

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
October 11, 2017**

The October 2017 meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday 11, 2017, in the Council Room, Bethel Lutheran Church, VA.

The following Bethel Council members were in attendance:

Pastor David Young, Worship Board Chair
Tom Milburn, President
Bob Hollingsworth, Vice President
Traci Shoberg, Treasurer
Rose Mangold Pierce, Secretary
Julie Shanabrook, Servant Board Chair
Trevor Brazelton,
Dave Griffin, Congregational Life Board Chair
Gus Brondos - FCCLA

Devotion

Bryan Jaster lead devotions focusing on the questions from the book Growing Young, which focus on getting young people involved and teaching them leadership skills, and then asking all of us to take time to be involved with youth ensuring them that they are valued and needed.

Call to Order

Tom Milburn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:33 p.m.

New Business

1. Approval of April 2017 minutes

As there were no questions regarding September 2017 minutes, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved September minutes with Dave Griffin motioning first and Trevor Brazelton seconding and all were in favor. The September 2017 Council Minutes are approved.

Reports

1. Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave Young stated that he made in-home and hospital visits.

Pastor Dave stated that the Octoberfest was very well received with everyone having a great time. He thanked Ray Meeker for all he did to make this festival possible. Bethel will do this again, hopefully, next year and planning will begin much sooner.

Pastor Young stated that the pastor program is going well and has been very well received.

Pastor Young informed council that the Adult forum has been doing very well.

Pastor Young announced that Bethel will hold Wednesday evening Holden Evening Prayer Advent worship service again this year as well as making Advent Wreaths with soup only prior to the service.

Pastor Young opened discussion regarding Christmas eve services since it falls on Sunday this year and it was decided that the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services would be shortened to allow the Choir to prepare for Christmas In the Barn and Christmas Eve services.

Bryan Jaster also reminded all that Confirmation will be held on November 29 during the 11:00 a.m. service.

2. Treasurer's Report

Tom Milburn opened discussion regarding Bethel's finances stating Bethel's emergency fund is now at \$8,000, down from \$25,000. He added that a letter to the congregation regarding our financial status will be sent out this week.

a. Ratify re-amortization of Thrivent mortgage

Tom Milburn opened discussion regarding the re-amortization of Bethel's mortgage stating a gift of \$25,000 brought our mortgage is down to \$241,159.74. Kim Williams suggested that for the Congregational Meeting the Mortgage Thermometer should be adjusted to indicate the amount left needed to pay off the mortgage.

As there were no other questions, Tom Milburn asked for a motion to approve the re-amortization of the mortgage with Rose Mangold Pierce motioning first and Bob Hollingsworth seconding and all were in favor. The motion to approve the re-amortization of Bethel's mortgage is approved

b. 2018 Ministry Spending Plan

Tom Milburn opened discussion regarding the 2018 Ministry Spending Plan (MSP) stating it is based on the 2017 MSP with the funds received to date and funds which we believe will be received by end of the year. With this data, Kim Williams and Pat Shield developed three different potential spending plans: 1) Funding everything we would like funded; 2) Funding only those line items Bethel funded this year, and 3) Specifically fund only those line items we believe there will be money for based on the amount we believe will be received. After discussion and review of the three plans, Council agreed to present Column 3 (Proposed Cut Everything Non-Essential along with prior discussed adjustments, to the Congregation during the Congregational Meeting on November 12, (Stewardship Sunday). Pastor Dave stated that with this basic budget spending plan, Bethel would still do all necessary ministry, we will just have to figure out how to accomplish with a different approach.

As there were no other questions, Tom Milburn asked for a motion to approve Column 3, Proposed Cut Everything Non-Essential, with Trevor Brazelton motioning first and Julie Shanabrook seconding and all were in favor. The motion to approve the presentation of Column 3, Proposed Cut Everything Non-Essential to Bethel's congregation is approved.

3. Stewardship Sunday/Congregational Meeting

a. Announcement Letter to Congregation

Tom Milburn asked for a motion to approve the Stewardship Sunday Announcement Letter going out to Congregation with Dave Griffin motioning first and Traci Shoberg motioning second. The Stewardship Sunday Announcement Letter is approved.

b. Discussion Regarding the Date for the November Congregational Meeting/Stewardship Sunday

Pastor Dave opened discussion stating he would like to request that Bethania shorten their presentation or move it to another date as Bethel's Constitution states that Stewardship Sunday must take place the 2nd Sunday in November, which is November 12 this year. The original plan was to have a 2-Sunday meeting; however, this will not work as Pastor Young cannot be here. Both Pat Shield and Kim Williams stated they would have everything ready for November 12. Council agreed that this request will be made to **Rex Richie** Bathenia's representative here at Bethel,

4. Nominations for Open Council Seats

Tom Milburn opened discussion regarding the three council seats that need to be filled for 2018. A tentative list of candidates is being developed and those people will be contacted to discuss their interest in serving on Council.

5. Youth & Family Ministry Report

No report was presented.

6. Board Reports

Congregation Feedback

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

Old business

1. Octoberfest

Members of Council stated that the Octoberfest went well and provided a wonderful time for family and friends to visit and socialize and the children all seemed to have a great time. It was agreed that if Bethel does this again next year, that planning should start earlier.

2. Abuse Prevention Guidelines

There was no specific update provided.

3. Heating System Update

There was no report this month.

4. Music Ministry Status

There was no report this month.

5. Sabbatical Policy Update

Pastor Young stated that the Sabbatical Policy will be on the agenda for a vote by the congregation during the Congregation Meeting on Stewardship Sunday.

6. Bethel Reforming Discussion on Fall Visioning Process

Tom Milburn opened discussion stating that he would very much like to be a part of this and that we need to begin discussion and input on this as soon as possible.

7. Sound System Update

There was no report this month.

8. Forwarding Faith Update

9. Classical Cottage

Pastor Dave and Julie Shanabrook both stated that classes have begun and all is working smoothly now. No further update is needed.

10. Playground Update

There was no report this month

11. Proposal for Bethel courtyard

Pastor Young and Bob Hollingsworth updated Council with the plan to transform the Bethel Courtyard with the plan being to move the existing plants to the Fishbowl area. All are in favor of this idea.

New Business

1. Youth Ministry Intern Policy Discussion

There was no update on this.

2. Trunk or Treat at Bethel

Trevor Brazelton opened discussion suggesting the Bethel have a Trunk or Treat for Bethel's youth this year. All of Council is in favor of this happening and Trevor is pulling this all together.

Other

1. FCCLA

Gus Brondos, representing the FCCLA for James Wood High School provided a wonderful presentation to council regarding the community service work the FCCLA does here locally and across the nation. His goal this year is to find foundation partners to provide grants to help with FCCLA projects, fees, etc. After the presentation and discussion, Tom Milburn called for a motion for Bethel to donate \$500 for the FCCLA, with Traci Shoberg motioning first and Trevor Brazelton seconding with all in favor. The motion to donate \$500 to the FCCLA was approved. (Pastor Dave, do we want to add a note regarding the donation that Traci Shoberg made with the minutes?)

Closing Prayer

Tom Milburn asked if there were any other items for discussion and as there were none, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Pastor Dave lead Council in closing prayer. Our next Council meeting will be November 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Please note that this is a week later than our normal meeting date.