

**Minutes of Bethel Lutheran Church Council
December 14, 2010**

Present: Rae Carman, Dave Coe, Nate Czech, Ramon Figueroa, Ginny Hayes, Jan Helwig, Howard Kulke, Vern Leibbrandt, Ann Leon, Anne Murphy, Paul Moen, Al Schultz, Mike Thom, Laura Vogel

Staff representatives: Bill White and Alice Mowbray

Absent: Tim Semmann

- Al Schultz, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
- Devotion – led by Anne Murphy
- Discussion and ranking of Foundation grant requests
- Secretary's Report – Ann Leon, Secretary
 - Dave Coe moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 Church Council and December 7, 2010 Executive Committee meetings. Ramon Figueroa seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report – Laura Vogel
 - We have 1066 membership pledges totaling \$1,987,099 with a budgeted income of \$2M. Even if we collect on all pledges, we will be under budget by \$13K for the year.
 - Current YTD income is \$1,618,432, down slightly from 2009. Net income is \$11K for the month of November. However, we have a YTD loss of \$91K. For the 11 months YTD, six ended in a loss and five ended with positive net income.
 - We lost a Sunday in December (Dec 12) due to a blizzard. Bill proposed a letter to the congregation asking members to contribute what they can to close the budget gap. Council discussed and agreed.
 - Ginny Hayes moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jan Helwig seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Senior Pastor's Report – Bill White
 - The performance of the Messiah was cancelled on Sunday, Dec 12 due to a blizzard. It will be performed this Sunday, Dec 19.
 - We are preparing a Lenten devotion book and doing Christmas planning.
- Business Administrator's Report – Alice Mowbray
 - 2011 pledges total \$1,711,000. With outstanding pledges, the pledged income total would be \$2M. We called 335 households last week to remind them of their outstanding pledge.
 - We're planning a 2011 flat budget that includes a 1.5-2% salary increase. The budget will be presented to the Council for approval at the January meeting.
 - We hired Gretchann Dalgaard as the secretary for the education department starting January.
 - One of our two snow blowers was stolen last week. We bought a new one today for \$2300.
 - Anita continues to work with the second group from Bhutan.
- Committee Liaison Report – Visitation and Mission (Jan Helwig)
 - Visitation – Pastor Swanson
150 visits per month. Hospital visits are made Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays. Hospitals have improved noting who is a Bethel member. Pr Everson makes the Hospice and group home visits. Lois Seymour makes 16 home visits per week.

- Mission – Pastor Harrold
 - Lutherans United to Assist after Disaster (LUAD) is led by Bethel members Bill Berkan and Mike Gourlie. They are completing their first year of administrative planning and will begin the implementation phase, enlisting congregational members for assistance.
 - Community meals are served the second Monday of each month at Luke House.
 - Anita Grue's circle plus young adults are working with Lutheran Social Services to support two families from Bhutan.
 - The Hunger Task Force is working with Second Harvest on a project for Lent.
 - WISDOM, an interfaith congregationally-based social justice organization, is starting a chapter in Madison. Hephatha Lutheran (our mission partner) is heavily involved in Milwaukee.
 - International Partners for Education, Inc. supports secondary education for orphans in Malawi and Lesotho. The organization is led by Bethel member Karen Solheim and supported by Lori Brown and Nancy Wanless. They're planning a congregational awareness session in February.

- President's Report – Al Schultz
 - The Nominating Committee, led by Carolyn White, has proposed a slate for Church Council to be voted on at the January congregational meeting.
 - The Sr Pastor's Call Committee is seeking input from the congregation on qualities desired in a new senior pastor. Seven listening sessions have been scheduled through January 9 and surveys will be distributed after Sunday services. Surveys should be returned no later than January 16. The call committee will meet on January 4.
 - Vern Leibbrandt has volunteered to work with staff to prepare an informational packet for candidates for the senior pastor position.
 - Nate Czech has volunteered to work with the group planning Pr White's retirement celebration.
 - The General Development Plan (GDP) from the Urban Site Committee is on Bethel's web site and renderings are on display at Bethel. The GDP has been submitted to the city.
 - Pr White will be gone several dates in January and February.

- New Business
 - None

- The meeting concluded at 10:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Leon
Council Secretary