

**Bethel Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting
Minutes
November 14, 2021**

The annual meeting of the Congregation of Bethel Lutheran Church was held in Discipleship Hall after worship on Sunday November 14th. Approximately sixty-five members of the Congregation attended in person, with an additional eight members attending by zoom, constituting a quorum.

Call to Order

Council President John Fredericksen called the meeting to order at approximately 10:45 am.

Opening Prayer.

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with prayer.

Introduction Of Council Members

Council President John Frederickson introduced all members of the 2021 Congregational Council.

President John Fredericksen
Vice President Vonda Wilt
Treasurer Betty Puffinberger
Secretary Bruce Lothrop
Dustie Fisher
Mike McKiernan
Lee Braithwaite
Beth Garner
Curtiss Grymala

Staff Introductions.

John Fredericksen introduced all members of the Bethel staff.

The Reverend Doctor David Young – Pastor
George Donovan – Director of Music
Kim Williams – Office Administrator and Bookkeeper
Kristin Siebert – Parish Communicator
Mel Siebert – Senior High Youth Minister
Patty White – Custodian
Edith McGoff – Parish Nurse
Cliff Crowder- Facilities Manager (Cliff stepped down during 2021.)
Gretchen Meade- Nursery Manage

Election of Council Members

Vice President Vonda Wilt introduced three candidates for Bethel's 2022 Council. Vonda introduced John Fredericksen, as a member of Council who completed his first term, Betty Puffinberger, who had been appointed to complete a partial term on Council as a candidate for her first term, and David Look, as a candidate for his first term on Council. A motion was made, and seconded to approve the slate of candidates without additions or substitutions. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Ministry Spending Plan

Pastor David Young proposed that the 2021 Ministry Spending Plan be extended for the first quarter of 2022. Several projects are being planned for 2022, but the full cost of those projects is not fully known. Extending the 2021 plan would allow Council to form a complete plan for 2022 spending in February, and present that plan to the Congregation at the February Congregational meeting for approval.

Jim Shipp asked why Council had not proposed a spending plan for 2022, with the understanding that it would be amended in February. Pastor Dave replied that unknown expenses would likely cause very radical changes in the plan.

Bert Poling asked for more detail about proposed expenses. Pastor Dave responded that that information would be covered later in the meeting.

A motion to extend the 20201 Ministry Spending Plan was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Statistics and Data

Pastor Dave shared a presentation of important information about Bethel from the prior two years.

Financial Update

In 2020, Bethel income, not including a forgiven PPP loan, exceeded expenses by \$219.65. With the PPP loan, income exceeded expenses by \$45,419.65. To date, in 2021, expenses have exceeded income by \$39,880.41, not including a second forgiven PPP loan. Including income from the loan, expenses have exceeded income by \$4,472.41. The strongest giving of the year is typically during Advent. Therefore, it is likely that 2021 income will be close to 2021 expenses.

The current mortgage balance is \$119,545.63. An additional \$35,613.34 was borrowed to repair and renovate the underground. An additional \$40,000 will be borrowed to repair the roof (which is 30 years old.)

John Gavitt noted that our current financial position has been buoyed by PPP loans. Such loans are unlikely to be available in 2022.

Karen Shipp asked when work would begin on the roof. Pastor Dave replied that work would begin as soon as possible, hopefully prior to the end of the year.

Membership

There are 142 member families at Bethel, with an additional 25 families that attend and contribute, but are not members. There are 264 adult members of Bethel, and 43 children. There are 63 non-member adult “attenders” and five non-member child “attenders.” In total there are 327 adults and 48 children participating in worship and activities at Bethel.

Worship Attendance

During fourteen weeks of virtual worship, Bethel saw an average of 28 “peak views” on Facebook, and 54 unique views on YouTube. Many of those views were likely seen by families watching together, so total number of views is likely double those numbers.

During thirty-one weeks of in person worship viewable online, Bethel averaged 88 people present, 14 “peak views” on Facebook, and 19 unique views on YouTube.

Financial Vision

Bethel needs to consider how to best fund our ministries in the future. Pastor Dave proposed a combination of four income streams:

1. Tithes and offerings.
2. Thrivent financial action teams. Thrivent members and associate members can direct giving from Thrivent Financial.
Barbara Simmons shared information on how to work with Thrivent to fund ministry.
Jim Shipp pointed out that to help balance the budget, Thrivent funds would have to be allocated to items already in the spending plan.
3. Endowment
Bethel has an endowment policy, but no endowment funds.
4. Rental income for facilities use.
Bethel has potential as a wedding venue, or conference center.

Pastor Dave and Darline DeMott are planning a “Bethel Adapting” time of visioning and planning to help develop these income streams and plan the best mix to fund Bethel’s ministry.

Bethel New Day

Pastor Dave introduced Kathryn Carpenter, Betty Puffinberger, and sanctuary renovation team. The team is proposing a four-phase plan to renew Bethel’s worship space, upgrade the building, and perform deferred maintenance.

The four phases of the plan are:

1. Renovations to the Sanctuary, Narthex, Christensen room, and changes to meet ADA requirements restrooms
2. Painting and repairs to the building exterior, and new signs by the road and around the building.
3. Repairs and maintenance to Global Ministry Hall.
4. Replacement of flooring, wall repair, and painting in upper Bethel.

Building Tours

On Nov 21st, Council will host “Coffee with Council.” Anyone interested may tour the building with the Sanctuary Renovation Team, and discuss plans with the team and members of Council.

Additional tours will be conducted on Dec 5th and Dec 12th, after worship. Information about costs will be made available to congregation when estimates are finalized by the contractor.

Lee Braithwaite noted that maintenance has been deferred since construction of new wing of Bethel, and we need to complete that maintenance in order to preserve the value of the building.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with Prayer at approximately 11:40 am.