

The 7 Initiatives of the Masterplan (A Review and Update)

April 21, 2009

Bethel School Initiative

Under the direction of Principal, Christine Stroud we are moving ahead with a number of key priorities. They include: dealing with the financial downturn and its impact on enrollment; changes in leadership and membership on the School Board; ELEA Accreditation; visioning for the future with a possible middle school down the road; and an over-all strengthening of this vital ministry in all areas! We have a great curriculum in ALL areas of the pre-school and school! *Thanks to Michael Vaughn, the School Board, the School Staff, the OPO and so many others for their ongoing work in this key ministry of our congregation!*

Green Initiative

Here is what has happened: A new roof, new HVAC, and solar panels in place(see monitor in the Narthex); Changes throughout the facility (see Vern Bolleson) to improve electrical efficiency; thanks to the generosity of so many members, a new roof is almost completed with contributions of over \$51K to pay for it! *Thanks to Vern Bolleson, John Liming, the Men of Monday, and all who have given so much time, energy (green), and skill to everything that has been done to make all this a reality.* Now we start thinking about facility upgrades and a capital campaign to make all of our facility more efficient to our mission! A Task Force is being formed and will meet early in May to begin this important process.

Mission Partner Initiative

The LIFE SHAPE of UP, IN, OUT has struggled a bit as small groups have been a slower start than first anticipated. However, there are small groups meeting and growth continues. A fall emphasis through the Discipleship Ministry Team emphasizing the “First Language of Faith” – the Bible – has begun. Watch for details this spring and summer! Plus we have initiated and special Jobs Seminar for those seeking employment and those looking to change jobs on May 3. We are planning a follow-up gathering of the Council / Ministry Leads / Staff to complete the visioning process begun at the Retreat. *Thanks to Pr. Rick, & Dave Denny as well as Brian Brouillette & Michael Vaughn.*

Staffing Initiative

The realignment process is complete. The new Organizational Chart is finished and has been shared with the congregation. Financial work continues with SEBA and Associates to stabilize our over-all financial work, and we are in the process of Budgeting for 2009-10 with many challenges due to the decrease of income during the over-all financial downturn. We will continually review the staffing structure and job descriptions – especially during this difficult time – to make our staffing structure more efficient and responsive to the needs of the congregation and school. *Special thanks to Fara Brock, Christine Stroud, Dave Tribby and the Finance Committee for all their fine work.*

Stelling Property Initiative

With the challenge of redefining this ministry after the changes precipitated with the loss of ELCA funding and Pastor Chiu's returning to part-time work in the tech industry, a task force has been formed to re-evaluate Bethel's expectations for this ministry opportunity. A detailed report will be presented at the May Council Meeting with recommendations of how to proceed!

Stewardship Initiative

The New Ministry Team put together the first phase of the Spring Program. Sunday will be Commitment Sunday with May as the time for a follow-up involving all Bethel Leaders in an Every Household Contact. Details will be shared by e-mail later next week as to the structure of how we will move forward with these follow-up contacts. We also conducted a couple of successful fundraisers – for the youth headed to New Orleans this summer (\$10K) and for the new roof (see Green Initiative). *Thanks to Angela Brown, Chris Freckman, and Ann Marie Kenitzer for taking the lead in this ministry!*

Worship Initiative

After an extensive congregational survey process, we initiated last fall the present worship schedule with Kid Connection moved to 9:15 am to 10:15 am. We introduced the ELW and purchased the hymnals. These changes along with the time change have brought strong growth in the 9 am service. More work is continuing for the 10:30 am service as well. The next challenge is to address worship for “those who are not here” – members and those from the community. *Thanks to the Worship and Music Ministry Team, the Initiative Task Force, the Music Staff, Mariane Nadel, Pr. Rick and the congregation for their participation in this important process.*

Extra Item that Speaks to several of the Initiative

A New Church Bus has been purchased and was used on the Mission Trip to North Dakota. Watch for it in the parking lot and for a special dedication in May! *Which speaks to the Green Initiative, the Mission Partner Initiative, and the Stewardship Initiative. Thanks to Tom Hoegel for completing this project.*