

Bethel Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting
February 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by council president Tom Milburn. A quorum was determined to be present.

Pastor Dave opened us in prayer. The congregation was referred to the written annual reports of the Boards. Outgoing council members Bob Hollingsworth and Adrian Pullen were thanked for their service. Present council and staff were introduced and staff was recognized for its committed and diligent work.

The annual report and treasurer's report were reviewed and it was noted that at the end of 2017 our budget was very close to even. All designated funds are fully funded

Discussion was then focused on the generous bequest made by Louise Hostettler. Pastors Dave and Heidi Young related some of Louise's personality and values including her concern for social justice issues, especially as related to youth, and her sense of humor. Pastor Dave said that Louise was a strong woman with a spirit and heart for those on the margins.

A motion was made by Julie Shanabrook that the Louise Hostettler bequest of \$88,000 be distributed as discerned by Council including the following:

\$8800 tithes to synod (10%)

\$8800 tithes to Bethel for operation expenses (10%)

\$4400 Houston National Youth Gathering (5%)

The balance of \$66,000 (75%) to be determined through congregational input via our congregational meeting and Bethel Reforming.

Discussion:

A task force will be set up to explore options more fully. (with the suggestion that this be used for deferred maintenance and infrastructure and upkeep of property, and that the task force include trustees and Cliff Crowder)

Howard Kemnitz suggested that part be used to pay down mortgage.

Rex Ritchie pointed out need for work on the shelter, trees, and other maintenance, as well as mortgage.

Animated discussion was held concerning the funds for the National Youth Gathering. Various opinions were expressed including a discussion of the purpose of the gathering, attempts at fundraising by youth, mission work planned prior to the Gathering, need for scholarships for some students to attend, decrease in contributions made by congregation to support youth program, known time frame between youth gatherings and the need to plan ahead for those 3 years. Bryan Jaster informed us that the cost per student to attend the NYG is \$1350 and that families are to pay one half of this. The fundraising goal for the youth is \$11,500. Other points made included the amount that Bethel gives to youth through world missions but not to our own youth, and the need to recognize supporting youth's spiritual growth as one of our missions. An amendment by Karla King (seconded by Kathleen Griffin) was made that the \$4400 proposed for the National Youth Gathering be instead given to the synod. This amendment did not pass. A second amendment was made by Kathleen Griffin (seconded by Dave Griffin) that of the \$4400 proposed for the National Youth Gathering, \$2200 be given to the NYG and \$2200 to subsequent youth program needs. Kim Williams added that this \$2200 would likely be used for the NYG anyways. Amendment did not pass.

Heidi David-Young proposed an amendment to the original motion as follows: of the \$8800 tithe to synod, \$4400 be directed to Caroline Furnace (presently in need of a \$30,000 waste management system) and the remaining \$4400 to operational budget of the synod. This motion was seconded by Rachel Carlson. Discussion was held including that currently \$12,000 is earmarked for synod, which is \$20,000 less than what Bethel has done in the past, and that Caroline Furnace is a ministry of the synod. This amendment passed unanimously.

The congregation voted that the Louise Hostettler bequest of \$88,000 be distributed as discerned by Council including the following:
\$4400 tithe to synod (5%) and \$4400 (5%) to Caroline Furnace as seed money for a waste management system replacement fund.
\$8800 tithe to Bethel for operation expenses (10%)
\$4400 Houston National Youth Gathering (5%)
The balance of \$66,000 (75%) to be determined through congregational input via our congregational meeting and Bethel Reforming.

Tom Milburn and Terri Hollingsworth presented the upcoming Bethel Reforming cottage visits to discern who we as a congregation are and where we are called to go.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie B Shanabrook