

Bethel Lutheran Church Council

Minutes

May 5, 2021 7:00 pm

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday May 5th, 2021, by Zoom. Monthly Council meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month. The May meeting was moved forward one week, due to a scheduling conflict with the confirmation class banquet. Pastor David Young, Council President John Fredericksen, Vice President Vonda Wilt, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Curtiss Grymala, Lee Braithwaite, and Dustie Fisher were present at the meeting.

Call to Order

President John Fredericksen called the meeting to order at approximately 7 pm.

Opening Prayer and Devotion

Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer. Vonda Wilt offered a Devotion.

Minutes of the Prior Meeting

Secretary Bruce Lothrop had distributed the minutes of two council meetings held in April to all Council members via email prior to the meeting; a regular monthly meeting was held on April 14th and a special meeting was held on April 28th, to consider plans for indoor worship. The minutes of both April meetings were approved, as presented, by motion.

Financial Report

Because the meeting was held during the first week of May, bookkeeper Kim Williams had not had time to compile full financial reports for all of April. Kim will distribute full reports to council by email when they are complete. Kim's initial review of data from the month of April suggests that giving was strong for the month. Pastor Dave reported that funds were available to purchase a new projector for Discipleship Hall, as approved in the April 28 meeting.

Pastor's report

Pastor Dave reported on his activities since the last monthly Council meeting. Highlights included:

- Pastor Dave participated in his Seminary Alumni Day, including an appearance in a video.
- Pastor Dave communicated to the congregation his request for a grant supporting a summer 2022 sabbatical. Several Council members reported receiving positive feedback in regard to the planned sabbatical.
- The current confirmation class is nearly complete. Three confirmands will be confirmed on May 23rd.

- A new Confirmation class will start in June, with as many as eight students participating.
- A First Communion class is beginning.
- Plans for Youth Ministries are taking shape. The program will be divided into two sections: Those in fifth grade and younger, and those in sixth grade and older
- Members of the Preaching team will preach for on May 9th and 16th.

Board reports

Beth Garner reported for Servant Ministries. Plans are moving forward for a “Virtual Vision Trip” in partnership with Escuela Integrada in Antigua, Guatemala. A date in early June will be set soon. The Virginia Synod is sharing information about “God’s Work, Our Hands”, to be held in September.

Vonda Wilt reported for the Prayer and Care Ministries. The quilting team is working to present quilts to all members of the Bethel Community graduating from High School this year. Quilt kits including pattern and fabric will be given to those who have volunteered to construct the twin-size quilts. The kits will not only simplify the process but also provide a more uniform end product. Quilts would be completed and available for presentation by the end of July.

Lee Braithwaite reported for Worship Ministries. Lee is concerned that items stored for use in worship may not be stored properly, and might be damaged. Lee is particularly concerned about bowls used during foot washing ceremonies. Lee also passed on an expression of appreciation from the AA group that has been meeting at the Bethel shelter during the pandemic.

Betty Puffinberger asked if there were plans for a Bethel yard sale for the summer. There are no clear plans at this point, but an early fall date will be considered. A fall date will allow more time to plan, and indoor activity may be safe by that time. Another option would be to open the yard sale to Bethel member only.

Betty also proposed that children’s sermons be resumed, as we transition in-person worship.

Youth Minister Proposal

Pastor Dave had previously proposed a part time Youth Leader position be created. The position would pay \$15 per hour, for 10 hours per week. The total cost for the remainder of 2021 would be about \$3,900.00. Mel Siebert is the candidate for the position. Mel is enthusiastic about the opportunity. Adding the position would still allow total staff expenses to be less than allotted in the 2021 Ministry Spending Plan because hours for Parish Custodian Patty White, and Nursery Manager Gretchen Mead have been less than planned in 2021. A motion to fund a Youth Leader position at \$15 per hour for 10 hours a week for the remainder

of 2021 passed by acclamation. The position will be included in the 2022 Ministry Spending Plan.

Meeting request

The Reverend Heidi David Young requested a meeting with the Council. John will find an appropriate date for the meeting.

Bethel New Day Initiative

Underground

A ceremony marking the opening of the renovated Underground was held on Sunday May 2nd.

Return to Indoor Worship

When we return to indoor worship, there will be two services, both in Discipleship Hall. The early service will be held at 9:30, with a full ensemble. The late service will be held at 11:30, with George, and a few musicians. Staff is discussing what spaces can be best used for nursery care.

Sanctuary renovations

The team is still waiting for estimates for various parts of the work. The contractor is working with Frederick County officials to determine if updates to restrooms and fire suppression systems will be required to meet ADA requirements and building codes. The primary contractor will be Key Construction. Brian Shifflett (who was the primary contractor in the Underground) will likely be involved.

Other Business

Sara Smith requested use of Discipleship Hall on November 27th. Council approved the request, by motion, pending any change in Covid-19 related restrictions.

Lee and Vonda suggested that Sanctuary renovation include small improvements to the Sacristy. Work should include paint, lighting, a ceiling fan to improve ventilation, and possibly better storage for items used in worship.

Lee has been bringing “First Time Visitor” cards to outdoor worship. He asked if Pastor Dave can announce that they are available, to ensure we meet any needs of new attendees and visitors.

Pastor Dave received a request that “Camp Follow the Leader” be allowed to use Bethel facilities. The camp is sponsored by Valley Health, and serves children with developmental

delays. It is not clear if Valley Health will support the camp this summer, but the director would like to use Bethel facilities, as they have in the past, if the camp is held. A motion to approve the use of Bethel grounds and facilities by “Camp Follow the Leader” was approved by acclamation.

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer at approximately 8:10 pm.