

**BETHANY LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**February 9, 2009**

**In attendance:**

Denny Hixson, President  
Donna Wilson, Secretary  
Steve Rathjen, Treasurer  
Pastor Ed Trost  
Pastor Mark Schulz  
Pastor Bryan Drebes  
Bill Prann, Director of Christian Education  
Don Kaiser, Board of Stewardship  
Dennis Underwood, Administration  
Glenn Person, Board of Property Management  
Mark Bolar, Board of Outreach  
Mark Horrigan, Board of Elders  
Michael Apfel, Board of Youth Ministry  
Pamela Nummela, Director of Child Ministry & Principal Bethany Day School  
Scott Honig, Board of Christian Care  
Todd Beikmann, Board of Christian Education  
Diane Fischer, Board of Child Ministry  
Donna Petersen, LWML  
Ken Van Booven, Board of Communications

**President Denny Hixson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.**

**Devotions and Opening Prayer – Led by Pastor Bryan**

**Minutes – Donna Wilson**

The minutes for the January 12, 2009 meeting were sent to the Council Members electronically. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report – Steve Rathjen**

Steve gave the treasurer's report which indicates we are tracking on plan. The plan is loaded and skewed to the back similar to last year's results. Our January income is \$2,000 below expenses. Expenses are \$9,000 less than budget. Our debt is below \$3 million.

Steve indicated that each year we go through the Ethics and Compliance policy. He asked that each board member review the document and sign the Ethics and Compliance agreement.

**Long Range Planning – Craig Johnson**

The Long Range Planning Committee met and since the council passed the initial plan, they have prepared a final copy to send to council. Craig will send out the approved plan. The members of the

council need to put together a plan for each of their assignments by 6/30/09. After this, quarterly updates will take place by Craig to the council. Craig indicated that the initiatives, goals, and objectives are up to each assigned board. Results of these initiatives can be changed as long as they are obtainable.

### **By-Laws Committee Update – Michael Apfel**

Michael is working on the Constitution committee to make updates to the document. The committee has met three times. They are asking for input from the congregation stakeholders. They are in the process of looking at several documents to consider when proposing the changes.

*Timeline is as follows:*

<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Committee Started Review	1/ 24
Document is given to and reviewed by congregation stakeholders	Between 1/24 through 3/20
Meeting with Pastors	Week of 2/8 and 2/16
Article in <i>Life At Bethany</i> for Congregation to be made aware of review period of constitution	2/22 and 3/8
Feedback to Ron Brackman	After 3/20

Michael asked for the council to please review the Constitution and By-Laws document and see if there are changes you feel need to be made to the ministry or board you are responsible. Members were encouraged to get back to Ron Brockman by the end of the month. If you need more time, please contact Michael.

Michael does not anticipate this to be complete by the May Voters' Meeting.

### **Pastor's Report – Pastor Ed**

Pastor mentioned the financial blessings we have had and ending the year on a positive. We are going to continue to work on making more and better disciples. It is more than words on paper. There are a number of ways this is being done. Pastor mentioned that in this time of turmoil in our country, this is when we really need to stay close to God and one another. When you walk with God, there is a confidence and courage that resonates in a person's life.

Pastor mentioned a couple of members who are in extended care in which he has received notes from them on the importance of his visits. It is important to be alert to little things...phone call or words at the right time may encourage someone and show that the congregation does care.

In a world such as ours, this is the time to stay close...with one another...with God and a time for people to come to their spiritual home. The initiative has to come from us and that the Holy Spirit comes to us.

Focused on one another and keeping people close...again, showing others that they have a friend at Bethany.

Synod ABLAZE - We as a congregation need to get on fire to make more disciples. Fanning the Flame is working on making more people aware. In 2017, will be celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

Lent – this is a great opportunity for others to accelerate their devotional life. This Lenten season we will be studying the Gospel of John with the “I Am” series.

Bethany Celebration – Starting in the middle of 2009, we will be looking at ways of celebrating our anniversary at Bethany.

### **Board of Elders – Mark Horrigan**

Mark reported that the Board of Elders are in the process of sending out letters to fill 10 Elder positions.

Mark mentioned the Ash Wednesday prayer breakfast that will be coming up. Tickets will be on sale this weekend. The pastor from Beautiful Savior, Joel Schultz, will be the speaker at the breakfast.

The Board of Elders approved the motion to appoint Ivan Grimm as the chairman of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for Bethany. A motion was made to approve Ivan Grimm as the Chairman for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for Bethany at the Council meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Board of Youth – Michael Apfel**

Michael reported that last year, through a family’s donation, we were able to have a summer student/worker in Youth Ministry. To this day, we continue to get great feedback about Cassie. In December, through another family donation, we are looking forward to having another summer student/worker for the coming summer. We will partner with Concordia Seward and the DCE program to look for another student to work for 10 weeks. Bill will serve as the mentor again this year. This person will be involved with the Middle School, VBS, CrossTraining, and Sunday morning Bible studies. The Board of Youth reviewed the job description and the application.

### **School Board – Todd Beikmann**

We have been working on calling teachers and realized the school board does not have the authority to call anyone at this point. We do not have anything in writing and wanted to bring this to the Council so we can get this changed going forward.

The following motion was made. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

In accordance with Article II of the By Laws, the Church Council appoints the Board of School Education as its designee for the calling of the Day School teachers. This authority shall continue until such time as the Church Council changes its designee. The calling of the position of Day School Principal shall require Church Council approval.

## **Board of Outreach – Mark Bolar**

Mark reminded the Council of the information table in the Narthex. Please review the information that is available and update your brochures/literature if needed.

Dan Peters and his team would like to partner with Board of Outreach to use nametags within the congregation. Mark distributed a presentation on nametags. The Board of Outreach and Elders have been working together on this. The goal is to offer nametags for all members of the congregation knowing that some members may choose not to participate. We would also not be including the youth in this program. Additional money has been put in the budget to manage.

We have instituted this to new members joining Bethany. Therefore there are people that already have them. The Board of Outreach will own this program so if new ones are needed, they would be the individuals to manage.

Mark also mentioned that when the Elders make their calls to their responsible families, they will ask them their preference on participation.

## **President's Report – Denny Hixson**

Denny mentioned that we have three positions on the Council for which Craig Johnson will be responsible for nominating committee. The positions we need to fill will include: Michael Apfel (Youth Ministry), Troy Osborne (Adult Ministry), and Denny Hixson (President). Craig will be working on recruiting new individuals for these boards.

Denny has been asked for minutes of Council Meetings. Going forward, the minutes will be posted on the Bethany Website along with the Voters' Meeting minutes. Denny will be writing an article to place in the *Life At Bethany* to this effect. January's minutes for both Council and Voters' have been posted on the website.

Denny reminded the Council of the meetings coming up. He will not be attending the March meeting and Craig will be chairing.

## **Child Ministry – Pam Nummela**

We had a KIC lock-in this weekend where kids brought friends to attend. They hosted a slumber party and 61 kids were in attendance. Great news – we had 30 non-member visitors at Sunday school because of the slumber party.

## **Closing Prayer and Doxology - Pastor Mark**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wilson  
Secretary