

CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES
Bethel Lutheran Church
November 08 2015

A meeting of the Congregation of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Sunday November 8th, 2015, in Discipleship Hall, between worship services. The primary purposes of the meeting were to elect members of the 2016 council, and to present the 2016 Ministry Spending Plan to the congregation for approval. Attendance at the meeting was approximately 96 voting members. That exceeded 25% of the total number of voting members in the congregation, and therefore constituted a quorum.

Call to Order

Council President Tom Beyer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:50 am. Tom opened the meeting with a prayer

Introduction of Staff

Council President Tom Beyer introduced all current members of the Bethel Staff, and thanked them for their efforts.

Introduction Ministry Board Chairs

Council President Tom Beyer introduced and thanked the chairs of all Ministry Board.

Introduction of 2015 Council Members

Council President Tom Beyer introduced and thanked members of the 2015 Congregational Council.

Election of Council Members

Three council members were to be elected for the 2016 Council. The nominees were introduced. Tom Beyer asked if there were any other nominations for council. There were no nominations from the floor. Traci Shoberg was re-elected for a second council term. Rose Pierce and Pat Belvins were elected to replace departing members of Council.

Ministry Spending Plan

Council President Tom Beyer made comments regarding the current state of Bethel's finances. He noted that giving for the ministry spending plan was less than had been anticipated, year to date. He also noted that the church received significant giving for projects not included in the Ministry Spending Plan, such as the construction of the Memorial Garden, the trip to the Youth Gathering in Detroit, and support of Doug and Cindy Newell in ongoing medical needs.

Tom encouraged members of the congregation to consider using "Simply Giving" to give through regular, automatic bank or credit card payments.

Jubilee Campaign:

Mike Stanfield and Traci Shoberg reported on the Jubilee campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise funds pay off the loan used to build the new wing of the church building by the end of 2016. So far, well over \$500,000 of debt has been retired. The original debt was about \$780,000.

Detail Plan

Council Treasurer Traci Shoberg presented the 2016 Ministry spending plan. She noted that in 2014, income, primarily from giving, was slightly lower than spending. For 2015 to date, income has been significantly short of spending. As such, the 2016 spending plan had included the minimum amount of spending needed. Total spending for 2015 was projected to be \$528,386.34. Projected income on the spending plan was \$528,428.32. Projected income for 2015 was 524,060.00. Given year do date income, total 2015 income is projected to be \$473,639.63, which would be a significant shortfall. Typically, giving in November and December is very strong, but there is still cause to be concerned about expenses exceeding income. Traci also noted that the church had received about \$112,000 in giving to special projects not under the spending plan.

2015 plan. Traci opened the floor for questions. Questions included:

- Is the emergency reserve fund fully funded? Yes, there is \$25,000 in the designated emergency reserve fund.
- Why is there an increase in the sound system budget for the Sanctuary? Because the equipment is old and in need of replacement. In addition, wireless equipment is not in compliance with FCC rule that will become active in late 2016. The spending plan includes funds to lease new equipment. After review of several options, this was found to be the most cost effective approach.
- Will council continue to provide full financial information to the congregation throughout the year? Council has every intention to do so.
- Are there any major expenses anticipated that are not in the plan? Our HVAC service provider has recommended that the furnace in the old Sunday School wing be replaced. Council is reviewing options for replacement options, and timing for possible replacement. This was not included in the spending plan as it may be put off until 2017.
- Has council considered what cuts could be made if 2017 income is not sufficient to cover spending? Council has discussed what emergency measures could be taken. As the budget has been reduced as much as possible, any additional cuts would be painful, and likely to affect core ministries.

After discussion, the Ministry Spending Plan was passed unanimously by Acclamation.

Youth Mission Trip

Bryan Jaster discussed plans for a youth mission trip to Antigua Guatemala during the summer of 2016. The location was chosen because there is an existing program that works with issues of education and housing for families, which has a strong history of working with youth mission teams. Partnering with this group will provide opportunity for meaningful work and relationship building while providing the support needed for teams of young people. Bryan thanked the Congregation for supporting the trip.

Other Business

Terri Hollingsworth announced plans for a new pictorial directory for 2016. She encouraged members of the congregation to sign up to have photographs taken in December.

Close

Pastor Dave closed the meeting in prayer at approximately 10:30am.