

# Bethel Church Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 19, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 PM (call to order by Logan Wells)

**Location:** Bethel Lutheran Church 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room

**Attending:** Pastor; DJ Smith, President; Logan Wells, Treasurer; Harold Seamon, Jim Herr, Lon Mills, Linc Schneider, Annette Lang, Karen Moffitt, Jill Duncan, Secretary; Tom Hooper

**Not Present:** Steve Horton, Sarah Manro, Randy Baskerville, 1 unfilled position

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## 1. Opening Devotion & Prayer

- Pastor DJ shared reflection on the “myth of fixing ourselves,” emphasizing that God meets us as we are, not after we “clean up” first.
  - Encouraged council to embrace authenticity, brokenness, and God’s unconditional love.
  - Prayer offered for guidance, unity, and openness to the Holy Spirit.
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## 2. Approval of Minutes

- Previous meeting’s minutes were reviewed.
  - Motion to approve (by Jim Herr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jill Duncan) as read (unamended) passed unanimously.
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## 3. Treasurer’s Report (Harold)

- **Highlights:**
    - Contributions exceeded budgeted revenue for the month; expenses below projections.
    - Despite this, budget deficit persists due to prior approval of higher budgeted expenses.
    - “What-if” scenario with full-time pastor since April showed finances would be slightly better than current due to departure package costs.
  - **Budget Planning:**
    - Council members to receive memos, expenditure reports, and worksheets by early September.
    - Committees asked to review spending and “sharpen pencils,” ensuring expenditures align with mission.
    - **October 9 deadline** for committee budget submissions.
  - Motion to approve (by Lon Mills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Herr) Treasurer’s Report passed unanimously.
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## 4. Pastor’s Report

- **Worship Attendance:**
  - Average attendance pre-summer: 126; since summer: 119 (small shifts in service times).
  - Baptisms, funerals, and pastoral care ongoing.
- **Programs:**

- Participation in Pittsburgh learning event (discipleship, church planting, renewal).
  - Continued chapel conversations with members. Suggestion to have a council member present in chapel early to welcome attendees.
  - Plans for enhancing Saturday night worship (additional music, hymns).
  - Exploring children's Sunday school "crash cart" for visiting families.
  - **Schedule:** Pastor DJ available on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, plus select evenings. Requests ministry teams keep him informed.
  - Pastor's Report accepted.
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## 5. Innovation Session Report (Preschool Focus) by guest Wes Wells

- **Storyboard** created with ~100 ideas organized by ministry team.
  - Recognition that preschool is a key opportunity to connect with young families.
  - Proposal for a **Partnership Minister role** to coordinate with preschool and serve as contact for all ministry teams.
  - **Action:** Motion (by Jim Herr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen Moffitt) passed unanimously appointing **Wes** as interim (relationship manager) Partnership Minister for the preschool.
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## 6. Maryland's Place Update

- Financial records reconciled; **reimbursement amount (\$1300–1400)** was less than approved. Logan approved check to be written.
  - Council emphasized need for Maryland's Place leadership to present a sustainable plan by year-end.
  - Discussion included transportation challenges for clients, potential fundraising/legacy fund, and concerns about long-term viability.
  - **Open house** scheduled (tentative: September 13) to raise awareness.
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## 7. Call Committee Report

- Committee invited **Pastor Jeff Carpenter** to visit officially, preach at services, and engage congregation for call consideration.
  - Pastor considering the request; fasting for 72 hours to discern request.
  - Council encouraged prayerful support.
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## 8. Committee Reports

- **Property:** Work underway on doors/locks, exploring preventive maintenance contracts, recruiting committee members.
- **Christian Education:** Discussions on leadership and possible partnerships with Legacy.
- **Evangelism/Fellowship:** Advertising for upcoming events (fish fry, bonfire); flyers for new women's class.

- **Pantry:** Strong usage (20–27 families per session). Manpower remains a challenge.
  - **Care Committee:** Increase in need for funeral dinners, meals, and nursing home visits. Engagement sheets to recruit more volunteers. Positive comments about care com work.
  - **Stewardship:** Fall campaign planning underway for October (3 Sundays). Commitment cards emphasized.
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## 9. Council Membership

- **Appointments:**
    - **Karen Moffitt** officially approved to Council (previously appointed by Exec Committee). (properly moved by Jim Herr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Linc Schneider)
    - **Jim Herr** reappointed retroactively for one year due to clerical oversight . (properly moved by Tom Hooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Linc Schneider)
  - **Vacancy:** Still one open council seat (formerly Gary Helgemo's). Discussion tabled; members asked to pray and identify potential candidates.
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## 10. Pantry Funding

- Motion (by Tom Hooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Herr) was approved to transfer **\$2,500/month from Missions budget to Pantry fund** for the remainder of 2025.
  - Ensures consistent support for this vital outreach mission ministry.
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## 11. Worship Services

- Reviewed feedback from congregation and Bishop's office regarding worship format.
  - **Motion** (by Tom Hooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen Moffitt) **passed unanimously to continue with a single unified Sunday service until further notice.**
  - Positive reports of unity, enthusiasm, and Spirit-led worship.
  - Noted need for unified communication strategy (newsletters, announcements, Facebook).
  - Emphasis on council visibility in chapel talks, fellowship, and worship to strengthen trust and participation.
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## 13. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned 8:20pm with the Lord's Prayer.
  - **Next Council Meeting:** September 16, 2025, 6:30 PM
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Respectively submitted & prepared, Tom Hooper, secretary.