

## **Bethel Lutheran Church Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022 @ 7:00 pm (Conference Room)**

**Attendees:** Council Vice President Vonda Wilt, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Diana Milburn, Dustie Fisher, Pastor David Young and (via Zoom) Curtiss Grymala, David Look. Trustees: Ron Lauck, Sara Smith and Gary Nichols (via Zoom). Staff: Bookkeeper Kim Williams and Facilities Manager Dave Shoberg

Vice President Vonda Wilt called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**Prayer** – Pastor Dave led the meeting with prayer.

**Devotion** – Diane Milburn reading from “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff” regarding finding holiness in, and God’s fingerprints on, everything.

#### **KEE Contract with revised numbers**

Kim reviewed a handout regarding the actual figures of the most recent KEE proposal. Reduction from prior proposal of \$396,250 to \$316,800 was due to excluding the remodeling of the two bathrooms and changing out the water fountains. These items will be moved to a later phase. In the interim the bathrooms will be changed to single use with Dave Shoberg placing locks on those bathroom doors and new signage regarding this change. He will also be installing three new standard commode replacements. It was thought that the Climate Change Group may deal with replacing the existing water fountains.

Kee is due to come back with a revised proposal reflecting a further clarification of the scope of work.

Question on how long is the price good for? Seven days was mentioned in a January memo from KEE

Reminders: architectural drawings and any asbestos testing could amount to \$5,500 above project cost. Also, need 10% of cost for contingencies.

Question regarding New Day mortgage paydown line item. Could those monies be used to paydown the construction costs? Kim will contact those who made that designation to move it for this purpose. Kim thought the current mortgage payment was around \$3,100.

Sara Smith, Trustee, advised the Council not to use the line of credit for construction. Trustees Ron Lauck and Gary Nichols agreed.

A fundraising thermometer was suggested to encourage members to make up the shortfall \$17,687 plus a 10% amount for a contingency fund.

It was suggested by Diane to eliminate the Nursery work which would put the cost of the contract in line with the total amount approved by the congregation. This was discussed and the consensus was that it should remain in the proposal.

Motion made by Diane, seconded by Dustie to go ahead with the construction proposal that includes the Sanctuary and the Nursery...\$316,800. Unanimous approval

Follow-up Question from David Look: Should a congregation meeting be held to discuss the proposal and its added cost? Two to three weeks would be required to set up a meeting and get approval. That time frame would mean additional cost increases. Other communication will be used to advise the congregation of the current financial picture on the project. The Constitution & Bylaws indicates that the Council can approve spending at 10% above the Ministry Spending Plan...a total of \$38,000 for 2022.

Vonda surveyed the council members as to whether there were any changes in their prior vote considering this question from David. There were no changes or objections.

Trustees were excused for the remaining business of the Council meeting.

**Minutes of April** meeting were approved.

**Financial Report** – Kim indicated that a gift in May would cut the YTD shortfall. She reported sending out first quarter financial statements to the members. Those receiving \$0 giving statements had made donations. Will send out statements again in July...and quarterly from then on. Financial Report approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

Sunday, May 15 will hold Bethel Adapting session. Will offer four sections; Up, In, Out and Fundraising (increasing Bethel's revenue stream). Participants will rotate every 15 minutes to a new section indicating their new ideas/ministries in these areas. Need people to run sections and solicit new ideas (visions) from participants along these lines. Council members on the Up, In, and Out teams were asked to lead. Pastor Dave will lead the Fundraising/Revenue Stream section. Darline Demott will assist and oversee the process.

Confirmation June 5 – Reception for Confirmation students to include a cake and beverage. Vonda will recruit people to assist with serving. Approval was requested for the Youth Group to conduct a "Wing-a-thon" fundraiser for Mel Seibert. Motion approved.

Seminarian Kyle Duff and wife Renee are expecting a baby. Suggested a gift card from Target for \$250. Motion approved.

**UP Team Report** - Need a new sign-up for Worship Assistants and ushers, greeters and acolytes beginning June. Will use 9 am arrival time to brief volunteers about their duties. Liturgical Arts team requested a meeting with the Altar Group to discuss and clarify specific duties of each to avoid duplication of effort.

**IN Team Report** – Curtiss will lead in providing a 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Fellowship Gathering on May 31. Will be serving breakfast pastries and beverages - to be paid with Office credit card. Cake Auction tabled until next meeting.

**OUT Team Report** – Bruce Lothrop has reached out to Urve Crowder to offer assistance from the OUT Team for Bethel Climate Solutions activities. Bethel is also supporting the Golf Tournament Fundraiser for Caroline Furnace, etc. September 11 will be “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday. Also Diane suggested scheduling a Stewardship Sunday/Ministry Fair where members could sign-up to volunteer their time in various ministry areas.

**Office Manager Position** – Advertised in Star Daily (2-3 candidates responded), on In Deed (35 candidates responded), and at Job Plus (0 response). Phone interview by Kim with two people and one in-person interview scheduled. May have to open up the ad again if these candidates don’t work out.

**Sabbatical Request by Pastor Young** – August 1 through September 5 Support will be provided by Heidi David-Young as presiding pastor for the first three Sundays and three Bethel preachers will provide the sermons. The remaining two Sundays will be covered by supply Pastor Terry Hannon (one Sunday has already been paid). The cost of the Sabbatical will be one pastor supply fee. Coverage for pastoral care emergencies has been arranged while Dave is out of the country. He will be on call for any emergency when home. This sabbatical would begin on Dave’s 25<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary. This sabbatical request follows the parameters of the Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Application of 2021 in which the congregation would not incur any cost. The request was approved unanimously.

**Landscape Maintenance** - Question was raised regarding who should coordinate landscape maintenance by volunteers. Dave Shoburg should be contacted as he is responsible for overseeing inside and outside issues as Facilities Manager. Volunteers on the Property Team could be scheduled for a work day or two during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The Youth Group was considering planting the tulip, hyacinth and daffodil bulbs leftover from Easter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Puffinberger, Treasurer