

Bethel Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
November 9, 2022 - 7:00 pm

The November meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday November 9th in the Library at the Church. Pastor David Young, Council President John Fredericksen, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Curtiss Grymala, David Look, Lee Braithwaite, Diane Milburn, Church Administrator Kim Williams, and Facilities Manager David Shoberg were present in the meeting. Vice President Vonda Wilt and Dustie Fisher attended by Zoom.

Call to order

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

Opening Prayer

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotion

John Fredericksen provided a devotion.

Minutes

Secretary Bruce Lothrop had emailed minutes of the October meeting to all members of Council prior to the November Meeting. The minutes were approved, as presented, by motion.

Financials

Church Administrator Kim Williams emailed detailed financial reports to all members of Council prior to the meeting. The reports showed that total income for October 2022 was \$28,783, exceeding expectations by \$4,673. Expenses were \$31,713, exceeding expenses in the Ministry Spending Plan by \$1,573. Expenses for October exceeded income by \$2,929. Part of the overage was caused by the need to engage an exterminator for a termite issue. Year to date, Bethel's expenses have exceeded income by \$68,724.

The financial reports were approved as presented by motion.

Betty Puffinberger suggested forming a group to pursue alternative fund-raising options. Betty, John, Curtis and Lee expressed interest in participating. The group would not need to be limited to members of Council.

Pastor Dave and Kim suggested an "Over and Above" program to raise funds dedicated to four specific goals. Those goals are purchase of a new piano, building reserve funds, paying down debt, and paying for renovations. The name "Over and Above" would be used to encourage members of the community to offer gifts in support of these goals without reducing their support for general operating expenses. The program could start in 2023, and would use different colored envelopes for each of the four goals.

Pastor's report

Pastor Dave distributed a report to all members of council by email prior to the meeting.

Highlights of the report included:

- The Worship team has decided that the ensemble will participate in Christmas morning worship on December 25th.
- December 31st worship will be on-line only.
- On November 27th a "Hanging of the Greens" ceremony will be held to decorate the worship space for Christmas.
- A "Burning of the Greens" ceremony will be held on January 6th, where Christmas decoration are removed.
- Pastor Dave distributed information about hosting a seminary intern. He requested Council members review the information, and consider a Zoom meeting with the Lutheran Theological Seminary about hosting an intern.
- In person attendance in October ranged from 90-130. Combined in person and online attendance ranged from about 130-176. The highest attendance was on October 30th, for Reformation Sunday, and the Celebration of Pastor Dave's 25th anniversary of Ordination.

New Business

Congregational meeting November 13th

a. Election of Council Members

Rachel Carlson, Brian Davies and Traci Shoberg have agreed to be candidates for election to Council. A motion that these three candidates be endorsed by Council was approved by acclamation. After discussion, Council agreed that nominations from the floor should be requested, even if new nominations are unlikely.

b. Ministry Spending Plan

The proposed Ministry Spending Plan has been mailed to all members of the Congregation by US Post. Treasurer Betty Puffinberger will review the plan on the video screen and take questions.

c. Renovation progress

Dave Shoberg will review renovation progress.

d. Solar project

Dave Shoberg will review plans for a solar array to be installed on the North side of the Bethel Property.

Information

a. Bethel New Day construction news (planned re-opening Easter 2023)

David Shoberg reported on the progress of lower Bethel renovations. During demolition, electricians found wiring that had been done according to building codes fifty years ago is not consistent with current building codes. To minimize the cost and time needed to bring wiring up to current code, new wiring will be run beneath the ceiling, and a new layer of drywall will be installed over wiring. No

change order has been submitted for this work yet, but it is expected shortly. David will work with Kim, Pastor Dave and the executive committee when the change order is received. Dave does not expect more large changes as the demolition phase is complete, so no new issues should be uncovered.

b. Solar project report

The “solar sanctuary” portion of the project will require an industrial capacity battery array, rather than a battery designed for a typical home. Various financing options are under consideration. Among the possible options are grants to purchase equipment, or using equipment owned by the installer. In the second option, the installer would agree to provide electricity to Bethel at a low rate, and maintain equipment. The project would include electric vehicle charging stations that could potentially be monetized.

Storage Shed

The white shed is in poor repair, and should be dismantled and removed from the property. There are old particleboard tables could be sold through Facebook Marketplace or a similar service, and replaced with new lighter plastic tables.

Outdoor Wi-Fi

David Shoberg plans to donate equipment to provide Wi-Fi to outdoor areas of the South Campus for use during outdoor services, weddings, or other events. Channels will be password protected, and not open to the general public.

December 14th Council Meeting

All members of the 2023 Council will be invited to the December 14th Council meeting. Council officers will be elected at the meeting, and Up, In, and Out team roles will be assigned

December Fundraisers

Council received requests that Bethel participate in the annual Advent Food Drive and Wheels for Wellness fundraiser. Council approved participation in both events by motion.

The meeting was adjourned by motion at approximately 8:35 pm.