements of Revenue and Taxation Code Section 214.</p> <p>Q: Is there any issue with potentially selling the parsonage at a future date?</p> <p>A: So long as the profits from the sale do not go to any individual person or company, but remain part of Bethel's organization.</p>
<p>Going Forward:</p>	<p>The amendment has been approved by Bethel's Board of Directors (Executive Committee).</p> <p>After approval by members, it will be filed with the California Secretary of State.</p> <p>Next, we apply to the Board of Equalization for an Organizational Clearance Certificate.</p> <p>Finally, we apply for Welfare Exemptions on the Sanctuary and Parsonage with the Santa Clara County Assessor</p>
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Pr. Ben Sandin</p>
<p>Meeting adjourned</p>	<p>12:01 PM</p>

Submitted by: Margit Schmitt, May 5, 2024