

# **Congregational Meeting Minutes**

## **Bethel Lutheran Church**

### **November 9, 2014**

The annual meeting of the Congregation of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Discipleship Hall at the Church. The meeting took place between the 8:30 and 11:00 Worship services. Approximately one hundred three voting members of the Congregation were present at the beginning of the meeting, which constituted a quorum.

#### **Call to order**

Council President Mike Stanfield called the meeting was called to order at approximately 9:50 am.

#### **Opening prayer**

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with a prayer.

#### **Greeting and Distribution of Ballots**

Ballots for the election of members of Council for 2015 were distributed. Mailings with photographs of each candidate, accompanied by a brief biography of each candidate had been distributed by mail prior to the meeting, to insure that the candidates would be familiar to the Congregation.

#### **Introduction**

- Council candidates  
Council President Mike Stanfield introduced those candidates for council that were present at the meeting.
- Current council members  
Mike Stanfield introduced members of the 2014 Congregational Council.
- Staff  
Mike Stanfield introduced members of the Bethel Staff, and thanked them for their efforts.

#### **Review of Bethel Becoming objectives**

- Youth & Family Faith formation Report  
Bryan Jaster, Director Youth and Family Faith Formation, reported on the activities of his ministry during 2014. Bryan highlighted a seven family faith journey, a youth mission trip to areas of New Jersey rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, retooling of the Middle-School Sunday School program,

preparations for the Lutheran Youth Gathering Detroit in 2015, and other activities.

- Jubilee Team report

Rex Ritchie, Kathy Brown, and Traci Shoberg reported for the Jubilee team. The goal of the Jubilee team is to raise funds to reduce or pay off the mortgage for expansion of the recent additions to the Church building. The program started in November 2013, and will conclude at the end of 2016. The team reported that over \$275,000 has been raised to pay down the mortgage. The initial amount owed was over \$750,000. That has been reduced to about \$479,000. Minimum monthly mortgage payments have been reduced from \$6,255 monthly to \$4,301 monthly. The team also noted that \$35,361 in unpledged funds have been received in addition to funds that were pledged. The team reminded the Congregations that any gifts to the Jubilee fund not only help in the year that they are given, but will continue to reduce the amount the church pays for the life of the loan. Rex Ritchie encouraged the Congregation to consider how much more good work we could do together once we are debt-free.

- Bethel Park update

Cory Carlson reported on the “Bethel Park” project. The gravel walking path has been completed. The first planting of memorial/celebratory trees was completed in early November. Of fifty planned trees, more than thirty were planted. Future plans include clearing over grown brush near that Labyrinth, and adding some gardening space.

- Director of Music Ministry Task Force Report

Tom Beyer reported. In 2014, a team was formed to study the position of Director of Music Ministries, and determine if Bethel would benefit from expanding the position to be full time. The team examined the skills and competencies needed to fill such a position. They reviewed the compensation for various positions in the area that would require similar skill sets. The team concluded that Bethel would benefit from expanding the Director of Music Ministries position, and the George Donavon had the skills necessary to fill the expanded role. The team recommend that Council vote to expand the role, increase the salary from \$21,000 to \$30,000 (with continuation of insurance benefits already in place) and offer the position to George Donovan. Council acted in accordance with that recommendation.

## **Introduction and election of Trustees**

As all three trustee seats for Bethel became vacant during 2014, the Congregation needed to elect three trustees. Council President Mike Stanfield announced that Council nominated and endorsed a slate of candidates made up of Ron Lauck, Sarah Smith, and Gary Nicholas. He introduced the candidates to the Congregation. Pastor Emeritus Conrad Christianson moved that nominations be closed. The motions was seconded, and passed by acclamation. The slate of candidates was approved unanimously by acclamation.

### **Review and approval of 2015 Ministry Spending Plan**

Council Treasurer Traci Shoberg reviewed the proposed Ministry Spending plan for 2015. A summary of the plan had been mailed to the Congregation prior to the meeting. Traci noted that income had exceeded expenses for 2013, income was projected to exceed expenses for 2014, and the plan for 2015 showed income exceeding expenses for 2015. She highlighted areas of increased expenses for 2015, including increased payroll (due to a 3% raise for staff, the expansion of the Director of Youth and Family Faith Formation, and the Director of Music Ministries roles,) as well as support for the youth trip to the Lutheran National Youth Gathering.

Traci opened the floor to questions. Clarification of funds to support the National Youth Gathering was requested. Traci reported that the funds would only pay expenses for adult chaperones. Confirmation that the “emergency fund” was fully funded at \$25,000 was requested. Traci reported that the account still contained \$25,000.

A motion to accept the Ministry Spending plan was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously, by acclamation.

### **Results of Council election**

Council President Mike Stanfield reported the results of the vote for members of the 2015 Congregational Council. Karla King was elected to a second three-year term. Julie Shannabrook and Adrian Pullen were also elected to three-year terms.

### **Other items for discussion**

There were no items for discussion from the floor.

### **Closing prayer**

The meeting was closed with a prayer at approximately 10:30.