

# **Bethel Lutheran Church Council**

## **Minutes**

**February 10, 2021**

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held by Zoom on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Pastor David Young, Council President John Frederiksen, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Lee Braithwaite, Dustie Fisher, Beth Garner, Curtiss Grymala, Michael McKiernan, and Bookkeeper Kim Williams were present at the meeting. Vice President Vonda Wilt was not able to attend.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:35 pm.

### **Devotion**

John Frederiksen offered a devotion.

### **Minutes of the January Meeting**

Secretary Bruce Lothrop had distributed the minutes of the January meeting to all Council members by email prior to the meeting for review. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented by motion.

### **Financial Report**

Kim Williams distributed financial reports to all Council members by email prior to the meeting. Kim gave a summary of the reports. The reports showed that income for January was \$34,938.49. Income for the month included a one-time gift of nearly \$15,000. Expenses for January were \$34,794.20. Income exceeded expenses by 144.29. Although expenses would have significantly exceeded income without the large gift, Kim noted that giving tends to be weaker in January than other months. She considered the regular giving in January in the expected range.

Kim also reported that the musicians have no preference as to whether they are paid as regular employees, or 1099 employees. For convenience, they will remain 1099 employees for the time being.

The Financial reports were approved as presented by motion.

### **Pastor's report**

Pastor David Young had distributed a written report to all members of Council prior to the meeting. The report included plans for Lenten Worship, including Wednesday Night services on Zoom, "Lent in Plain Sight" daily devotionals, and "Ashes to Go" for Ash Wednesday.

Youth activities were a particular focus in the prior month. Pastor Dave reported that he had attended a virtual Youth Leadership event, that Middle School and High School Zoom meetings will resume shortly, and that Confirmation Class is continuing, with a planned Confirmation date in May.

Four new members have been welcomed into the Bethel Community.

Pastor Dave reported that the Good Samaritan Fund had been used to briefly provide shelter and support to a friend of a member of Bethel who had been evicted.

Pastor Dave also passed on a request to allow space at Bethel to be used as a meeting spot between a child in the Virginia Foster system and the child's biological family. Council agreed that logistics would need to be worked out, in consultation with Patty White. Patty would need to be comfortable with any cleaning arrangements. Council expressed support for the arrangement, pending details being satisfactorily resolved.

## **Board reports**

### **Servant Board**

Beth Garner reported for the Servant Board. The Servant Board is sending care packages to members of the Bethel family who are attending college or serving in the military in recognition of Lent.

Beth also requested permission for a fund raising/support activity for the Global Mission Team, in combination with the Youth. Our original plan for mission trips included a Youth trip to Escuela Integrada in Guatemala in the summer of 2022. Because the Lutheran Youth Gathering has been postponed from 2021 to 2022, this trip will likely need to be moved. Escuela Integrada is offering "Virtual Vision Trips" to supporters who are unable to travel to visit the school. The virtual trip would be two hours long and include a visit to a classroom, a visit to a student's home, and a cultural experience, such as a cooking lesson, dance lesson or language lesson. There is a \$30 donation requested for each screen, and the trip will include 10 or more screens. Beth requested permission to schedule the virtual trip, ideally for late June. In discussion, members of Council noted that younger students, and other members of the Congregation may also be interested in learning more about mission partners in Guatemala. Pastor Dave noted that any students who wished to participate in the virtual trip, but found the \$30 donation to be an obstacle would receive support from Bethel to attend.

A motion was made to allow the Servant Board to proceed with planning for the trip, with full support of Council. The motion passed by acclamation.

### **Bethel New Day initiative**

Pastor Dave and John Frederiksen reported that they are waiting for estimates from general contractor, Brian Shifflett, in regard to the Underground, improvements in the Sanctuary, and other projects. Once costs have been attached to various projects, Council will need to discuss, and determine which projects merit action, and set priorities.

Kim Williams reported that she has discussed financing options with Thrivent Financial. One option would be to refinance Bethel's mortgage with additional funds extracted. That would provide access to about \$300,000 in funding. The new loan would likely be spread over 10 years, and the interest rate would likely be approximately five percent. The advantage of a refinance would be that we would likely receive a lower interest rate. The advantage if using the existing line of credit is that we would need to borrow no more money than needed, and could delay borrowing until the funds are needed. A refinance would need to be approved in a vote of the Congregation.

## **Closing Prayer**

Pastor Dave offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

Adjourned at approximately 8:40.