

**Bethel Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting
January 10, 2018, 7:00pm**

In attendance: Pastor David Young, Tom Milburn, Traci Shoberg, Beth Garner, Pat Blevins, David Griffin, and Mike Asmussen.

1. Devotions were led by Pastor David Young in the Sanctuary starting at 7:00pm.
2. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Milburn at 7:20pm.
3. Congregational Council minutes for the December 13, 2017 meeting were approved based on motion by David Griffin and second by Traci Shoberg.
4. Vice President Traci Shoberg presented the December 2017 financial reports (month and year-ended). The report was approved based on motion by David Griffin and second by Mike Asmussen.
5. Pastor Young briefly summarized his December 2017 Pastor's Report that he had previously emailed to the Council.
 - a. He commented on the life and death of Jim Ramey.
 - b. Pastor Young noted that he and Kyle Duff would be attending an introductory event at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. On a motion by David Griffin and second by Traci Shoberg, Council approved paying for Kyle's flight to Columbia in order to show our support and excitement for his interest in attending seminary.
6. Council noted previous receipt by email of the Youth and Family Formation Report from Bryan Jaster. Council also noted that Bryan's comments and thoughts for the upcoming Council Retreat would be discussed at the retreat.
7. Board Reports:
 - a. Council noted previous email receipt of David Griffin's report for Congregational Life.
 - b. Council briefly discussed the Board reporting and chair responsibilities for new Council members.
8. Council discussed the recent receipt of an \$88,000 bequest from the Hostetler estate. Based on the size of the bequest, congregation approval is required before the funds can be used. Council asked about Ms. Hostetler's interests and concerns to better discern how to use her gift. Various ideas for the bequest were preliminarily discussed, including tithing to the Virginia Synod, tithing to Bethel, supporting the Youth's upcoming trip to the National Youth Gathering, seed for an endowment, furnace repair, sound system, and sanctuary renovation. Council agreed that the bequest would be discussed further at the upcoming Council Retreat. At the retreat, Council will develop a recommendation to be voted upon by the congregation at its February annual meeting.
9. Pastor Young and David Griffin gave an update on the preliminary planning for Bethel's strategic planning process, "Bethel Reforming." The planning included preliminary thoughts on planned cottage meetings. Council agreed to follow the process laid out in David Griffin's previous email for the upcoming Council Retreat. Planning for Bethel Reforming will be finalized at the retreat.

10. Council agreed to postpone the Council Retreat to January 19-20, 2018 in order to improve attendance.
11. Discussed concerns regarding locking the church as the building has been found open at various times in recent weeks. Pastor Dave agreed to talk to the Closing Team and have a reminder included in an upcoming bulletin. Council also agreed to invite congregation members that had attended a recent local meeting on church security to a future Council meeting to discuss any relevant issues for Bethel.
12. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Milburn, Council President