

Bethel Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2025

Time: Meeting called to order at 6:24 PM

Location: 29460 N. Edmondson Rd, Atlanta, IN

Secretary: Tom Hooper

Present: Pastor; DJ Smith, President; Logan Wells, Treasurer; Harold Seamon, Linc Schneider, Annette Lang, Karen Moffitt, Secretary; Tom Hooper, Randy Baskerville, Sarah Manro, Jim Herr, Steve Horton

Absent: Lon Mills, Jill Duncan

1. Opening Reflection

- Devotion centered on **restoration**—restoring relationships, attitudes, and small tangible things (e.g., repairing nativity figures) as metaphors for spiritual renewal in the Christmas season.
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2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes were approved **with corrections**, primarily fixing “Maryland/Maryland’s” transcription errors from voice-to-text.
 - No other changes were required. Approval passed.
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3. Treasurer’s Report

- Treasurer’s report was received earlier in the week.
 - Council affirmed that **Harold’s written summaries** are extremely helpful.
 - Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report **passed**.
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4. Stewardship / Pledges

- Question raised about receiving a **pledge summary report** (compare to last year).
 - Data should be available via Janet; Council requested summary for **next meeting**.
 - Informal note: pledges currently tracking approximately **\$50k under last year**, though Bethel historically has low pledge-card participation.
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5. Call Process / Pastor Candidate

- A pastoral candidate will visit **December 27–28** for an **unofficial** visit (self-funded visit on his way home).
- He plans to attend **all three worship services**; no formal meet-and-greet.
- Council desires clearer alignment between **Council and Call Team**:
 - Request for bullet points summarizing candidate strengths, conversation topics, and vision alignment.
 - Goal: ensure unified communication and expectations.
- Council affirmed the need to soon establish a **formal candidacy process** once both sides show mutual seriousness.
- Meals are being coordinated; RSVPs requested.
- Sunday service during the visit will be **Carols with Communion**; Saturday service remains unchanged.

- Bethel is now streaming the **5:30 PM Saturday service**, offering the candidate additional insight into worship style.
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6. Committee Reports

- Reminder: **Committee reports must be submitted before the January meeting** to be included on the agenda.
 - The next regular meeting is **January 7 (first Tuesday)**.
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7. NALC Constitution Ratification Vote

- Ratification vote must occur **before February 8**.
 - Council voted to schedule congregational voting **after all services on January 24–25**.
 - Materials (booklet + digital link) will be distributed to allow 4+ weeks for review.
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8. Interim Pastor Travel

- Interim pastor's late-January travel is already permitted under the interim agreement.
 - Council affirmed approval for the time away.
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9. Freezer for the Clean Pantry

- Current freezer is ~30 years old and failing.
 - Clean Pantry may contribute up to **\$500** toward a replacement.
 - Council approved a motion authorizing purchase of a **new freezer**.
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10. Marilyn's Place

- Key has been transferred to Mercedes.
 - Council previously tabled the issue; no final decision made.
 - Further discussion is needed after the first of the year.
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11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made and carried.