

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
September 13, 2017

The September 2017 meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday 13, 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
Pat Blevins, Prayer and Care Board Chair
Dave Griffin, Congregational Life Board Chair
Ray Meeker, Octoberfest Celebration Update

Devotion

Pastor Dave Young lead devotions with a reading from 2 Corinthians 5:15-18, along with a reading from Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Call to Order

Tom Milburn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

New Business

1. Approval of April 2017 minutes

As there were no questions regarding August 2017 minutes, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved August minutes with Bob Hollingsworth motioning first and Julie Shanabrook seconding and all were in favor. The August 2017 Council Minutes are approved.

Reports

1. Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave Young stated that he made in-home and hospital visits prior to his trip to Germany.

Pastor Young updated Council on preparations for Bethel's Octoberfest (October 7-8) which is part of our 500th Reformation celebration which will be held October 7-8, 2017. (see discussion below)

Pastor Young stated that he has been selected to act as Chaplain for Lost and Found.

2. Treasurer's Report

Tom Milburn advised council that Bethel is approaching a cash flow issue, adding right now all line items are funded. He added the emergency fund has not had to be touched.

However, if giving stays at the same level as August giving, we may have to look at the emergency fund. After discussion, it was agreed that a letter to the congregation should be sent outlining the cash flow issue.

Mr. Milburn added that Bethel did receive a stock gift which had been pre-designated to go to the mortgage fund. Pastor Young stated that Bethel could very well have the mortgage paid off by 2020. He acknowledged and thanked the congregation for this.

Tom Milburn started discussion regarding the 2018 Bethel budget process stating that Kim and Pat Shields have put together a preliminary budget to begin discussions. He stated that there would be a meeting after Sunday services to begin this discussion and asked if anyone wanted to help.

Pat Blevins asked if the funds from the Jolly Crowd were available. Pastor Young stated that he would see if those funds are earmarked. Discussion ensued if we could maybe restart that group.

As there were no further questions regarding the August 2017 Financials, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved August Treasurer's Report with Dave Griffin motioning first and Pat Blevins seconding and all were in favor. The August 2017 Treasurer's Report is approved.

3. Youth & Family Ministry Report

Youth Adventure Day, July 22, 2017. 15 children lead by Will "dancing firefighter Sigler was a great day.

Bethel Camp Week, July 22-Aug 2, 2017. Bryan Jaster serviced as both program director and youth Chaplain. What a great week.

Faith 5 continues to provide caring conversations, discussion of rituals and traditions and acts of devotion and service in the lives of our families.

40-day Journey starts September 9

ECLA Youth Gathering will take place in Houston, TX, 2018. We have 20 youth already signed up and the first group meeting will take place Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Confirmation Day at Camp will take place September 23, 2017 at Caroline Furnace.

MENToring Day is October 1, which will include a day of hiking for teen boys and adult men to spend the day together.

We are adding a new adult disciple group on Wednesdays at 12.

Bright Futures – a Frederick County/Winchester City program, which connects the needs of children with congregations, businesses and schools. A community fair was held which was a great success. Myself and Judy McKiernan are working with Apple Pie Ridge site to connect Bethel with Bright Futures.

4. Board Reports

While there were no board reports this month, Dave Griffin stated that there appears to be lots of good stuff happening with the group. Pastor Young stated that there is lots of discussion among the staff regarding how to get people into a group which would be of interest to individuals.

Congregation Feedback

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

Old business

1. Abuse Prevention Guidelines

There was no specific update provided.

2. Heating System Update

There was no report this month.

3. Music Ministry Status

There was no report this month.

4. Sabbatical Policy Update

The Sabbatical Policy is approved and will be brought to the congregation at the November Congregational Meeting.

5. Sound System Update

Pastor Young stated that he is working on getting an Shenandoah Music student to intern here at Bethel and work with Dave Shoberg on the sound board and all other aspects regarding Bethel's audio equipment. He will update Council at our next meeting.

6. Forwarding Faith Update

This program is funded through the ECLA and Bethel, and will be discussed again at the October Council meeting.

7. Classical Cottage

Julie Shanabrook stated that classes start Thursday, September 22, 2017.

8. Playground Update

Julie Shanabrook updated Council on the work done on the Playground and stated that is open. Discussion ensued regarding the question "is anyone welcome to play here," and Bethel's insurance liability if someone would get hurt. Dave Griffin stated that there is no need for a sign. Bethel's policy is play at your own risk, so Bethel's should be fine if someone gets hurt.

New Business

1. November Congregational Meeting

Tom Milburn updated Council on the upcoming November Congregational meeting with discussion focusing of those council members who are at the end of their terms. Tom Milburn asked each of us to pray about this and let him know if we are willing to serve again. If we need additional council members, we will then need a list of possible candidates by September 30, 2017.

2. Bethel Reforming Discussion on Fall Visioning Process

Pastor Young stated that he will update Council at our October meeting as he is still working on all of this.

3. Youth Ministry Intern Policy Discussion

There was no update on this.

4. Octoberfest Discussion

Pastor Young updated council on plans for Octoberfest, Saturday, October 7, 2017, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He stated that the proceeds from this will be used for Hurricane Relief. He added that several other Lutheran churches will also participate as well. He stated that he has worked with Ray Meeker on ideas for obtaining needed items to make this a success.

Ray Meeker provided Council his ideas for the Octoberfest stated the spreadsheet he did would be given to Pastor Young and Council to review. He stated that a cover charge large enough to ensure the large ticket items are covered would be needed. Discussion ensued as to whether this should be per person or by car. He said this cover charge should not include food. Julie Shanabrook added that we may be able to obtain seed money from Thrivent Financial to cover some of the costs as well.

Discussion ensued as to if we could get people/businesses to sponsor some of the Bounce Houses with Traci Shoberg stating that her Realty firm would be willing to sponsor one and that she would ask Dave Shoberg if his company would sponsor a food truck.

After continued discussion, it was agreed that we will have signup sheets after Sunday Services to solicit congregational help to make this a success. It was also agreed that we need to sell advanced tickets to get a good idea as to how many people will attend, allowing for a food/drink determination.

Pastor Young also stated that he wants to have Frederick Counties largest "Chicken Dance" ever held. He would like to begin around 7:45 p.m. followed by closing prayer.

Pastor Young also stated that our newly installed ECLA Bishop, Bob Humphrey will be here and participate and preach during Sunday Services and our Adult Forum, October 8, 2017, as part of our 500th Reformation Celebration. In addition, Richard Jeric will perform a special concert, "Reformation Recital: German Masterworks."

Other

Bob Hollingsworth opened discussion regarding the Prayer Garden stating that the Germany Group are planning on redoing the Prayer Garden to make it more inviting. In addition, discussion began regarding what can be done with the Water Garden. Additional discussion will take place on this.

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 October 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.