

**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Winchester, Virginia
Congregational Meeting
November 13, 2016**

1. The meeting was called to order by Congregation Council President Tom Milburn at approximately 10:50am after a proper quorum was acknowledged.
2. Pastor David Young led the meeting in opening prayer.
3. Pastor Young introduced Congregation Council nominees – Trevor Brazleton, David Griffin, Tom Milburn. An opportunity for additional nominees was requested with none brought forward. Upon proper motion and second, the Congregation unanimously voted by acclamation to elect the three Council members for three-year terms beginning January 2017.
4. Michelle Young, Rachel Carlson and Bill Hall led a discussion of Bethel's proposed Sabbatical Policy. Several questions were asked. Milburn noted that Council supports the policy, learning opportunities will be provided, and the policy will be voted upon at the February 2017 Congregational Meeting.
5. Milburn and Pat Shields led a discussion of Bethel's current financial position and results through October 2016, the proposed 2017 Ministry Spending Plan and the process for estimating annual giving. Total proposed spending totaled \$538,441. Total estimated giving totaled \$486,944. The proposed "faith" giving totaled \$51,497. Discussion ensued about ongoing receipt of estimate of giving cards, the ability to revise estimate cards, and potential spending revisions to reduce the needed "faith" giving. Upon proper motion and second, the Congregation unanimously voted to approve the 2017 Ministry Spending Plan as presented including the \$51,497 needed "faith" giving with the understanding that Congregation Council would continue to request estimate of giving cards and look for ways to reduce the planned spending in order to reduce the "faith" piece.
6. Rex Ritchie provided a brief Jubilee update and thanked the Congregation for the giving to date and reduction in mortgage principal.
7. Pastor Young briefly discussed upcoming events in 2017, including Reformation 500 Celebration, sanctuary visioning, discerning Christian Education for a new generation, beginning of the 2020 Vision process, and planning for Bethel's 2020 anniversary celebration.
8. Pastor Young led the meeting in closing prayer.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.