

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
May 10, 2017

The May 2017 meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, in the Council Room, Bethel Lutheran Church, VA.

The following Bethel Council members were in attendance:

Pastor David Young, Worship Board Chair
Tom Milburn, President
Bob Hollingsworth, Vice President
Traci Shoberg, Treasurer
Rose Mangold Pierce, Secretary
Bryan Jaster, Youth and Family Leader
Julie Shanabrook, Servant Board Chair
Trevor Brazelton, Educational Life Board Chair
Pat Blevins, Prayer and Care Board Chair
Dave Griffin, Congregational Life Board Chair
Denise Orndorf, Synod representative new program I the synod...

Devotion

Pastor Dave Young lead devotions focusing on Psalm 117, asking how do we praise God each day, for he is always steadfast and faithful in his love of us.

Call to Order

Tom Milburn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

New Business

1. Approval of April 2017 minutes

As there were no questions regarding April 2017 minutes, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved April minutes with Bob Hollingsworth motioning first and Pat Blevins seconding and all were in favor. The April 2017 Council Minutes are approved.

Reports

1. Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave Young stated that made in-home and hospital visits. He performed four baptisms; 13 new members have joined Bethel and another new member class is starting in July with 10 persons right now.

Pastor Young stated that Bethel will begin our Summer (one service at 10:00 a.m.) worship schedule with the last Sunday in May, the 28th. Four of those Sundays will be outside and all will have a theme: camp service focusing on the 500th anniversary; blessing of animals; harvest Sunday, and blessing senior quilts.

He further stated that he is now focusing on the second piece of Bethel Becoming, a continuation of our Deeper in Faith, Wider in Love, as well as the 500th Luther anniversary celebration, including an Octoberfest as part of the celebration which will take place this fall.

Pastor Young stated that while he is away June 9 -16, Pastor Terry Hannon will fill in for him.

Bethel Memorial Garden Guidelines

Pastor Dave requested a motion for a change of language to Policy 1 of the Bethel Memorial Garden Guidelines as to who can have their ashes buried in the scatter garden. The language of the original policy read: “This Memorial Garden is owned, operated and maintained for use by any member of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, his or her spouse and their children. Requests for non-members must be approved by the Congregational Council.”

The requested language change is as follows: “This Memorial Garden is owned, operated and maintained for use by any member of Bethel Evangelical Church, his or her spouse, their children and their parents. Requests for non-members must be approved by the Congregational Council.”

After discussion and all agreeing, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approve the change in language of Policy 1 of the Bethel Memorial Garden Guidelines, with Dave Griffin motioning first and Trevor Brazelton seconding, and all in favor. The motion to change the language is approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Tom Milburn stated with the additional funds received this month, Bethel is now in a much better financial standing. Discussion continued as to the overall financial health of Bethel with all in agreement that financially we are good right now. All agreed that Tom Milburn will develop a letter providing the congregation with a general mid-year financial update to be mailed out in June.

As there were no further questions regarding the April 2017 Financials, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approve the April's Treasurer's Report with Dave Griffin motioning first and Julie Shanabrook seconding and all were in favor. The April 2017 Treasurer's Report is approved.

3. Youth & Family Ministry Report

Bryan Jaster stated that right now VBS is doing great with lots of children enrolled and stated that leadership is great, but that they could use more people.

He informed council that Cliff Crowder and Dave Shoberg and he inspected the playground and they agree that there are many areas within it that are unsafe because it has not been maintained and therefore, do not believe anyone should be back there. After discussion, it was agreed that signs indicating no admittance to the playground should be put up around it.

Discussion will continue next month as to how to proceed. Pastor Young stated that he will make an announcement that the playground is closed and off limits for everyone due to safety concerns.

He updated council on how well the Lenten GIFT and FAITH 5 programs were received by both adults and children. He and Trevor started discussion on the changing attitudes within the congregation regarding Sunday services programming. He plans to collect Bethel feedback, review it, and begin planning on how to implement these programs throughout Bethel as part of our Sunday program format this September. He added that there will be a planning meeting May 30.

4. Board Reports

Educational Life Board Chair

Trevor Brazelton opened discussion regarding how can we revitalize our small groups. Pastor Young stated that we really need a good coordinator and asked if we know of someone in our congregation who might be willing to take on this mission. Discussion will continue at our next council meeting.

Congregation Feedback

All agreed that there were no Congregation Feedback issues to be discussed.

Old business

1. Abuse Prevention Guidelines

There was no specific update provided.

2. Heating System Update

There was no report this month.

3. Music Ministry Status

There was no report this month.

4. Sabbatical Policy Update

Pastor Young opened discussion regarding approval of the Sabbatical Policy so that it becomes part of Bethel's Policies. After discussion Tom Milburn asked for a motion to approve the Sabbatical Policy with Dave Griffin motioning first and Traci Shoberg seconding and all were in favor. The Sabbatical Policy is approved and will be brought to the congregation. Date to be determined.

5. Sound System Update

There was no report this month.

New Business

1. Synod Assembly Discussion

Tom Milburn stated the Bethel has four representatives attending the Synod Assembly (June 9-11) this year; Tom Milburn, Dave Griffin and Tom and Susie Byer as well as Pastor Dave Young.

Pastor Young explained to council the voting that process for the selection of the new Bishop.

Pastor Young stated that as Bishop James F. Mauney is retiring, he would like to present him a small gift, something that represents Winchester and Bethel. Traci Shoberg and Pastor Young will work on this together.

2. Synod Endowment

Denise Orndorf, a Synod representative from Gravel Springs Lutheran Church spoke to Council regarding a Synod Endowment Program, *Forwarding Faith*, a program to train our young children to be leaders in faith tomorrow. The goal is to have \$2.5 million endowment to ensure the program lives on. Right now, they already have \$2.1 million and are now asking congregations to help raise the remaining funds. She provided a brochure explaining the program. Council indicated our willingness to participate and this will be discussed at our next council meeting. Tom Milburn will work with Denise to obtain all the necessary forms for this.

3. Outdoor Light Pole Update

Charlie Moyer is going forward with project; however, he needs to get final signatures on the contract. Bryan Jaster also stated that the smoke and fire detectors have been inspected and properly notated and all are working. He further stated that Bethel's internet is currently being updated to ensure internet signals are received in all necessary areas within Bethel.

4. Classical Cottage

Pastor Young stated that this is still moving forward with no issues at this time.

Other

Discussion opened regarding the donuts and coffee session this past Sunday. After discussion, it was agreed that council will do this again after a summer service and place it in the Narthex.

Pat Blevins updating council on the quilt projects, adding that she is making a large quilt for the 500th Lutheran Anniversary and hopes to add the Lutheran Rose to its center. She added that she would like to have a quilting frame. Pastor Dave stated that if she hasn't used the quilt budget, there is money there, which she can use. Julie Shanabrook added that she can also request funds from Thrivent Care and stated she will work with Pat to put this request together.

Closing Prayer

Tom Milburn asked if there were any other items for discussion and as there were none, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Pastor Dave lead Council in closing prayer.