

## **Bethel Lutheran Church Council**

### **Minutes**

**August 11, 2021**

A monthly meeting of the Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> in Discipleship Hall at Bethel Lutheran Church. Pastor David Young, Vice President Vonda Wilt, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Mike McKiernan and Beth Garner attended the meeting in person. President John Fredericksen, Lee Braithwaite, Dustie Fisher, and Curt Grymala attended via Zoom.

#### **Call to Order**

Council President John Fredericksen called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

#### **Prayer & Devotion**

Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer, and a brief devotion.

#### **Minutes**

Secretary Bruce Lothrop emailed minutes of the July monthly meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and a special meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup> to all members of Council prior to the meeting. Both sets of minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.

#### **Financial report**

Bookkeeper Kim Williams emailed financial reports to all members of Council prior to the meeting. The report showed income from tithes and offerings totaling \$27,787.61, which was \$5,154.03 less than expected in the ministry spending plan for the month. July expenses totaled \$29,845.90, \$1965.32 less than planned for in the ministry spending plan. In total, expenses exceeded income in July \$5050.20. Including PPL funds received as part of a Covid-19 relief package, Bethel still shows a year-to-date net income of \$15,220.09.

The Treasurer's report was approved, as presented, by acclamation.

#### **Pastor's report**

Pastor Dave submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Highlights included:

- The Celebration marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Bethel's congregation remains on hold, due to a resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA will preach at Bethel in recognition of the anniversary.
- The 2021/2022 confirmation class will proceed, combined with the confirmation class from Trinity Lutheran Church in Stephens City.
- WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) had resumed in August but will not be held going forward. Sometime this fall Wednesday campfire-style worship will be held.
- Pastor Dave has recruited a team to help plan Worship for the fall, and beyond.

## **Board reports**

### **Education Board**

Dustie Fisher had submitted a written report for Education Board, and highlighted certain items. Dustie reported that the resumption of traditional Sunday School is on hold until the spread of Covid-19 abates. When Sunday School can resume, she is planning to introduce a curriculum called "Manna and Mercy". In the interim, fellowship time and service projects will be held in the place of Sunday School, after worship on Sundays. Dustie has met with Mel Siebert, as the middle and high school youth leader. Mel's focus so far has been on events to build connections between the students in the high school and middle school age groups, and to prepare for the Lutheran National Youth Gathering planned for the summer of 2022.

### **Servant Board**

Beth Garner reported for the Servant Board. In June, the Youth and Global Mission Team worked together on a "Virtual Vision Trip" in conjunction with Escuela Integrada in Antigua, Guatemala. Via Zoom, a group visited a class at Escuela Integrada, visited a family in their home, and participated in a Salsa dancing lesson.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, members of Bethel will staff refreshment station to hand out fruit to riders during a bike-a-thon to support CCAP.

Bethel will support Red Wagon Ministries with a diaper drive to help families in need beginning on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ministry Support**

Mike McKiernan reported for the Ministry Support Board. Cliff Crowder has expressed concern about the roof in the older section of Bethel. Council has allocated funds to repair the roof from our existing Line of Credit. Cliff Crowder installed reflective markers on the entrance used by traffic turning left off of 522 North into the Bethel Parking lot to increase visibility at night.

### **Congregational Life**

Curt Grymala reported for the Congregational Life Board. Planning is underway for the Shrimp Boil, to be held from 5-7 pm on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently, the event is planned to be held outdoors. Attendees will receive individual servings, rather than the traditional communal style of serving. The charge will be \$8 per person.

### **Quilting**

Betty Puffinberger reported on the activities of the quilting team. Seven quilts were presented to graduating high school seniors in the Bethel community. Over one hundred quilts will be blessed during worship on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The team is running low on funds, and plans to raffle off one or more quilts in order to purchase supplies. The team has chosen to call themselves “Bethel’s Busy Bee Quilters.”

## **Old Business**

### **Offering procedure**

Prior to the meeting, Betty Puffinberger emailed a proposed procedure for ensuring the offering from weekly worship is safely deposited in the safe in the office. Two people, a member of Council and an usher serving on that Sunday should take the offering and deposit it in the safe after worship. This allows for two people, one of who has been selected by the Congregation as a leader, to verify that funds were properly deposited in the safe. A motion was made to adopt the proposed procedure. The motion passed by acclamation.

