

Bethel Lutheran Church
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Winter Session – 4 February 2024

Minutes	
<p>Members Present: A quorum was confirmed with 66 members signed in. Meeting called to order: 12:00 PM.</p>	
Topic	Discussion and Decisions
Agenda and Opening Prayer	Tony Stieber welcomed everyone, reviewed the Bethel Core Values, introduced the Council, and presented the Agenda. Pastor Ben Sandin led us in prayer.
Approve Meeting Minutes:	Motion to approve the Summer Congregational Meeting minutes from August 2024 was seconded and approved.
Pastor’s Report: Pr. Ben Sandin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Come. See. Go. Be. – That’s referring to the capital campaign, which we began last fall, and continues over the next three years. It is our shared commitment and investment in our life together as we go into the world following God’s hope for us. ● Lenten Journey with Jesus. This year, Lent begins on February 14th. The spiritual time of Lent is for many a time of spiritual growth. Pastor Ben is a believer in using this time to grow in spiritual practices, and encourages us all to join him in this practice. ● Community Listening Project. – We have a team of people interviewing people living in the community surrounding Bethel, Cupertino, San Jose, Saratoga, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara. The team is asking what it’s like to live in this area, and for recommendations of who to interview next. The listening will go on through April, and then be compiled to see what insights and patterns emerge to help guide our decisions about engaging with the community in the future. ● Generosity. – Pastor Ben gave thanks to Bethel’s members for their ongoing generosity, giving of their time, their selves and their possessions.
Ministries Report: Lisa Laxson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 60 ministry teams at Bethel ● Bethel’s numerous ministry teams continue to do great things at Bethel. ● Thanks to everyone who participates in one or more of Bethel’s ministries. It’s nice to see so many people involved in doing God’s work. ● Please refer to the Annual Report for yearly recaps from all the teams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A special note about the Rotating Safe Car Park – a new ministry. An upcoming Wednesday night speaker will provide details for those interested in volunteering, or you can reach out to team leads Paul Baldwin and Hella Bluhm-Stieber. ● If you're interested in joining one of the ministry teams, please contact the Ministries Leaders, Lisa Laxson and Mary Deutscher.
<p>Congregational Life: Tom Hogel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ELCA Youth Gathering – BOOCT Goes South – Bethel Out of Covid Tour 3 – will be attached to the gathering. The trip will be in July of this year. They will visit a plantation run by descendants of former slaves, then to the MLK memorial, the Civil Rights museum and Atlanta. Fundraisers will include Easter Breakfast and the 1-99 board. 12 kids, 3 sponsors, and 5 young adults will be going on the trip. ● Almost a year ago, a huge storm took out the playground canopies and part of the tree on that side, and they are finally ready to replace them, so there will be shade for the kids in the summer. ● The Parsonage has been completed, thanks in great part to Mike Coleman and his hard work. ● Torvend Hall refresh. Torvend is Bethel's original worship space, but needs some work to make it an inviting place to host events for Bethel and the Community. One thing that has been finished is the beam retrofit, so the sagging beams have been supported. ● Upcoming Congregational events – Out and About events are brainstorming, Labor Day Retreat 2024, Mission to Mexico.
<p>Endowment Committee: Ralph Miller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing members are Ralph Miller, Dave Larsen, and Robin Kettner. ● Margit Schmitt and Mariann Jones have served their term and are outgoing. ● The fund balance is \$206,000, up 14% in 2023. (Was down 14% in 2022) The fund had \$7, 700 in gains (Dividends) which the Endowment Committee would like to distribute as follows. ● February – \$1,100 towards the remaining First Wednesday education series, as a stipend for non-Bethel presenters and refreshments, and \$1,400 towards travel for the Bethel youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans and its associated outreach programs this July. The congregation voted to approve this distribution. ● August – (at the next Congregational Meeting), the remaining \$5,000 will be distributed (pending congregational approval) to projects to be determined by Bethel's Community Engagement Staff member, who will hopefully be hired soon. Also welcome are suggestions from the congregation. Please share with members of the Endowment Committee your thoughts of ways we can make use of the Endowment funds over time.
<p>Financial Report: Dave Tribby</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dave reported an exceptional December for giving, exceeding the expectations of the Finance Committee for both the Capital

	<p>Campaign and General Giving Funds. He said there's nothing like being Treasurer to help your prayer life, and thanked everyone for their generosity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General Financial Update (September - December 2023) General Fund is at \$297,583. Total Income is at \$395,952. Total Expenses are at \$340,980. Net Income Cash Basis is \$41,369 ● Capital Campaign Update Member Commitments (2022-2025) \$1,898,900 Add \$175k set aside by church \$2,073,800 (eventual cash) Parsonage (house, closing, remodel) \$1,970,700 Subtract \$590k mortgage \$1,380,700 (cost to Capital Campaign) Interest for short-term loan \$18,000 (eventual cost) Available for Torvend Projects \$675,100
New Business (vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Council and Committee members were put forward for voting by the Congregation. ● New Council Members were voted into office as follows: Young Adult Member at Large (OPEN) Member at Large – Janice Martinson Project Manager – (OPEN) HR Advisor – Tony Stieber President Elect – Kristine Lui ● Committee Members were introduced Financial Committee (appointed by Council) – Joan Christensen, Ann Marie Kenitzer, Dave Larsen, Dave Tribby. Audit Committee (3 elected at annual meeting) – Darrel Kettner, Jill Burkhart, Jennifer Green Nominating Committee (3 elected at annual meeting) – Robyn Winegardner, Brett Deutscher, Diane Stauffer Endowment Trustees (5 elected at annual meeting) – Ralph Miller, Robyn Kettner, Dave Larsen <p>Endowment Committee – 2 candidates for 2 open positions were put forward. Greg Aist and Jim Lentfer were approved for the role by congregational vote.</p> <p>Nominating Committee – 1 open position. Ralph Miller volunteered for this position and was approved by congregational vote.</p>
Synod Assembly 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Synod Assembly will take place June 7-9, 2024 in Fresno. Bethel will sponsor 2 adult and 1 youth to be our voting representatives. Other members of the congregation are welcome

	<p>to attend as non-voting members.</p> <p>Anyone who wishes to attend the Synod meeting should reach out to Pastor Ben.</p>
Dorothy Meyer Award 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anna Hogel was nominated posthumously. She served in many ministries at Bethel over the past 60 years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Altar Guild, Quilters, White Breakfast, Women's Guild, Thanksgiving lunches, VBS Snacks, Evergreens ● Helped creating mailings and flyers ● Helped with wedding and funeral receptions ● Read Lessons during worship ● Participated in potlucks, youth events, Mt Cross and other social activities. ● Anna was a very generous person who raised two children in the Christian faith. Her son, Tom, will help direct her award towards her favorite charity.
Questions	<p>Janice asked about the Tulip Kids negotiation, and Tony said while negotiations are ongoing, we cannot speak to the details. He promised an announcement would be forthcoming in the next few weeks.</p>
Welcome Doreen	<p>Tony introduced Doreen, who read from Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 4: 14-15.</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Pr. Ben Sandin</p>
Meeting adjourned	<p>12:55 PM</p>

Submitted by: Margit Schmitt, February 4, 2024