

Bethel Lutheran Church Council

Minutes

October 13, 2021

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday October 13, 2021, in Discipleship Hall at the church, with an option to attend by Zoom. Pastor David Young, Council President John Fredericksen, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Lee Braithwaite, Beth Garner, Dustie Fisher, and Bookkeeper Kim Williams attended in person. Vice President Vonda Wilt, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, and Mike McKiernan attended by Zoom.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 pm.

Opening Prayer

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with a prayer.

Devotion

Beth Garner offered a devotion.

Minutes of the September Meeting

Secretary Bruce Lothrop had emailed the minutes of the September meeting to all members of council prior to the meeting. The reading of the minutes was waived, and the September minutes were approved, as presented, by motion.

Financial Report – Kim

Bookkeeper Kim Williams distributed detailed financial reports to all members of Council prior to the meeting. The reports showed income for September as \$22,531.31, \$10,103.02 less than expected in the ministry spending plan. Expenses for September were \$34,053.30, \$1,964.52 more than expected in the spending plan. Income, year to date, including \$35,408.00 in PPP loan funds total \$285,165.86. Year to date expenses total \$286,733.32. Total expenses, year to date exceed income by \$1,567.46. While the pandemic continues to affect giving, The PPP loan has supported income at Bethel at level where expenses can be met. Kim noted that, while monthly income was concerning, year-to-date income is reasonable. The strongest giving comes at the end of each year, around Advent and Christmas. The Financial reports were approved, as presented, by motion.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave provided a Pastor's report, by email, prior to the meeting. Highlights included:

- Confirmation class is continuing.
- A Disciple 2 Bible study class will start shortly.

- A Bible study called “Advent in Plain Sight” will be available during Advent.
- A “New Members” class will be held on October 31st.
- Planning is underway for a Thanksgiving Eve service at Bethel.
- Mel Siebert continues to work with older Youth, and is beginning to plan for the National Lutheran Youth Gather scheduled for the summer of 2022.
- A “Blessing of Costumes” will be held on October 31st. Children will be invited to wear Halloween costumes to church to be blessed.
- Pastor Dave is working with CCAP and members of Bethel to support a program called “FREEDGE.” The name is an amalgam of “Free” and “Fridge”, and offers free fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods to members of the community.
- Kim Williams provided census of members, and active non-members attending Bethel. The census will help with planning.

Board Reports

Servant Board

On behalf of the Servant Board, Beth Garner requested suggestions for Returning Thanks, scheduled for November. Beth would like to focus on inward facing ministry for the event, and so is interested in projects at Bethel. Betty suggested clean within the building in preparation of renovations planned as part of the New Day project.

New business

Bethel New Day Initiative

Bethel has received an initial estimate from Kee Construction for proposed renovations. The estimate includes three phases for the project. Phase I would include renovations in the Sanctuary. Phase II would include Mission Hall, and possible some outdoor work that may be required for accessibility. Phase III would include work in Upper Bethel. Kathryn Carpenter, John Fredericksen, Betty Puffinberger, and Pastor Dave will review the estimate, and determine if any elements may be removed to reduce costs. Those four will make a recommendation to Council. Council will then meet with the Trustees to finalize a recommendation from Council to the Congregation for approval. Kee Construction should be able to begin work within three weeks after a final plan is approved and contracts are signed.

Because of the potential expense, the Ministry Spending Plan will not be complete for approval at the November Congregational meeting. Council will propose a continuation of the 2021 spending plan, through February 2022. A complete spending plan, including funding for renovations will be presented to the Congregation at the Congregational meeting in February 2022 for approval. That plan will cover March 2022 through the end of December 2022, and include any expenses and financing related to the New Day Initiative.

Reconciling Works

Discussion about Bethel becoming a Reconciling Works Congregation has been tabled until January.

Roof/AC Repairs

The Congregation has approved using an existing line of credit to fund work on the roof, and HVAC system. Kim William advised Council that these repairs can wait until funding for the Bethel New Day Initiative is secured. It may be more cost effective to include HVAC and roof repairs in any financing secured for renovations. If the roof and/or HVAC issue become pressing, the work can proceed by using funds from the line of credit.

Other New Business

Council discussed potential candidates for council to be elected at the November Congregational meeting. Both John Fredericksen is completing a first term and Betty Puffinberger is completing a partial term. Both are willing to run. Council members offered several suggestions for possible candidates. John Fredericksen will reach out to potential candidates to gauge interest.

Betty Puffinberger suggested starting a ministry focused on matching people who need rides to church with members who are able to offer rides to others. Some members of the Congregation are not able to drive to worship, and all efforts should be made to allow them to continue participation.

Adjournment

The meeting closed with prayer, and was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.