

Bethel Council Highlights

From the Council: Happy New Year!

- **Looking back:** The governing elders began our meeting looking back at God's faithfulness through the many challenging events of the past few years (Covid aside). We know that God has directed our steps and we are overwhelmed by His goodness to us. We are also trusting in His provision and direction in 2023 and as we plan for the next ministry year. Our God is good, and He is faithful!
- **Financials:** Thank you Bethel for your financial faithfulness. We are pleased to report that our numbers are back in the black. While meeting the budget is a goal, the Governing Elders do not want to miss an opportunity to encourage each of us to consider the greater goal, understanding the connection between our money and our faith. Giving is connected to the heart, a spiritual discipline that is an amazing blessing for those who trust in God with our tithes and beyond. Returning to Him some of what He first gave us. May you be blessed as you build this spiritual muscle. Encourage each other.
- **Pastor of Outreach and Missions:** We are in the beginning stages of making this position a reality, which will put a specific focus on our mission of "Sharing Christ with Others". The person in this role will be responsible to encourage, train, and stretch us as we all become more intentional about this part of our mission. We desire that Christ would transform our neighbourhood and world as we boldly share our faith story and invite others in. In keeping with our commitment to financial transparency, we have reduced the overall budget numbers by half of the cost of this position, with the intention of filling the position in March 2023.
- **Council nominations:** We are entering a time of discernment at Bethel for those who God has called to serve as Shepherding Elders (SE), Governing Elders (GE) or Deacons this year. We invite Bethel to prayerfully reflect on who you see the Lord empowering with gifts of leadership and service around us, and to consider nominating these men and women. We also want to acknowledge that often God stirs desires in our hearts for these calls. If you sense a desire to serve and lead at Bethel, we would love to have a conversation with you. Please reach out Ivan Mast (ivanmast@shaw.ca) with nominations and questions about the process. Ivan is our Future Leaders Champion on GE and who will be overseeing the nomination process this year. Nominees must be members of Bethel Community Church. More information to follow.
- **September may be far away...** But budget and ministry planning is underway for the 2023-24 ministry year. Please partner with us in prayer over the focus of this budget. We feel that this year has been a recovery year and next will be a building year with goals of growing deeper and being even more intentional about outreach. Let's pray that God would help us move out of the "usual" and step into His "adventure" for us.

As you walk through 2023, and whatever it may bring, may you be aware of the peace of God's presence, experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit and be certain of the gift of redemption offered by our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

from your elders and deacons

Be With Jesus (Communion)
Be with one another (Community)

Play your role in God's family (Calling)
Develop Emerging Leaders (Grow Young)