

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**February 15, 2017**

The February 2017 meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, in the council room at the church.

The following Bethel Council members were in attendance:

Pastor David Young, Worship Board Chair  
Tom Milburn, President  
Rose Mangold Pierce, Secretary  
Dave Griffin, Congregational Life Board Chair  
Julie Shanabrook, Servant Board Chair  
Adrian Pullen, Ministry Support Board Chair

### **Devotion**

Pastor Young opened the 2017 Council calendar year with the renewal of our baptismal vows and holy communion in the church sanctuary.

### **Call to Order**

Tom Milburn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:25 p.m.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Approval of January 2017 minutes**

As there were no questions regarding January 2017 minutes, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved December's minutes with Dave Griffin motioning first and Bob Hollingsworth seconding and all were in favor. The January 2017 Council Minutes are approved.

### **Reports**

#### **1. Pastor's Report**

Pastor Dave Young stated that made in-home and hospital visits. My home visitation team has been doing a great job of working with our shut-ins as well. He also stated that he was active in visiting with Bethel residents at the Village at Orchard Ridge.

Pastor Dave reported that as of now, there are 20 persons who have signed up to participate in the Germany trip and we have been approached by another church from Texas and if they join, there will be a total of 30 people in the group.

Pastor Dave informed the council that Bethel will host a showing of Rick Steves, Luther and the Reformation, as part of the Luther 500 celebration on Palm Sunday. He stated that Adel Frank has agreed to organize a meal which includes some traditional German foods.

In addition, he stated that he has organized an adult forum yearlong study on Luther and the Reformation.

He reminded council that the Thiel College choir will perform in March, a Lenten theme on the Small Catechism, with special musical performances by Richard Jeric and Aaron Shows.

He added that our LIFT intentional small group program will begin during Lent.

Pastor Dave added that he will be coaching baseball this year and asked council to approve a motion to sponsor the team he will coach. After some discussion, Tom Milburn asked for a motion to approve with Dave Griffin motioning first with Bob Hollingsworth seconding.

The motion to sponsor the team is approved. Pastor Dave will discuss with Kim Williams where the funds for this will come from.

He further added that during the Lenten Season, he has planned a shared Lenten series with the other ELCA pastors in Winchester. He also stated that he has organized a round-robin” preaching schedule and have involvement from the pastors at Grace, Trinity, and the Village at Orchard Ridge.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Tom Milburn reported that Bethel is beginning the year in good financial shape. He also reported to Council that the Bequest was placed into the Jubilee Fund in error and cannot be transferred as it is already part of Bethel’s Financial Record.

Tom Milburn asked for questions regarding the January Financials, and with none, he asked for a motion to approve the January Financials with Adrian Pullen motioning first and Julie Shanabrook seconding and all were in favor. The January 2017 Financials’ are approved.

## 3. Youth & Family Ministry Report

Pastor Dave reported for Bryan Jaster that the Winter Celebration, “Faith is Now,” was wonderful and the kids really enjoyed it. He reported that Bethel’s youth all signed and blessed a new Bible for **Abbie, Holy Moment**. He acknowledged and thanked Molly Beyer and Donna Turrill for their leadership!

Pastor Dave also stated that Izzy McKee and Bryan Jaster are on the planning team this year for 7<sup>th</sup> Day, March 4-5, 2017. He added that most of the kids attending are from families new to youth events. Millie Hawks, Jennifer LaFollette and Kaylie Riggelman serve as adult shepherds.

## 4. Debrief from Annual Congregation Meeting

Tom Milburn provided Council with a review from the Congregational meeting from February 17, 2017. He stated that while there was not a quorum, the meeting and discussion went well. They reviewed Bethel’s proposed Sabbatical Policy with lots of good questions being asked. It was decided that a Q&A sheet would be developed and provided to church members. The Sabbatical Task force will meet again to review and update the proposed Sabbatical Policy for Bethel and report back to Council any changes to be made.

## 5. Bequest

Tom Milburn reported to Council that the Bequest was placed into the Jubilee Fund in error and cannot be transferred as it is already part of Bethel’s Financial Record.

He also added that because it is below the 10% percent threshold, Bethel By-Laws allow Council to decide how this Bequest can be spent. Adrian Pullen stated that the Bequest should be split between updating the sound system and a furnace upgrade. Julie Shanabrook stated that this would be looked upon as a good faith effort to save for these upgrades.

## 6. Board Reports

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

Dave Griffin reported that these are still being reviewed and he will keep Council updated on its progress.

### 2. Heating System Update

There was no report this month.

### 3. Music Ministry Status

Pastor Dave updated council on the Music and Choir Directors, stating the Larry Correll has resigned, however Sue Correll will stay.

### 4. Sabbatical Policy Education Sessions

Council agreed that a Q&A sheet would be developed and provided to Bethel members. The Sabbatical Task force will meet again to review and update the proposed Sabbatical Policy for Bethel and report back to Council any changes to be made.

### 5. Sound System Update

There was no report on this.

## New Business

### 1. Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional

Pastor Dave reported that he did contact them, but he has not heard back. Pastor Dave will keep Council informed when he hears from them.

### 2. Forwarding Faith

Pastor Dave explained to Council what the ELCA VA Endow Youth Ministry is and what they want from Bethel. He stated that every pastor in the synod supports this ministry. ELCA VA Endow Youth Ministry wants to make Bethel aware of what they do and see how Bethel can support them. Tom Milburn agreed to contact them to set up a meeting. He will update Council regarding a meeting date.

## **Other**

Tom Milburn stated that the Executive Team will meet March 1, 2017, at 5:45 p.m. at Bethel and the next Council meeting will take place (after Lenten Service) Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Dave stated that the Later life and Legacy meeting had over 70 people in attendance, not all from Bethel and it was very well received.

Julie Shanabrook opened up discussion regarding mental health support within the Winchester area. Both Pastor Dave and Dave Griffin agreed to make some exploratory calls and see if is an area where Bethel can make a difference to help those in need.

## **Closing Prayer**

Pastor Dave lead Council 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.