

Bethel Lutheran Church Council
Minutes
November 10, 2021

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday November 10th in Discipleship Hall at Bethel Lutheran Church. Pastor David Young, Council President John Fredericksen, Vice President Vonda Wilt, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Dustie Fisher, Mike McKiernan, Lee Braithwaite Beth Garner, and Bookkeeper Kim Williams attended the meeting in person. Curt Grymala and Betty Puffinberger attended the meeting by video conference.

Call to Order

President John Fredericksen called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

Opening Prayer

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with Prayer.

Devotion

Dustie Fisher offered a devotion.

Minutes of the October Meeting

The secretary emailed minutes of the October meeting to all members of Council prior to the meeting. Betty Puffinberger suggested some edits to the minutes. The minutes stated that Betty was a candidate for a second term on council. She was actually appointed to complete a term on council, replacing a member who resigned. As such she would be a candidate for her first term at the November Congregational meeting. Betty also noted a misspelling of business name in the minutes.

The minutes, with the proposed corrections, were approved by acclamation.

Financial Report

Bookkeeper Kim Williams emailed financial reports to all members of Council prior to the meeting. Total income in October was \$24,254.04, \$4,391.60 less than anticipated in the Ministry Spending Plan. Total expenses for the month were \$27,158.99, \$3,755.23 less than in the spending plan. Expenses exceeded income by \$2,904.95 for the month. The spending plan anticipated October spending would exceed income by \$2,268.58. Including income from a PPP loan, Bethel expenses year to date have exceeded income by \$4,472.41. The strongest giving of the year expected around Christmas time. Kim reported that the 2021 PPP loan has been forgiven because funds from the load were used to pay employees of the church, and the money replaced funds lost due to the pandemic.

The Financial Report was approved as presented by acclamation.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave emailed a detailed report to all members of Council prior to the meeting.

Highlights included:

- Pastor Dave hosted a "Blessing of the Animals", live, and on Facebook,
- He presided at the memorial service for Carolyn Moyer
- Pastor Dave will offer a course called "Reformation Remix" covering Lutheran history and theology.
- Adult forum is well attended, and topics are schedule through April
- Pastor Dave is working with Mel Siebert on planning for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in the summer of 2022.
- Heidi David-Young is leading and organizing the younger youth activities on a volunteer basis.
- Three new members will be welcomed to Bethel on November 14th.
- Pastor Dave is working with Darline Demott to develop a visioning and planning process as Bethel prepares for a post-pandemic future.
- Pastor Dave is working with George Donovan and Darline Demott to plan the "Christmas in a Barn" service on Christmas Eve.

Board reports

Servant Board

The Global Missions team has changed its name to "Global Ministry Partnerships" to better reflect the team's philosophy of building long-term relationships with groups providing healing, teaching, and support ministries in the developing world.

The Global Ministry Partnerships team requested permission to host the annual "Global Christmas" fundraiser. The activity was approved by acclamation.

Congregational Life

Dustie Fisher and Vonda Wilt shared experiences from the Women's Retreat, held the prior weekend. Jill Baughan was a guest speaker at the retreat, and lead discussion on the topic of "Finding Joy... No Matter What." The retreat was well attended, and very well received by participants.

Worship Board

Lee Braithwaite reported for the Worship Board. Worship Leader George Donovan has requested permission to hire an organist when services return to the Sanctuary in December. This would replace the position vacated by Sue Correll. Kim Williams reported that there are \$2,000 allocated for the position in the 2021 Ministry Spending Plan that has not been spent. That amount should cover the position through March, when Council anticipates presenting a new spending plan. Council members reached a consensus that George may use those funds to pay an organist through March. The position should be considered when the 2022 plan is formed.

Bethel New Day Initiative

The contractor for the project has submitted an estimate to the Sanctuary Renovation Team. The Team has requested a revised estimate, with some elements of the plan altered or removed, in an effort to reduce costs. The team is waiting for the revised estimate.

When the cost estimate is finalized, team members will meet with the Council and the Trustees to review plans, costs, and financing options. Council will then make a recommendation to the Congregation, which will vote to approve or reject the project.

A general outline of the plan will be presented to the Congregation at the annual meeting on November 14th, but detailed discussion will not be encouraged at that time.

The Team will plan to have opportunities for discussion with members of the Congregation starting in December.

The project is planned to take place in four phases, as follows:

1. Sanctuary Renovation and painting and repairs to Lower Bethel.
2. Outside work, including signs, exterior painting and maintenance.
3. Mission Hall and ADA accessibility requirements, if applicable.
4. Upper Bethel improvements, including carpeting in Discipleship Hall, painting, and flooring.

To date, approved spending on roof repairs and HVAC repairs has been delayed in the hopes of reducing cost by including those expenses in financing for the New Day Initiative. With winter approaching, Council expressed concern about further delaying the roof repairs. Kim agreed to move forward with the roof repairs. HVAC repairs will not be critical until warm weather returns in the Spring.

Congregation Meeting

Pastor Dave outlined the agenda for the Congregational meeting on November 14th. Because the cost and financing for the “New Day Initiative” are not known at this time, it is not possible to create an accurate spending plan for 2022. Therefore, Council will propose an extension of the 2021 spending plan through the first quarter of 2022. A complete spending plan will be presented to the Congregation at the February Congregational meeting.

Facility/Service Issues

Betty Puffinberger expressed concerns that Discipleship Hall is not being properly prepared for worship, cleaned up after worship, or secured. Pastor Dave will work with staff and the relevant teams to insure all those activities are carried out each week.

January Council Retreat

Council tentatively scheduled a retreat to start the 2022 Council year on January 7th and 8th.

Other Business

Mel Siebert has been substituting for Kristen Siebert in the office since the beginning of November, and will continue through January. Kristin works an additional job, and is working extended seasonal hours.

Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer, and was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.