

Bethel Lutheran Church Council

Minutes

June 9, 2021 7:00 pm

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council Bethel Lutheran Church was held on June 9, 2021 in Discipleship Hall at the Church. Pastor David Young, Council President John Fredericksen, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Dustie Fisher, Lee Braithwaite and Bookkeeper Kim Williams attended the meeting in person. Mike McKiernan and Beth Garner joined by via Zoom.

Call to Order

Council President John Fredericksen called to meeting to order at approximately 7:10 pm.

Opening Prayer and Devotion

Pastor Dave opened the meeting with a prayer. John Fredericksen offered a brief devotion.

Minutes of the Prior Meeting

Secretary Bruce Lothrop had distributed minutes of the May Council meeting to all Council members by email prior to the June meeting. The reading of the prior minutes was waived, and the May minutes were approved as presented, by motion.

Financial Reports

Bookkeeper Kim Williams distributed a detailed financial report to all members of Council prior to the meeting. Income for May was \$24,017, \$4,198 less than anticipated in the ministry spending plan. Expenses for May were \$31,945, \$554 less than expected. Over all expenses exceeded income by \$7,927. Kim noted that giving from tithes and offerings has been increasing as the Congregation has been returning to in-person worship. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented, by motion.

Pastor's report

Pastor David Young distributed a written report to all members of Council prior to the meeting. Highlights of the report include:

- As vaccination numbers increase, and Covid-19 infections and deaths decrease dramatically, Sunday worship has transitioned from the outdoor setting, to Discipleship Hall, and finally back into the Sanctuary. Worship will be livestreamed to provide access to all who wish to participate, but are not ready to be in crowded indoor spaces.
- Pastor Dave has restarted Worship on Wednesday (WOW) as an outdoor, camp-style worship as an option for people who are not yet comfortable in indoor group settings.
- Three young members of Bethel were confirmed, after completing confirmation class during the pandemic.
- Two students complete First Communion.

- Ten adult members are participating in an adult Confirmation class.
- Melissa Sibert will work ten hours per week with high-school aged youth.
- Disciple Bible study classes will resume in the fall.
- Bethel will host an interfaith pride service at the end of June in celebration of Pride Month.

Board reports

Lee Braithwaite reported for the Worship Board. We are short of offering envelopes in the pews, and it would be helpful to have them available for worship in the Sanctuary. Kim Williams knows where the envelopes are stored, and will make sure they are replenished.

Betty Puffinberger reported that she and her husband have been doing gardening and yard work on Bethel grounds. Mulch is needed in several areas. Kim will speak to Cliff Crowder about asking Reading Landscaping to mulch. Betty also noted that the fascia board around the roof of the building needs to be painted.

Beth Garner reported for the Servant Board. A Virtual Vision trip with Escuela Integrada has been scheduled for July 2nd, at 3pm. After discussion of how best to provide funds to Escuela Integrada, Council reached a consensus that Escuela Integrada be paid ahead of time from Bethel Youth funds, and participants payments be used to replenish those funds. "God's Work Our Hands" will be held on September 12th.

Beth Garner requested permission to represent Bethel at a booth in the Pride festival. The request was approved by motion.

Betty Puffinberger reported that she and Kathryn Carpenter have been working on a policy for how flowers will be provided for Sunday Worship going forward. While the Congregation was not meeting in person, flowers were not used. Currently, many florists are not delivering. Betty and Kathryn will work to draft a policy for what will be expected of members of Bethel who wish to donate flowers. Key points may include:

- The person providing the flowers should arrange for pick up or delivery
- The person providing the flowers should make arrangements for removal
- The person providing the flowers should inform key personal that they will be providing flowers (Betty/Kathryn and George Donovan)

Betty agreed to draft a policy and propose the policy to Council. Kim Williams agreed to be the primary contact for anyone wishing to provide flowers for Worship.

Pastor Dave reported on office schedule and organization. Kim Williams will be in the office three days each week. She will generally be in in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and one other day. All staff will use either George Donovan or Kim as a point of contact for issues as needed. George and Kim will work directly with Pastor Dave. This will reduce the amount of time Pastor Dave spends on issues that may not require his direct attention.

Pastor Dave reported that Kathryn Carpenter has proposed a yard sale offering only items at Bethel which are no longer needed (no donated items would not be offered for sale, as would be the case in Bethel's typical annual yard sale.). The goal would be to clear unneeded clutter from the church building prior to any major work done as part of the New Day initiative. Council expressed support for the idea. Kathryn and/or Betty Puffinberger will form a more complete plan for review by Council.

Bethel New Day Initiative

An architect will review the building and typical usage to calculate realistic occupancy numbers. Understanding how many people use the church building and how often may allow for requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act to be eased. Specifically, Bethel may be able to avoid the expense of expanding the number of accessible restrooms in the building. Council agreed that it is important to have an appropriate number of accessible facilities so that all visitors feel welcome and comfortable, but the expense of upgrading facilities unnecessarily could be an obstacle to planned improvements. The goal is to have the right number and type of facilities for all Bethel's members and guests.

Betty Puffinberger reported that she and Kathryn Carpenter are considering making a video to highlight need for maintenance and improvements to Bethel's facilities.

Adjournment

The meeting closed with prayer, and was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.