

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

MINUTES from: Monday, November 21, 2016 (prepared by Roger Martin)

COUNCIL MEMBERS: P = Present A = Absent

Craig Antonson – P	Carol Hakala – P	Wendy Markgren – P	Dave Wilson – P
Julie Bever – A	Tina Henningsen – P	Roger Martin – P	
Beth Brown – P	Kevin Jacobson – A	John Osterloth – A	
Ryan DeNucci – P	Jim Kusilek – P	Walfsy Pierre – P	

STAFF MEMBERS: Pastor Grant Aaseng – P Amy Brekke – A Dawn Paul – P

PREPARATION:

Devotions – Pastor Grant (for Julie Bever)

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Open Forum – None

Minutes from 10/17/16 meeting – APPROVED (Wilson/Henningsen)

INFORMATION/ACTION:

Associate Pastor Call: Began meeting with a presentation from **Greg Kaufmann (Ass't to the Bishop – NW Synod of WI)** who shared the synod's process and support mechanisms for churches calling a pastor. Pastor Greg's (PG) advice was timely as the council began nominations for the new Associate Pastor Call Committee later in the meeting. Key points in his presentation:

1. PG serves as the point of communication with the synod re: the call process. All names and candidates funnel through him vs. direct contact.
2. PG will serve as a counselor for the call committee re: the process and he will meet with the new call committee once formed to review the same material council covered.
3. Suggested that council review provisions in the constitution and by-laws to be sure the process at Bethany adheres to directives found there.
4. Encouraged council to select call committee members who well-represent the most important duties the Associate Pastor will be asked to focus upon. In our case: young families and young adults.
5. Suggested that a call process that begins in JAN17 might yield a new Associate Pastor starting in the new role by MAY/JUN17 if all goes perfectly.
6. Discussed the complexities of the potential to call a new pastor recently graduated from seminary. While the decision will rest with the Call Committee, the council discussed the pros/cons of such a move and will suggest that the committee at least consider the strategy.
7. Discussed the council's plan to have the Call Committee draft the Associate Pastor Job Description. PG was OK with this but encouraged council to "bless" the job description upon completion by the committee.

The last portion of the council meeting focused on nominations for call committee members. A list of potential candidates was created and prioritized. Council President Jim Kusilek will follow up with the finalists to invite them to be part of the committee and report back to council by DEC 1.

Post Meeting Update: The following 6 congregation members have agreed to be on the Associate Pastor Call Committee:

Larry Brown – Chair
Lori Bowman – representative from the Pastoral Staffing Task Force
Adam Bever
DeAnna Westphal
Preston Pearson
Angela Delf
Pastor Grant – advisory role

An additional 2-3 youth members of the congregation will be asked to play a part-time role on the committee to participate in the interview process but not participate in all meetings (due to schedule limitations).

Healthy Initiative Update – Committee continues to work on strategies to make our building more easily used by those with early stages of dementia. Current actions include: nametags at all services in NOV and perhaps longer; minor changes in bathrooms; work with Welcome Committee to improve directional signage in the church. Mental health awareness presentations are being planned for future CrossTalk sessions.

2017 Budget – Reviewed the process for development of the 2017 budget. All committees are to have budgets submitted by deadlines. Council will review proposed budget at DEC meeting. Executive Council will also review at planning meeting prior to council meeting. The Finance Committee is drafting a year-end letter to the congregation encouraging year-end giving.

Shelby NEXT Marketing Plan – a committee was established at an earlier meeting with the goal being to effectively communicate the tools available to congregation members in the new Shelby NEXT software. Committee includes: Jim K, Wendy M, Walfsty P and Dawn P. This group should plan future discussions to be sure our investment in Shelby NEXT realizes a solid return and that members use the tools.

Bethany Constitution Conformity – minor adjustments to the constitution are required to be sure it conforms with the elements of the ELCA model constitution. Carol H is leading this effort and will work to communicate the proposed changes in a timely fashion prior to the Annual Meeting in JAN17.

Financial Reports: APPROVED (Martin/Hakala)

NEXT MEETINGS:

Executive Committee: Monday 12/12/16 5:15p

Council Meeting: Monday 12/19/16 5:30p

ASSIGNMENTS:

December Devotions: Ryan DeNucci

December Collection/Lockup: Dave Wilson / Walfsty Pierre

January Devotions: Dave Wilson

January Collection/Lockup: Wendy Markgren / Carol Hakala