

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA  
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
January 13, 2017**

The January 2017 meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Friday, January 13, 2017, at the offices of Yount, Hyde & Barbour.

The following Bethel Council members were in attendance:

Pastor David Young, Worship Board Chair  
Tom Milburn, President  
Traci Shoberg, Treasurer  
Rose Mangold Pierce, Secretary  
Pat Blevins, Prayer and Care Board Chair  
Dave Griffin, Congregational Life Board Chair  
Julie Shanabrook, Servant Board Chair

### **Devotion**

Pastor Young lead us in devotions reading from “The Star Didn’t Lead Them To Jesus.”

### **Call to Order**

Tom Milburn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Approval of December 2016 minutes**

As there were no questions regarding December 2016 minutes, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved December’s minutes with Julie Shanabrook motioning first and Traci Shoberg seconding and all were in favor. The December 2016 Council Minutes are approved.

#### **2. Ratification of New Officers and Board Chairs**

Tom Milburn called for the motion to ratify the Election of the 2017 Officers and Board Chairs, with Dave Griffin motioning first and Pat Blevins motioning second with all in approval. The election and ratification of the Bethel’s 2017 Officers and Board is approved. Pastor Young stated that installation of Officers would take place this Sunday, January 15, 2017 at both services.

### **Reports**

#### **1. Pastor’s Report**

Pastor Young reported that Bethel had approximately 600 people between Christmas in the Barn and the Christmas Eve service, and that the average 2016 Sunday attendance was about 232 persons. In addition, the Advent services was approximately 25-30 each Wednesday. He also stated that the implemented Service change is going well, and that Bethel is using a new communion bread recipe. Pat Blevins asked how the Blue Christmas service went and Pastor Young stated that this service was combined with the Advent Service and went well.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Traci Shoberg stated that December 2016 Financials would be sent out the Council Members shortly. She reported that the financials show that Bethel ended the year in the positive, ahead for the year. She reported that we are starting 2017 with all areas fully funded and with our emergency fund at \$25,000. She also reported that the Bethel did receive the Bequest of \$11,000. Use of this Bequest will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Tom Milburn reported that Pat Shields has finalized the Estimate of Giving budget. It appears that the deficit is now at \$40,000. We are still \$19,000 short based on what has been budgeted. Pastor Young stated that the team should schedule another meeting prior to the February Congregational meeting to review the budget and see if there are other areas where cuts can happen. Tom Milburn will set this meeting.

Tom Milburn stated that Bethel's mortgage balance is now \$314,000, saying Bethel's giving has reduced it by \$483,000 which was accomplished in four years. Traci Shoberg asked if Bethel should re-amortize it this year. After discussion, it was agreed that Kim Williams, Bethel's Director of Finance, should call and get all the information regarding re-amortizing and then a decision would be made.

Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved December's Financials' with Dave Griffin motioning first and Julie Shanabrook seconding and all were in favor. The December 2016 Financials' are approved.

## 3. Youth & Family Ministry Report

There was no report this month.

## 4. Board Reports

Pastor Young reported that he met with each of the Board Chairs and provided an overview and discussion of their responsibility area. He stated that the meetings went well.

There were no other Board Reports this month.

## Congregation Feedback

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

## Old business

### 1. Abuse Prevention Guidelines

Council reviewed the draft policy and permission slip sent council members. Discussion ensued regarding 1) Bethel's need of this policy in place now because of insurance requirements and 2) educating Bethel's membership regarding this. Dave Griffin stated that Council should approve the policy as it is, adding in the motion that it be reviewed, updated, and finalized within 90 days. Discussion ensued about who and how the required screening is done. Bryan Jester stated it is a standard background check and right now all of Bethel's staff has this done and the report is reviewed and then placed under lock and key. Pat Blevins asked if the policy would apply to high school students meeting alone. Further

discussion on this policy including any costs involved, and who will be responsible for obtaining the background checks, and a plan on how educating Bethel's staff and membership will take place.

Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved the Sexual Abuse Policy and Annual Permission Slip as it is submitted today and included in the motion that the policy and permission slip will be reviewed, updated, and finalized within 90 days. Dave Griffin motioned first and Julie Shanabrook seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion to approve the Sexual Abuse Policy and Annual Permission Slip as submitted today with the 90-day period to review, update and finalize is approved.

## 2. Heating System Update

There was no report this month.

## 3. Music Ministry Status

Pastor Young updated council on the Music and Choir Director.

## 4. Sabbatical Policy Education Sessions

Pastor Young stated that there will be two Sundays where between services congregational members can meet and discuss with the Sabbatical team any questions they have regarding this policy. He also stated that this will be brought up for discussion during the Congregational Meeting in February. He further stated that he will not be in attendance during this discussion to allow for ease of discussion among the congregation.

## 5. Sound System Update

There was no report this month. This will be held over to next month.

## **New Business**

### **1. Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional**

Pastor Young stated that the pastor from this Mision Christiana Elim Internacional has approached him again to discuss use of Bethel's sanctuary for their Winchester Sunday services for a group of approximately 18-20 people twice a week; Friday evening 7-10 p.m., and Sunday afternoon from 2-5 p.m. Questions ensued as to what would be the fees charged, would they be using our nursery, would they be using our equipment, and how would we ensure Bethel property is not destroyed. Discussion ensued with the all in favor of another meeting between pastors to determine exactly what their needs would be. Pastor Young requested that Bryan Jester be present and Bryan agreed to help with Spanish/English translation. Council is all in favor of allowing use of Bethel's facilities by them.

## **Other**

Tom Milburn stated that the next Council meeting will take place Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

## **Closing Prayer**

Pat Blevins lead us in closing prayer. Tom Milburn asked if there were any other items for discussion and as there were none, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.