

Bethel Lutheran Church Council
Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
7:00 pm

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 in Fellowship Hall. Pastor David Young, Council Vice President Vonda Wilt, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, David Frost, Lee Braithwaite, Diane Milburn, and Curt Grymala were present at the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

Opening Prayer

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotion

Betty Puffinberger offered a devotion.

Minutes of March Meeting

Secretary Bruce Lothrop had emailed minutes of the regular meeting on March 9th, and a special meeting on March 27th to all members of Council prior to the meeting. Diane Milburn noted that the title for the Office Administrator was reported in the minutes from March 27th as “Office Assistant”. The minutes of the March 27th meeting were accepted with correction of the job title, by motion. The minutes of the March 9th meeting were accepted as presented, by motion.

Financial Report

Prior to the meeting, bookkeeper Kim Williams emailed detailed financial reports for February and March to all members of Council. Final details for the February report had not been available at the time of the regular March Council meeting. In February, income was \$30,227.13, \$3,629.10 more than planned for in the Ministry Spending Plan. Total expenses were \$34,764, \$2,604.59 more than expected in the spending plan.

In March, income was \$20,357.50, \$13,036.43 less than expected in the spending plan. Total expenses were \$33,636.84, \$397.41 more than budgeted. In email conversation, Kim noted some possible contributing factors for the weak March giving, including:

- Some who normally give to the general fund may have diverted some giving to the New Day initiative.
- Poor weather and low attendance may have dampened giving in early March.

- Some annual giving often received in March was not received until April, and will be included in April financial reports.

Overall, year to date giving is \$3,056.77 behind expected year to date giving in the MSP. Year to date expenses have exceeded budgeted expenses in the MSP by \$12,053.93.

The financial reports were accepted as presented by motion.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave distributed a written report to all members of Council. Highlights included:

- An Adult Forum class on the book "The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Christ." was very well received.
- Live worship attendance in March ranged from the mid 70s to over 100, with between 30 and 50 unique on-line views.
- Pastor Dave led a group of 3rd-6th graders in a bake-sale fund-raiser for Ukrainian refugees. The effort raised over \$200.
- A series of planning sessions called "Bethel Adapting and Discerning" will be held on May 15th, June 19th, and July 17th
- Bethel week at the camp at Caroline Furnace will be July 24th-29th.
- Confirmation is scheduled for June 5th.

Team Reports

- Up Team Report
Barbara Simons will organize greeters, readers, prayers, communion assistants for weekly worship. Greeters should and ushers will return to their traditional roles, away from the "welcome table". Training will be offered to greeters and ushers, since they have not performed their traditional role in more than two years.
- In Team Report
Planning for Easter breakfast is on track.
Outdoor lunches after worship will be schedule for fifth Sundays during the summer.
Pastor Dave will take the lead for Bethel Night at the Winchester Royals.
- Out Team Report
The out team reached out to Beth Garner (last year's Servant Board chair) for a list of events that typically occur in a year, and are looking for leaders for the events.

Quilts for Graduates

The quilting team will present quilts all high school graduates in the community on July 31st.

Office Administrator / Facilities Manager Positions

Pastor Dave and Kim Williams will move forward with publishing announcements of the job openings in the Winchester Star and on employment websites. There are two candidates within the Bethel Community interested in the Facilities Manager position.

Council reviewed proposed job descriptions for both positions.

A motion to approve both job description as presented passed unanimously by acclamation. Council suggested paring down lists of responsibilities for advertisements.

Vonda, Lee, George, Kim, PD will conduct interviews with applicants

Bulletins/Collection Plates/Greeters/Ushers

Greeters will return to the pre-pandemic role of greeting worshipers and distributing bulletins at the entrances, rather than at the welcome table. Starting on Easter, the collection plate will be passed through the Congregation, as is traditional.

Earth Day

Earth Day activities are planned for April 24th. Urve Crowder is leading the event, and hopes to kick off of ongoing involvement with environmental issues at Bethel. Council is asked to assist, especially with children's activities and food.

Auction

Earlier in the year, Council considered plans for an auction to raise funds to be shared between the Global Mission Team, and the youth, in preparation for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering. The plans were delayed after the Youth Gathering was cancelled. The auction may be held in the fall, but will need to work around New Day renovations. The Out team will lead planning.

Curt Grymala noted that in past years the youth have held a cake auction on Mother's Day, to raise funds. Curt asked if such an auction was planned for 2022. While no plans have been made yet, Pastor Dave agreed to reach out parents to gauge interest. If it is not reasonable to plan an auction in the time available, a cake auction could be held on Memorial Day weekend to raise funds for the New Day project.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm