

Bethel Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2022

An annual meeting of the Congregation of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Sunday November 13th, after the weekly worship service. Council members verified that more the fifty-seven members of the Congregation were in attendance, constituting a quorum.

Call to Order

Council President John Fredericksen called the meeting to order at approximately 10:50 am.

Opening Prayer

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with a prayer.

Staff Introductions

Pastor Dave introduced members of the Bethel Staff

George Donovan – Director of Music

Kim Williams – Church Administrator

Nina Davis – Office Manager

David Shoberg – Facilities Manager

Edi McGoff – Parish Nurse

Gretchen and Matt Meade – Nursery Managers

Patty White – Parish Custodian

Mel and Kristin Siebert – Senior High Youth Leaders

Council Introductions

Pastor Dave introduced all members of the 2022 Congregational Council.

John Fredericksen – President

Vonda Wilt – Vice President

Betty Puffinberger – Treasurer

Bruce Lothrop – Secretary

Dustie Fisher

Lee Braithwaite

David Look

Diane Milburn

Curtiss Gymala

Diane, Vonda, and Lee will complete their terms on Council at the end of 2022.

Election of 2023 Council Members

Council President John Fredericksen introduced the three nominees for roles on the Congregational Council for a three-year term beginning in 2023. The slate of candidates had been unanimously endorsed by the 2022 Council. The nominees were Rachel Carlson, Brian Davies, and Traci Shoberg. John asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were

no additional nominations. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation. A motion was made and seconded to elect the endorsed slate of nominees to the Congregational Council. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

2023 MSP

Copies of the proposed 2023 Ministry Spending Plan had been emailed to all members of the Congregation prior to the meeting. Council Treasurer Betty Puffinberger reviewed changes from the 2022 Ministry Spending Plan. Betty noted that approximately 75% of the expenses in the plan are related pay and benefits for staff. A 3% pay raise was applied to most staff for 2023. Mortgage payments have increased by about \$1,000 per month due to borrowing to support Sanctuary renovations.

Betty reminded attendees that estimates of giving are very helpful for planning, and requested that members of the community submit them if possible. Betty opened the floor for questions and comments.

John Gavitt expressed concern that a significant number of regular attendees do not regularly give to the Church, and encouraged all members of the community to support Bethel and its ministries.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2023 Ministry Spending Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Update on Sanctuary Renovation:

Facilities Manager David Shoberg provided an update on Sanctuary renovations. Dave noted that the relationship between Bethel and Kee Construction remains positive. Most demolition is done at this point. Unexpected work had to be done to bring the original wiring up to the standard of current building codes. While there are some additional expenses, the added work is not expected to impact the project timeline significantly. Painting has started on the ceiling in the Sanctuary, and several other spaces in lower Bethel. David is pleased with progress to date.

Solar Project Update

David Shoberg presented a brief update on plans to install a solar array on the north end of the church property, and establish a “solar sanctuary” at Bethel. In order to ensure sufficient power storage to rely fully on solar power, Bethel would need a battery system larger than a typical system for home use. David is working with Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions to find appropriate equipment. A number of electric-vehicle charging stations are planned, and may generate revenue for the church.

Multiple options for project funding are under consideration. They include:

- Installation funded by a third party. The installer would own the equipment and sell power to Bethel at a low rate. They could sell excess power to increase revenue. The installer would maintain equipment.
- A combination of government and private grants and incentives could offset a significant portion of costs. This scheme would allow Bethel to use power for free, and possibly distribute excess power to raise revenue. Bethel would need to maintain all equipment.

A question was raised as to whether charge for EV charging would jeopardize Bethel's non-profit tax status. Kim Williams will explore the issue.

Worship Teams

Pastor Dave described how worship teams will be organized going forward. Five or more teams will be formed. Each team will consist of ushers, greeters, communion assistants and readers. Teams will take turns serving in worship. The team leaders will assign roles, and recruit new participants as needed.

Adjournment

The meeting was closed with prayer, and adjourned at approximately 11:25 am.