

**Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 30, 2024**

**Present:** Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson, Nancy Steinke, Karen Stout (by phone).

**Guest:** Lori Free

President Jane Nelson opened the meeting with prayer at 10:57 AM.

**Guest Lori Free**

Lori Free gave a report on the condition of the organ. The organ is 38 years old, surpassing the typical lifespan of 25 years. Lori said she finds something problematic every week such as keys sticking or trouble turning the organ on or off. She reports the power is fading and she is unable to use the crescendo, but at times the crescendo unpredictably turns on with high volume. On July 2 a serviceman is coming to clean out the organ, but Lori feels this is only a band-aid to problems that will not be fixed.

Replacement options include Rogers 227 (basic line) with one expression shoe at \$38,000 including installation and removal of old organ. An upgrade to Rogers 233 with two expression shoes is \$46,000. Lori will get up-to-date prices on 7/2, as there is a sale in July.

**Secretary's Report**

Patty moved to accept the Council Meeting Minutes dated May 22, 2024: Randy seconded and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Ron Fischer presented the financials as of May 31, 2024. Bethany's total assets are \$2,063,581 with \$872,107 in Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund, \$63,573 in money market and \$100,000 in CD. Sue Christensen's second gift of \$ 1,000,000 is temporarily being held in the endowment savings.

**Property Report**

Randy Nelson presented a report.

1. The exterior painting at the parsonage is completed; however the siding is in bad shape, especially on the south side. Siding will need to be replaced within five years.
2. The pump on the dishwasher is in and it is working.
3. Future plans for the porch include extending the porch (as it was originally) and adding beadboard on the ceiling.
4. The church walkway repair is still waiting for availability of the service people.
5. The windows at the church need repair and replacement. An OshKosh company gave a price of \$30,000 and will be in the area to do other repairs, so Randy will look over their work. This repair would need to be done in the winter, as the church would have to be boarded up. Randy will see if he can find another company that does this work to compare prices.
6. Three window shades are at a cleaners in Milwaukee and Randy hopes to pick them up this week.
7. Frank Pudlo is interested in being an on call maintenance person for the properties, including periodic visits during the winter to check on the parsonage.
8. Randy would like to replace the plastic patio chairs and get heavier, sturdier, long-lasting furniture of a table and four chairs for the parsonage patio.

## **Old Business**

### **Headstone Cleaning**

Jane reported the headstone cleaning was a huge success. Four volunteers were able to clean several headstones, revealing names and dates that previously could not be read. The group cleaned until they ran out of D2, the product used with distilled water. Jane would like to have another cleaning session in the fall, and will order more D2.

### **All Church Potluck/Friday Night Welcome to Pastor/now renamed "Friday Fellowship"**

The first Friday Fellowship held at Patty and Eric Fess' home was a success, with at least 15 present. Patty reported it was easy to host and she has supplies that she will pass on to Barb Olson who will host in July. Jane and Randy Nelson will host in August, and Nancy Steinke offered to host in September.

### **Discussion of 2nd Sue Christensen gift**

Patty spoke with Dick Christensen to learn of the intentions regarding Sue's second gift of money to Bethany. The money is to be used to start a fund with the possible name, "Bethany Property Preservation Fund" (BPPF), the purpose being to preserve, maintain and improve the properties, only using the earnings on the principal. Initially, the money will be invested where the principal can be secured. A move was made to appoint a three-person committee (one of which would be the Bethany Council Treasurer) to serve as the oversight of the BPPF; it was seconded and the motion passed.

## **New Business**

### **New Appointments**

Nancy Steinke has been appointed to fill Jim Schwengel's Council term.

Wally Kilgus has been appointed as Bethany representative on Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund.

### **Exploratory Committee Summary Report**

Many thanks to the Exploratory Committee and Paul and Carol Stoelting, Christina Mooney, and Chuck Pearson for his vision. The Council endorses the Exploratory Committee's work and accepts their recommendation to put before the members a vote to create a Building Committee. The Building Committee would be authorized to decide on a design in which to gather information on cost estimates. This committee would not be authorized to spend funds. If this motion should pass at the Annual Meeting, a sign up sheet would be circulated for those who would be interested to serve on this new committee.

### **Organ Replacement**

Discussion followed about the need to replace the organ. Barb Olson suggested that we put the July sale prices forward to the congregation to be voted on at the Annual Meeting; all were in agreement.

### **Annual Meeting July 14**

There is a proxy vote form that members can request if they cannot attend the meeting. It can be emailed to them and they can sign it and get the proxy to a member of their choice.

We can explore having the meeting on livestream in the future but are not ready to get the meeting on livestream this year.

Discussion followed on providing the Summary Report from the Exploratory Committee to members before the Annual Meeting so that they have time to read and digest the information. Patty will email it to members prior to the meeting.

**Pastor Coverage**

Deb Fischer has offered to line up pastors for next year, which we gladly accepted. She did a great job filling the summer this year.

**Date of next Council Meeting**

Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 am at Patty's house

**Date of Closing of the Church and Parsonage**

Thursday, October 24 9:00 am, starting at the church

**Adjournment**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 1:21.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Stout, Council Secretary