

**Bethel Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting
May 9, 2018**

Council members in attendance: Pastor David Young, Tom Milburn, Traci Shoberg, Rose Mangold Pierce, Pat Blevins, Julie Shanabrook, Beth Garner, Dave Griffin, Mike Asmussen

Devotions The meeting was begun in prayer.

Call to Order 7:05 pm

Business and Reports

1. Approval of April Council Minutes Move to approve Dave Griffin; Second Julie Shanabrook
2. Financial Reports We were \$10,000 over budget for April which balanced out the loss of March. Move to approve Dave Griffin; Second Traci Shoberg
3. Ministry Reports
 - a. Pastor: 6 new members joined in April, another group to join in August.
 - i. Summer Service and Supper Church: combining service, supper/fellowship, and worship for 9 Thursday evenings in July to August. Exs of service component: blessing bags, military letters, etc. (A response to Bethel Reforming's desire for service as well as to facilitate attendance during summer travel months)
 - ii. Summer LIFT groups email sent - only one response thus far
 - iii. Attending Festival of Homiletics in DC in May
 - b. Youth and Family Faith Formation
 - c. Boards - Oktoberfest plans being discussed. Four outdoor worship services this summer (June 3 is camp service with Caroline Furnace followed by potluck and a board chair meeting afterwards)

4. Hostetler bequest/Task Group proposal for approval

Task Force met to discuss how best to use the remaining \$66,000 from the Hostetler Bequest. Two items were determined and chosen to be given to Council for final approval at our May meeting:

- a) Refurbishing the existing Sound System with recommendations from DSL in Hagerstown (they installed present system) (Cost: \$20,491)
- b) Replace the Furnace in the lower Bethel educational area (Cost: \$19,000). ME Flow with whom we have current contract was chosen among a few contractors.
- c) Painting steeple \$5,000 (Mike Cook, painter)

d) Balance is \$21,000 and discussion is ongoing about how to best use. Under consideration is the sanctuary and organ and an offer has been made to match \$10,000 toward mortgage. Also, hallway lights and sanctuary doors are being considered. Committee which will meet again May 21.

Motion to approve Dave Griffin; seconded by Traci Shoberg. Discussion including above points was held and vote was unanimous.

5. Maintenance: Cliff Crowder has asked for regular funds (not the bequest)

a. to replace crash bar and locks for certain exterior doors to make them not only uniform but safer as some doors have been found unlocked as they close differently. \$700

b. Work to gutters and downspouts \$60

Motion to approve Dave Griffin; Second Beth Garner. Discussion was held as above and the vote was unanimous.

6. Consider support for college mission trip to Guatemala: 3 young adults attending and Council voted to fund each adult \$500. (Move to approve Dave Griffin; Second Traci Shoberg)

7. Bethel Reforming: Next phase is communication of findings to the congregation. The board held a lengthy discussion of how best to communicate and move forward with a strategic plan guided by information generated in the cottage meetings. PD distributed the main trends:

TRENDS FROM BETHEL REFORMING COTTAGE MEETINGS

UP (Worship, Prayer and Care)

1. Sound System Upgrade
2. Piano and Organ need to be addressed
3. More worship experiences outside
4. More healing services
5. Involve more people in worship services (i.e. youth involvement, more children's sermons, give "prayers" back to the pray-ers).
6. Desire for worship to be both energetic and sacred. Generally people like the "blend" but there is some desire to consider multiple options for worship.
7. Develop a Children's choir ministry, other music ministry opportunities.

IN (Congregational Life, Learning, Ministry Support)

1. There is a call for organized/facilitated ongoing long term small groups that stay as a small group, rather than gather with different people.
2. More congregational fellowship activities and establishment of a coffee hour/hospitality team (We just added four summer cookout/potlucks at the last Council meeting)
3. Communications. In many ways, we communicate well, but it appears that it could improve in the following ways: provide more advanced notice of topics/events, offer more regular reminders, and offer ongoing personal invitations. There was some strong feedback that worship service announcements should be limited.
4. Offer traditional Sunday school (with some limited Cross+Gen) and offer more than one adult class.
5. Continue and expand the existing special classes and Bible Studies (i.e. more options)
6. Find a way to compile congregational members' interests / spiritual gifts and to share this, and then make personal invitations.
7. Continue to expand the variety of music at services for both instruments and ensemble (also, perhaps a contemporary worship service be offered.)

Out (Servant, Evangelism)

1. Reach out to young people/families
2. Interaction with other local churches, community to see what we can do together. Share the ministry (and not just with Lutherans).
3. Global Missions – keep these going
4. Bethel Congregation – help our members too
5. Do less with more intentional focus

Connecting trends between UP/IN/OUT were identified by Tom Milburn and discussed by Council:

1. Are we a one pastor church? i.e., can one person do enough? PD: most time is spent dealing with people in crisis or with the squeaky wheel.
 PD was asked about what his greatest needs are presently, whether pastoral support or administrative. He will consider what limits his ability to address the issues raised. Synod states that one pastor is supposed to be able to pastor 300 people. Beth Garner asked for PD to think about what he could delegate and

what his needs are. Of note, 126 participated in meetings. We have 500 members and 225 average worshippers.

2. Communication: a reflection of current staffing numbers and abilities
3. Need for personal connections: small groups, mentors, partner matching with similar interests, increasing number of people serving in worship.
4. Do less and do it well, cut the extraneous
5. Spiritual gifts - introduce mentors to the new member class. Assess group dynamics.

Julie commented that the UP/IN/OUT trends are interconnected and interdependent. If you don't spend time in your Bible or considering God's presence in the world, your UP will suffer. And if you don't join in a group, your IN will suffer, and if you don't serve others, your OUT will suffer. Then you will be left wishing that your faith was stronger. The trends should not be considered in isolation but support each other, although different individuals may benefit spiritually more from one path versus another.

It was determined that on May 20, council (Tom) would present the findings. With a wide range of "possibilities" it was considered premature to have congregation members vote on particular actions. Instead we will have 3 stations UP/IN/OUT for discussion about each. Congregation members can choose which group they want to join for discussion, council members facilitate each group.

8. Items tabled until future meetings to allow time for Bethel Reforming:
 - a. Follow up on Safety Team discussions
 - b. Bright Futures

Thank You's and Congregation Concerns

Closing Prayer

June 6 is next Council Meeting 6 pm: Traci Shoberg's home for dinner with meeting to follow