

Bethel Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:52 AM.

Pastor Steve opened with devotion and the congregation sang "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ".

Motion to approve the annual minutes from 2017 with spelling correction. Tim Lightbourne made a motion to approve the annual minutes and Linda Rosenbaum 2nd. The congregation passed.

Pastor has been our pastor for 14 years and a pastor for 31 years! He thanked the council, Sarah Harris and other Bethel staff: Bookkeeper, Bonnie Sears; Ministry Coordinator, Terree Wozny and Tami Grosenick; Jubilate Choir Director, Jeff Skogley; Custodian, Ed Murphy; and Financial Secretary, Dina Davis.

**Financial Report:** Dina Wagner-Fossen discussed our assets and liabilities. Current assets (not including building): \$144,271. Fixed assets (building and equipment): \$1,562,750. Total Assets: \$1,711,121. Liabilities: \$345,546- we paid down over \$100,000 over this past year on our loan for the building; Equity \$1,365,000. Contributions are down a little but we can see that the giving is going toward the loan. Our benevolence increased and property maintenance needs are higher: Gathering Place bathrooms and negative drainage on west side. The small kitchen remodel has been accomplished through private donations in time and money.

Motion to approve the 2018 budget. Steve Nelson made a motion to approve the annual minutes and Anne Vannetta 2nd. The congregation passed.

**Mission Freedom:** Mike Kubas gave an overview of where we are on the building loan. Misconception was \$100,000 given this year will always be there because this past year was unusual. We basically had 2 campaigns in 2017. The 1st campaign, 2014-2017 raised \$45,000/year: 45 pledges and 42 contributors unpledged. The 2nd campaign has raised \$60,000/year (Total: \$297,732) with 32 pledges. Most giving is back-end loaded, meaning most people give at end of year. The Finance Committee will hold some back to balance this out. The Finance Committee is very grateful to Bethel congregation. Assuming that these pledges come through over the next 5 years, \$225,000 will be left on mortgage and another campaign will be needed. Mortgage will be finished in 2028.

**Constitution Update Adoption**

Jo Ann Dullum and Kris Voorhees gave an update. Kris proposed 4 changes to the constitution: 1 ) (C12.05) Change \$500 to \$5400 for the amount the council has been able to approve budget expenditures. This is in line with the 2% allowed in "c".

- 2) (C12.01) Council number leadership has been run without 12 members so this will be changed to a realistic number of 7 to 9 members. Part of that membership, 1 will be a youth and 1 will be a young adult. (13.03)
- 3) (C13.02) Nominating committee will consist of 4 people instead of 6. Pastor Steve reported that these changes will be approved at ELCA National meeting.
- 4) (C5.05.01 and C 5.05.02) The Mission Endowment by-law was formally added to the Constitution.

Motion was made to accept Constitutional changes. Sarah Sexe made a motion to approve Constitutional changes. Jeff Skogley 2nd. Congregation passed.

### **New Council Members**

The following members have agreed to serve on the council for 3 years:

Kaleb Stringer  
Ben Gooldy  
Marilyn Carlson

No other nominations came from the floor.

Motion was made to accept nominees. Gary Sorum made a motion to approve the council nominees. Tami Scholten 2nd. Congregation passed.

### **Nominating Committee (need 4)**

The following members are leaving the council and have agreed to serve on the nominating committee:

Kristine Voorhees  
Jenny Will  
Mary Lou Norbie  
Dave Scholten

No other nominations came from the floor.

Motion was made to accept the nominations for the nominating committee. Tim Lightborne made a motion to approve the nominations for the nominating committee. Mim Micklecky 2nd. Congregation passed.

### **Montana Synod Assembly Delegates (Need 1 female and 1 male)**

The following members have agreed to serve as delegates to Montana Synod Assembly:

Matt And Judy Crampton

No other nominations came from the floor.

Motion was made to accept the delegate nominations to the Montana Synod Assembly. Anne Vannetta made a motion to approve the nominations to the Montana Synod Assembly. Dina Davis 2nd. Congregation passed.

### **Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representatives**

The following members have agreed to serve as representatives to FLBC:

Dan & Steph Richardson

No other nominations came from the floor.

Motion was made to accept the nominations for representatives to FLBC. Motion to accept the nominations for representatives to FLBC was made by Colter McCarty. Mary Seim 2nd. Congregation passed.

**President's Report:** Highlights year of what council and congregational members have accomplished and have shown leadership throughout the year. Accomplishments for the year include: Council had a book study "Congregational Leadership in Anxious Time" by Peter L. Steinke; constitution updates; finalizing a wedding policy; kept a close eye on the budget; tracking building maintenance; debt reduction campaign; established a Chartered Organization Representative for Boy Scout Troop 28; stewardship campaign; reviewed background check polic;, and developed an in-kind giving receipt and usage description. Please review annual report 2017.

Kris read and discerned the bible every day throughout her term. God calls us, God transforms us, and God sends us. Many of us are not listening.

1. Searching for a spiritual connection
2. We all have special gifts and talents
3. If we squander those gifts and talents we have fear and resentment.
4. If we use for meaningful work for a meaningful purpose, we have the right mindset and God lives in us.
5. By sharing gifts and talents, that is the most powerful connection we will have with God.

Let's go out and share.

Pastor Steve acknowledged council members going off council: Mary Lou Norbie, Kristine Voorhees was presented with a plaque, Dave Scholten, and Jenny Will. Doug Sexe (Vice President - elect), Matt Crampton, Grant Smith, Donna Vinnege, Mick Davis, Dina Wagner-Fossen, Jo Ann Dullum (President- elect). Marilyn Carlson (Secretary).

Gary Sorum reminded us that 50 years ago we started with a budget of \$20K. We've come a long way.

Closing prayer.

Meeting was concluded at 11:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Ann Dullum, council member 2015 – present.