

# Bethel Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 17, 2026

**Time:** Meeting called to order at 7 PM (after Shrove Tuesday dinner)

**Location:** Bethel 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Education

**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; Jill Duncan; Lon Mills

**Absent:** Steve Horton

## 1. Opening Reflection

- The role of nostalgia in the church
  - Isaiah 43: Make way in the wilderness
  - Reflections from the rearview mirror, look at where been, then God is leading.
  - Encourage prospective to join us on our journey
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## 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- **Discussion:** Pastor DJ noted minutes are typically filed with attached ministry reports as a package in the church's official records; additional reports may be submitted for inclusion.
  - Minutes approval Moved Jim Herr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Baskerville, **passed**
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## 3. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report was received earlier in the week.
  - **Report Highlights:**
    - January ended ~\$600 positive.
    - Scenario note: with a full-time pastor at the call-scale compensation, January would have been ~\$10,649 negative (difference \$11,249).
    - Council discussed how/where to communicate financial updates (concerns about visitor perception when weekly figures appear negative).
    - Comparative context shared: general fund balance and total funds increased year-over-year (exact figures referenced in discussion).
  - **Action/Next Step:** Treasurer will draft and share alternative financial communication formats with council **before** publishing next month.
  - Motion to approve by Tom Hooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Herr, **passed**.
  - Appreciated the positive financial report
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## 4. Pastor's Report Accepted

- Add Mark Guyer to prayer concerns
  - Grief Workshop upcoming
  - Bike trails, second phase going down Cumberland rd past Bethel (On east side of rd)
  - Attendance records average attendance of 140, 240 unique persons attend each month
  - **Jan 25** 10:00 a.m. service canceled due to road conditions.
  - Mileage request approved
  - Unbound Lenten services, return to full lectionary readings; seasonal sanctuary changes outlined.
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## 5. Call Committee Update

- **Candidate Interview(s):** Call committee scheduled a candidate calls with a two-call structure (committee questions, then candidate questions).
  - **Upcoming Meetings on 2/19/2026 and 3/8/2026**
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## 6. Anxiety/Depression workshop

- Groundwire Ministry, Sean Dunn
  - “Contending for the Rising Generations”
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## 7. Communications / Bulletin Practices

- Council discussed:
    - Positive feedback on Bethel News highlighting ministries with photos/people.
    - Discontinuation of placing electronic giving slips in pew racks; retraining volunteers accordingly.
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## 8. Ministry and Program Updates

- **Pantry:** Purchase of a **25 cubic foot refrigerator** to support increased refrigerated donations; delivery coordination pending.
  - **Evangelism/Media:** Question raised about purchasing **three cameras** for video/podcast work. Guidance given that purchases **within the approved budget** do not require additional council approval.
  - **Groundwire Initiative:** Council heard overview of **Groundwire (groundwire.net)** model; request made for additional volunteers to complete **~10 hours training** to support welcoming/mentoring referred visitors.
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## 9. Special Council Meeting Preview (Sat., Feb 21)

- Topics previewed:
    1. Visioning (video/PowerPoint)
    2. Clarifying council “voice points” within the call process
    3. Review of **Pastor Emeritus / former pastor boundaries** and draft guidelines
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## 9. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made and carried.