

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL Minutes  
September 13, 2023 – 7:00pm

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> in the Council Room at the church. Pastor David Young, Council Vice President Rachel Carlson, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Dustie Fisher, Curt Grymala, David Look, Brian Davies and Church Administrator Kim Williams were present at the meeting. George Donovan joined the meeting to speak about issue with the audio-visual equipment in the renovated sanctuary. In the absence of the Council President, Vice President Rachel Carlson presided over the meeting.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Opening Devotion and Prayer**

Pastor Dave offered opening prayers and devotions.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

The agenda for the meeting, the minutes of the August Council meeting, the Pastor's report, and the Solar Project update were approved by acclamation under the consent agenda.

A report from the team work towards Bethel becoming a "Reconciling in Christ Congregation" was approved by acclamation.

### **Financial Reports**

Kim Williams emailed detailed financial reports to all members of Council prior to the meeting. The reports showed August income of \$28,201, \$1,896 more than expected in the Ministry Spending Plan. Total expenses for August were \$33,714, \$932 more than anticipated by the spending plan.

Expenses exceeded income for August by \$5,512. Expenses for 2023 year to date have exceeded income by \$4,489.

The financial reports were approved as presented by acclamation.

Funds from youth bake sale at the Bethel Yard sale have not been accounted for. It is possible those funds were included in general yard sale funds. Kim will investigate.

### **Old Business**

#### **Planning for National Youth gathering**

The Lutheran National Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans during the summer of 2024. Five youths and three adults from Bethel have confirmed that they will attend. A few other youths may attend, but have not confirmed. Some members from Trinity Lutheran Church may travel with the Bethel group.

The group will leave Monday July 15<sup>th</sup>, and return Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$1,700 per person, with a contribution from each family of \$500. The remainder of the cost will be paid through fund-raising. Only about \$1,500-\$2,000 still need to be raised.

#### **BLC Campaign: Bless our past, Lift our present, Create our future**

The campaign will be teased in worship on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and fully rolled out on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Sample brochures were distributed to all members of Council for review. The goals are to raise \$150,000 by March 2024, and \$350,000 by March 2025.

The first \$150,000 will be used for:

- Synod support
- Paying off the Line of Credit used for renovation and maintenance
- Creating cash flow for the operating budget

The \$350,000 from phase two will be used to

- Building reserve funds
- Paying down Bethel's mortgage.

BLC funds will be separate from operating expenses.

### **Security Update**

George Donovan Sr. is working with John Fredericksen, Brian Davies, and John Gavitt to form security policies for worship time, as well as additional facilities security. George Donovan Sr. is retired from Federal Law Enforcement, and works as a School Resource Officer. As such, he has valuable experience in forming security policies and action plans for emergency situations.

### **October 29<sup>th</sup> Dedication/200 Year Anniversary Planning & Update**

Sara Smith and Karen Shipp are leading planning efforts for a celebration of Bethel's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Sanctuary dedication.

### **Other Old Business**

#### **Shrimp Boil**

The Shrimp Boil will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost will be \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids.

### **New Business**

#### **DSL issues in Sanctuary**

George Donovan reported on issues with sound and video equipment that have caused problems during worship services, particularly related to live-streaming. There are some components which Bethel originally declined to purchase which would resolve issues. In addition, not all equipment was installed correctly. In some cases, equipment is functional, but wiring was left exposed when it should have been concealed for aesthetics. George has received communication from Ed from DSL addressing issues. DSL has agreed to resolve all issues for only equipment cost (DSL will not charge for Labor.) George estimated that equipment costs would be between \$1,200-\$1,500. George will meet with DSL in the sanctuary on Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> to review the issues. George will receive additional training at that time to ensure Bethel has all the necessary expertise for live-streaming.

Kim Williams reported funds were available to pay for the equipment. Council agreed that the necessary equipment should be purchased.

George agreed to report to Council whether or not he is satisfied with the resolution of issues after meeting with DSL on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Nursery position job description & hourly rate approval**

A job description for the position of Nursery Assistant was provided to all members of Council. The role calls for 3.5 hours per week at \$20 per hour. Hours include time for preparation, worship time, Sunday School, and clean up time. Some Wednesday evening hours (during Lent and Advent) are expected. A suggestion was made to include responsibility to organize volunteer assistants to the job description. A motion was made to approve the job description, including pay rate and hours, with the addition of the task of organizing volunteers. The motion was approved by acclamation.

### **Nominees for Council**

Dustie Fisher will complete a second Council term at the end of 2023. Bruce Lothrop and Curt Grymala will complete their first three-year term at the end of the year. Curt and Dustie will not seek for election for another term. Two candidates have been identified to replace Curt and Dustie. Bruce is willing to consider a second term, but would step aside if a willing candidate can be found.

### **Service time change to 10am discussion**

Some members of the Congregation have suggested a later time for Sunday Worship. Council considered the suggestion, but did not come to any decision.

### **Christmas in a Barn**

Pastor Dave is planning to hold "Christmas in a Barn" at Cloverdale Barn, but with a simpler set-up than has been used in the past. The owners of Cloverdale Barn are enthusiastic about hosting the event again.

### **2024 MSP**

Church Administrator Kim Williams shared a draft of the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan with Council. In general, Kim compared 2023 MSP figures to actual expenses, and extrapolated further increases where appropriate. Council asked several detailed questions, and carefully reviewed proposed expenses. In particular Council advocated for a general advertising line item that could be used flexibly, rather than detailed line items, such as a banner at Royals games, or newspaper ads.

### **Other New Business**

Brian Davies suggested, going forward that we consider how we activities are presented to the public in light of our RIC commitments. In particular, Council planned to include gender-neutral, single person restrooms as part of our renovation. Those plans should be completed as soon as is reasonably possible. Pastor Dave reported that minimal work would be required to prepare the restrooms near the Conference Room for single person use, and that work should be completed soon.

Curt Grymala advocated for continuing efforts to build and strengthen a welcome team to greet worshipers.

Betty advocated for training for Ushers and Readers and Greeters. Pastor Dave reported that such training is planned.

### **Closing Prayer**

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30.