

Capital Campaign Meeting - Got Hope Part 2 - Facilities and Ministries to Bring Bethel's Mission to Life

February 9, 2020

Attendance: 43

Pastor opened the meeting at 11:30 AM with prayer.

See accompanying slide set.

Slides on Timeline and why now - This is the second meeting about the campaign. The first was at an Adult Forum on January 26 about understanding Bethel's shared mission. At that meeting people were asked - why Bethel? Also, something to think about is why people don't select Bethel. In March, we will look at the list of "wants" and how to fund them. Why are we having a campaign now? There is greater than \$500,000 in Bethel Foundation. There needs to be a strong footing for a new pastor whenever that will be. Currently this can be done in a reflective, non-crisis mode. It will ensure alignment between what we actually do and who we say we are.

Slides on True Belonging (which was part of the first discussion on January 26) - True belonging is not passive. Be present. Be open. Be bold.

What makes this place special?

Wed individual education programs to regular intergenerational action.

Don't be so sure we are as welcoming as we think we are and there might be people who are already here who don't feel totally welcome.

Comments from attendees -

1. Adult Forum is not judgmental and those attending feel free to say what they want to say.
2. Bethel can't be everything to everyone. Some things about Bethel could be used as a model for the Lutheran Church such as Bethel is not top down driven. We are unique and we should find ways to strengthen that and improve on it. Strengths mentioned were - an openness to all people, the music, many different activities going on and we have a good pastor.
3. The pastor and music director have been here for 30+ years which gives continuity to the congregation. This is part of the congregation's strength.
4. There were changes during that time, but we were able to go through those successfully, partly due to that stability (becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation, Bethel School closing).
5. Sunday morning at church is one of the few times when all generations come together - the wisdom of the elders and the wonder of children was mentioned. We need to have all generations here. Parents at this meeting were asked to ask their children about their hopes for Bethel, ie, the children's hopes for Bethel.

Slides on facilities - including anticipated needs, upgrades and other improvements.

Of note, members have been responsive to urgent and emergent needs (new copier, electronic sign).

Concerning emergency preparedness, the ELCA wants churches to have a plan.

Comments from attendees -

1. Gender neutral bathroom.
2. Diaper changing stations in both men's and women's bathrooms.
3. Advocacy to, for example, Bread for the World, ie, giving money to organizations who can actually do the work for which we don't have the resources, instead of making changes to our building.
4. Transform the school building into something from which Bethel could generate funds to use in our ministries.
5. Updating the stained glass windows. Jesus is only depicted as a white man.
6. Making the narthex more welcoming, although, it was enlarged several years ago.
7. Hold a session with the children of Bethel as to what they would like for Bethel.
8. Bethel owns the Lutheran Campus Ministry house building. It isn't used all the time (for example, during the summer), so it possibly could be used for other ministries and programs at Bethel.
9. St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Cottage Hill Road in Mobile, AL could serve as a reference for making our facility amenable to groups coming to St. Louis for mission trips or traveling through St. Louis on their way to other locations for mission trips, for example. St. Paul's has shower and sleeping facilities for groups.

Slides on ministries -

These included the Communications Committee's needs to extend the reach of worship by way of audio and video streaming, ministries currently in place and ministries moving forward.

Comments from attendees -

1. The technical aspects of audio/video could be a way to engage the youth, ie, youth volunteering to run the equipment.
2. Joining with other congregations in activities, such as with Second Presbyterian Church. We already participate in their Good Ground Pantry.
3. It was also mentioned that at St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the president of their congregation gave a talk on dismantling racism which Deb Grupe attended.

Slide on Got Hope! Next Steps -

Next meeting possibly on March 29 after the service.

Slide on March Coming Attractions - funding how much and how.

People can give ideas about Bethel and the capital campaign to Steve Poplawski, John Holahan or Pastor Yancey by email, voice mail or in person. There will be information about this in the Bethel Connection.

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM.