

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Bethel Lutheran Church
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020 // 6:00 pm



- A. Call to Order, and Opening Prayer: Daryl Synstelien, Chair
- B. Determination of a Quorum
- C. Speaking rights for non-members
- D. Receive the Secretary's report of the April 26, 2020 Online Business Meeting
- E. Membership transfers
- F. Elder Board recommendations for membership
- G. Reports and Updates
 - a. Strategic Ministry Plan Report
- H. Business
 - a. Election of Delegates to 2020 CLB Biennial Convention
 - b. Elder Board Motion: "To approve renovations to Bethel's Sanctuary this summer, according to the Make Room plan, funded with cash from the capital account, up to a maximum of \$200,000.00."
- I. Other business/announcements
 - a. Next Business Meeting – To be determined
- J. Adjournment

Critical Capacity Response to COVID-19 Conditions Sanctuary Renovation Proposal

Current Reality

The past 3 months of COVID-19 response have imposed unprecedented restrictions and required endless adaptations of us as a church, as families, and as individuals.

As we have now joyously returned to in-person worship services, we have identified a critical and immediate challenge to address. Ongoing COVID-19 recommendations on social distancing in worship services have created a debilitating Sanctuary capacity limitation for the Fergus Falls worship services.

The rigidity of the current pew seating in the sanctuary allows for zero flexibility to adapt for distance between rows or grouping of seats for individuals or families. The impact and restriction of roping off more than half of the pews is evidence of the obvious. We are already overflowing into the foyer for worship services. The seating challenges in September will become exponentially more difficult.

Proposed Solution

The solution to provide partial relief for this capacity issue is proposed by the Facilities Ministry Team and the Finance and Stewardship Committee of the Elder Board. It is proposed that we expedite the Renovation of our current Sanctuary to a place of first priority, completing the work over the next two months, in time for the fall ministry schedule. This modification can be paid for in cash, for less than \$200,000.00. The work performed would include:

- Remove the existing pews
- Remove the existing flooring
- Build a new level floor
- Raise the doors in the front of the sanctuary to match the Sanctuary floor.
- Build a new platform and choir stage.
- Install new flooring
- Purchase 400 cushioned chairs

The cushioned chairs, with racks underneath for holding Bibles and Hymnals, will allow continuous flexibility in their configuration. Efficient spacing between rows and adjustable groupings for individuals and families will allow us to maximize the limited space we now have before overflowing into the foyer or fellowship hall.

Important considerations include:

- All elements of this Renovation were already planned for the final phase of the Make Room Project; all elements had already been planned.
- The current flooring is past due in its scheduled replacement.
- The work can be done for less than \$200,000.00, paid for with cash - no debt is required.
- Contractors have indicated that it is possible to complete the work prior to the fall ministry season start - if the process is initiated before the end of June. For the Sundays when the Sanctuary is unusable, worship services will be held in an alternate location.