Betty also presented a proposed schedule, assigning each member of council a month for which they take responsibility for depositing the offering in the safe. If the member assigned will not be able to perform the task on a given date, that person should find a substitute. The schedule was approved by motion.

## **COVID-19 procedures**

Pastor Dave reported that the members of the Congregation have generally been understanding about the need to return to Discipleship Hall, and the requirement to wear masks for worship and other indoor events. The regular nursery room continues to be used for young children who prefer not to remain in worship.

## **Outside Groups**

Pastor Dave shared a written proposal outlining fees to be charge to non-profit groups not directly associated with Bethel when they use Bethel facilities. The proposed costs are \$50 for two hours for the Kitchen, Underground, Sanctuary, or Discipleship Hall, and \$50 for each additional hour, or \$25 for two hours for a classroom, the library, the Christiansen room or the conference room, and \$25 dollars for each additional hour in those rooms. Additional rules include a ban on alcohol and tobacco in any meetings. The proposal included a draft form that could be used to request use of the spaces.

Classical Cottage School is a special case, and will pay \$275 per week. That amount will include use of the “Upper Bethel”, the Underground, and the nursery. CCS will contract with Patty White for any necessary additional cleaning.

Council discussed whether an explicit limit on the size of meetings was necessary. After discussion, the group agreed that no specific limit was required, but all groups should be small enough to allow for social distancing in the space requested.

Council members agreed that current research shows that known strains of Covid-19 are rarely transmitted by contact with surfaces. Therefore, there is little risk to the Congregation in allowing outside groups to use Bethel facilities. That conclusion could change if other strains of the virus emerge. If that occurs, Council will reconsider use of Bethel facilities by outside groups.

A motion was proposed to allow outside groups to use Bethel facilities at the discretion of Kim Williams and Pastor Dave, in accordance with the policy presented. The motion passed by acclamation.

### **Children's Ministry Coordinator Position**

Pastor Dave had previously shared a proposed job description for the position of coordinator of activities for youth younger than sixth grade. The position would require about 12 hours a week. A pay rate of \$25 per hour was indicated. Pastor Dave proposed considering Heidi David-Young for the position. Pastor Dave left the room to allow council to discuss the proposal candidly.

After discussion Council agreed that Heidi should be interviewed for the position. John Fredericksen as Council President, and Dustie Fisher as chair of the Education Board agreed to conduct the interview. Bruce Lothrop also agreed to participate. Mel Siebert will be asked to participate as well, as she will need to work with the person who ultimately fills the position. A motion was proposed that an interview be conducted with Heidi David-Young for the position of Children's Ministry Coordinator. The interview should be conducted as soon as is convenient. The interviewers will make a recommendation to Council. Council will meet, in a special session if needed to consider the recommendation. The motion passed by acclamation.

### **Organist position**

Music Director George Donovan would like to present a proposal for the position of Organist. The request is not urgent, as we will not have an Organ available for use in Worship until we return to the sanctuary. This issue was tabled until George presents a proposal.

### **Annual Day of Service**

Beth Garner reported that the annual "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service will take place on September 12, 2021. The servant board would like to keep focus on organizations Bethel is already supporting, to avoid spreading resources and attention too thin.

Beth asked for suggestions for projects that could be part of that day. Betty Puffinberger suggested teams could spread mulch in areas of the Bethel grounds where it is needed.

### **New Day progress**

An architect has completed a study of building usage, and presented a case to the county that no additional restrooms are needed at Bethel when

renovations occur. The county is expected to make a formal reply within the next few weeks.

### **Coffee With Council Date**

Members of Council agreed to host “Coffee with Council” after worship the third Sunday of each month, beginning September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business**

### **Music donation**

An anonymous donor has offered to match all donations to the Jones Music Fund, up to \$1000. This offer will be communicated to the Congregation.

### **Insurance**

An insurance agent reached out to Bethel with a proposal to review our insurance, and offer a quote for an alternative plan. Because Council is very satisfied with our current costs and level of service, and because there was concern about volatility in insurance markets, a motion was made to remain with our current provider, and not actively consider alternative options. The motion passed by acclamation.

## **Other New Business**

### **Harvest Sunday Surplus**

Items remaining from Harvest Sunday, as well as surplus t-shirts and other Bethel themed items will be offered for sale after Worship on Sunday.

### **Closing Prayer**

Pastor Dave offered a closing Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 pm.