

Bethel Council Highlights

Updates from our meetings held on May 13, 2024 and during the following week

- From Governing Elders – Budget Update: This past week we had a meeting with the the Finance Committee to move forward with the development of a new budget for the 2024-25 church year starting in September. Given our current shortfall of funds and what we might expect for an increasing shortage, we discussed what would next year’s budget should look like given the trends of this fiscal year. Since we are not receiving donations as expected for this budget year, we decided to base next year’s budget on how well we will do in this budget year. In other words, if this year’s budget is not met, difficult decisions will need to be made regarding which ministry plans may not happen next year. The council of Bethel is encouraging all members to seriously consider their giving for the next 3 1/2 months so that we can make up the shortage we have to date this year. We hope to have a final budget ready to present near the end of June.
- Finance Team Update: Changes are happening with our Finance Committee. Hans Vandenbrink is retiring from his role as Treasurer on the committee. He has held the position of treasurer for Bethel for 12 years. Also, John Oort is retiring from serving on the committee as well. John is a long tenured leader at Bethel with 24+ years of service, chairing on the Finance team and also on the Facilities team. Thank you for your diligent work, Hans and John! We are so grateful for your service and greatly appreciate all you have done for the church. We will plan to formally thank these two men during our next congregational meeting.
Two new members have joined the committee this spring: Linda Bird and Lorraine Vacciana, who both work in accounting and finance. We’re grateful for their willingness to serve on the Finance team.
- Summer Interns: We are pleased to announce that we have again received funds for the Federal Government so that that we may hire 2 interns in order to run our summer outreach projects.
- New Office Bearers: This week we are announcing the nominations of names for people to serve as deacons. We are so grateful for the people who are willing to let their name stand in this role. We’ve noticed that there has been a hesitancy among nominees who are willing to serve as elders. We will continue to pray and reflect on how we lead well together on Bethel’s Council. We welcome the church to pray with us as we consider who God is calling among us to serve in leadership as an elder. Please continue to keep an eye on the weekly newsletter for updates about our nominations process.
- From Governing Elders: At our last meeting we were made aware that Classis Alberta North has approved the formation of a Hospitality Cohort. The will engage with the question “How do we effectively welcome and enfold the LGBTQ+ community?” It’s not the purpose of this cohort to debate position statements regarding human sexuality. Instead, the purpose is to research, share, and learn about hospitality and to provide an environment in which churches can increase their hospitality in their own context. Council will be exploring what it would look like for us to be involved in this cohort. More information will come later.

Grace and Peace

The Council of Bethel Community Church

*If you have any question or comments, please reach out to the different council groups:

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