

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly Minutes**

**Overland Park, KS
January 26, 2009**

The January 26, 2009 meeting of the Voters Assembly was called to order by President Denny Hixson at 7:00 p.m. A total of 72 Bethany saints were in attendance.

Opening: Pastor Bryan Drebes led our devotion and prayer.

Voting Members: Denny Hixson introduced 6 new voters on the roster. A motion was made to accept them as voting members of the assembly. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes: The May 19, 2008 Voters Assembly minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

Elders Report – Mark Horrigan

A list of members to be released was presented. A motion was made and seconded to approve the action. The motion passed. The list of members to be released is attached to the minutes.

Senior Pastor's Report – Pastor Ed Trost

Pastor Trost read an article as it pertained to the beginning of Bethany Lutheran Church. This article was shared with him by Rod Strahm who is helping with the 50th Anniversary celebration of our church. This article mentioned the establishing of our congregation. In December 1960 the congregation agreed to organize the church and in June 1961, Pastor Sabo became the first pastor of our congregation. January 15, 1961 Bethany congregation was officially organized with special services held. 118 communicants; 97 children signed the charter. 215 people were in attendance of this service. A charter banquet was held that evening.

In 1962, the Narthex was built followed in 1972 our worship sanctuary was created.

50 years at Bethany is a time for reflection, remembering, and thanking God for His blessings. However, we are not spending all of our time looking back, but how we are moving ahead with the blessings God has given us in the congregation. Many initiatives have occurred over the last several years between the 40th and 50th year. Thank God for where He has positioned us to serve him. We have one congregation serving Jesus at two locations.

The planning of the 50th Anniversary celebration has begun. The theme has been chosen by our communications committee which was printed on the pictorial directory which we will receive in the next few months. The theme Walking Together...Working for Him

was chosen symbolizing that we are united in Christ's love and united in mission and working together as a congregation. Ivan Grimm, has agreed to serve as the committee chair for this celebration.

This coming September, Pastor will be traveling to Flint, MI to celebrate with the St. Paul congregation their 100th anniversary. He served as their pastor when they celebrated the 75th anniversary.

Family Solidarity – Solid in Christ. He wants people to be proud that they are members of Bethany Lutheran Church and bold enough to invite people to come to our church and see Jesus. Here you will know that Jesus Christ is our Savior. Through Him and our sacrifice we have a life with God forever. Let's use this 50th anniversary to commit to this. Pastor encourages us to get with Ivan to help with the celebration.

Finance report – Steve Rathjen

2008 Financial report

We had a great December. We were projected to be \$60,000 to \$70,000 in the red and came in at \$28,000 in the black. Steve thanks the members of the church who made this happen with their contributions.

Approval of 2009 budget

Steve presented the 2009 budget which totals \$1,760,000. A motion was made to accept the budget. The motion was seconded. Steve led the voters through a discussion of the individual ministry portions of the budget and answered their questions. The motion passed.

Stewardship report – Don Kaiser

Extending the Vision was a three year program which ended at the end of 2008. The total pledge amount for Extending the Vision was \$1,772,500. As of January 1, 2009, we have \$1,523,133 which is short \$249,367. Because there were members who indicated they were not able to contribute, it was decided to continue to leave the ETV envelopes in the 2009 packets for contributions.

The Board of Stewardship has decided to allow Extending the Vision to continue one additional year for those people who would like to continue to give. Any money received will be applied to the principle on our new loan. The rest of the loan is being paid out of working funds.

Closing Comments – Denny Hixson

President Denny Hixson went through the items the council approved since the last Voter's Meeting. They were as follows:

50 year theme

Bethany participation in Fanning the Flame with a goal of \$100,000

Established a Committee, chaired by Ron Brockman, to modify the By-Laws.

Established a personnel committee

Approved the Refinancing of the church debt

Renominated existing officers for district offices to be elected at the next convention

Approved housing allowance for called workers

Approved long-range plan

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Pastor Mark Schulz closed with prayer and led the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wilson

Council Secretary