

**Bethel Associated Gospel Church**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**June 20, 2017**

1. **OPENING** – Brian Marchant, Elders’ Chair, opened and chaired the meeting.
2. **DEVOTIONAL** - Pastor Mark led a short devotional on “three words”: *motive* (to love God passionately), *mission* (to make disciples) and the *marriage* between proper motive and mission, and challenged us to ensure these three areas are all growing in our lives.
3. **STORIES OF HOW GOD HAS BEEN AT WORK AT BETHEL** – Several people shared testimonies of how God has been at work in their own lives and in the ministries they have been involved in. It was inspiring and encouraging to hear the stories of:  
Lisa Porter & Mike – from Bethel House ministry  
Jonathan Ardell – an RMC student volunteering with the Senior Youth  
Rhonda Kotchapaw – presented a video featuring 3 Redemption Reel Life Group participants  
Sarah Kreick - Upstreet/Family Ministries  
Ilse & Andrew Kreick – Saturday night prayer ministry  
Amanda Van Halteren– Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored
4. **OLD BUSINESS**  
**2016 AGM Minutes** – Motion: ***Phyllis Turrell moved that the minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting be passed as corrected.*** Steve Ditmore seconded.  
Correction: Charles Stickel’s last name was misspelled (4.1b).      Vote: Carried
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - 5.1 **New Members** - Motion: ***The Elders moved and seconded that Sophie Sage be admitted to membership in Bethel church.*** Vote: Carried
  - 5.2 **Elders’ Board Report** – Dave Dempster reported on their Strategic Plan that will guide the development of Bethel’s ministry over the next 3-5 years. He highlighted some plans for improving Discipleship which include: new or improved groups/programs for college/university ages, men, & new Christians; deeper theological discussion; growing Bethel both in quality & quantity, and optimizing the worship service experience. Specific plans will be presented later this year, with implementation to begin this fall.  
Discussion:  
Q. Could you please clarify the “transition to a board policy governance model” mentioned in the Elders’ annual report?  
A. Brian Marchant responded: Policy Governance is an organizing and governing approach used by a wide range of church, not-for-profit and corporate boards and recommended by the AGC leadership. Previously, apart from Bethel’s constitution, by-laws, and the Board’s own minutes of meetings, the Board did not rely on any past policies or formal governance method. Without a formal governance process, strong voices, from within the board, pastoral or other leadership positions, could take the board in any direction. Policy Governance more formally organizes the board through guiding policies in the following 4 areas: 1) Strategic, future oriented policies called Ends policies, 2) Board operating policies that guide how the board is to function, 3) Board/Leader relations policies that guide how the board interacts with the positions they oversee or most often interact with in the organization, and 4) Leader limitation policies that dictate the limits to which any leader can function while staying “in bounds” in the scope of their work. The Elders Board is currently writing our first version of a policy governance manual and we will make it available to the members as soon as it is completed.

Q. Because the Annual Report states that the Elders' Board role includes communion, why do the greeters distribute the communion elements rather than the Elders?

A. The role of the Elders' Board is more to 'oversee' communion, that is, to make sure it happens. This would include the delegation of the actual serving to others.

Discussion:

- It was felt that having the Elders participating in the process, like they have in the past, would help raise their visibility at church.

Motion: ***Ron Dickey moved that members of the Elders' Board, present and past, serve communion.***

Seconded by Dave Dempster.

Discussion:

- This was tried in the past and provided ongoing time-consuming scheduling challenges as individual Elders were not always available.
- With this motion, there can't be communion if the Elders are away.
- It was noted that women would not be able to hand out communion if it was an 'Elders' only' responsibility.

Amended Motion: ***Mary Jane Dempster moved that members of the Elders' Board, present and past, participate on the communion serving team, but not exclusively, so others can participate.***

Jennifer Ellis seconded.

- It was noted that the amended motion is actually the way things are currently functioning. It was agreed however that Elders should have a higher profile at Bethel, either by participating in communion when able (but not exclusively) or by being introduced to the congregation in different forums.

Vote on the amendment: Carried

Vote on the original motion - Defeated.

**5.3 Update On Incorporation** – Carmen Gauven-O'Donnell provided the following update on the incorporation process: "In February of this year, Bethel Church officially began the process of incorporation with Carters Professional Corporation, Barristers and Solicitors of Ottawa. We will be pursuing federal incorporation and the process is expected to take up to 1 ½ years to complete. During the process, we will enter a time of transition from the existing leadership structure (Staff, Deacons and Elders) to a new structure as dictated by the laws of incorporation. An interim Board of Directors will be formed from representatives from the Elders' and Deacons' boards, to take over the duties of the existing committee of Carmen Gauvin-O'Donnell, Ken Vissers & John Sheahan, in supervising the process with Carter's. The estimated cost of incorporation is \$16,000-\$20,000 but the final cost will not be known until the process is complete."

Discussion:

- Once incorporated, trustees will not be required.
- Women can be on this Interim Board of Directors from the Deacons' Board.
- This interim board will be in place until the time of incorporation, and will be authorized to make decisions regarding what needs to be done without having to go to the membership.

Motion: ***The Elders' Board moved and seconded that a group, made up of a sub-set of the Elders and a subset of the Deacons, be established and authorized to act as an Interim Board of Directors for the purposes of, and as required by the CRA, the Act, the Regulations and/or any others aspect of the incorporation process.*** Vote:

Carried

Motion: ***The Elders' Board moved and seconded that they, in collaboration with the Deacons' Board, create a governance design to be presented to the membership for approval at the June 2018 Annual General Meeting.***

Vote: Carried

**5.4 2017-2018 Budget** – Steve Ditmore, Deacons’ Chair presented the Proposed 2017-18 budget totaling \$655,900. (Note: Questions relating to details of this budget were addressed during a special meeting just prior to the AGM). Some minor changes to the Missions budget were brought to light just prior to the AGM which would increase the Mission budget by ~1,200. Rather than change the overall budget, offsetting savings will be found in other operational expenses.

Motion: ***Steve Ditmore moved that the 2017-18 Budget be accepted by the membership.***

Raymond Roy seconded. Vote: Carried.

**5.5 Nominating Committee Report** - This year’s committee consisted of Pastor Mark, Brian Marchant (Elders’ Chair) & Mary Jane Dempster. (Committee nominees Ron Dickey and Lucien Haddad were not available at the time the committee met). Their job was to recruit Board Members. New and continuing Elders and Deacons have been included in the “2017/18-Volunteer Leadership Positions” report on p37, Appendices-B of the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

Motion: ***Dave Dempster moved that the Nominating Committee Report be accepted by the membership.***

Maureen Brown seconded.

Discussion:

With regards to diversity:

- The proposed Elders’ Board does not proportionately reflect the diversity of the congregation, most being Caucasian and similar in age & stage of life.
- It was possible that others, who would have added to the diversity of the Board, were asked to join but declined.
- There have been years when more men with younger kids were on the Board. Certainly most of those on the Board have had kids and know what their needs are in the church.
- It’s important not to sacrifice quality just to achieve diversity.
- Based on scripture, the AGC constitution and bylaws state that Elders have to be men, and have to be, or agree to become, a church member, so these can be limiting factors in achieving diversity.

With regards to gender:

- The Interim Board of Directors can have women Deacons on it. This is different from the Elders’ Board.
- There was interest in approaching the AGC to see what their response would be to the desire by some to have women Elders at Bethel? And if rejected, why?
- There was concern that we might be going with culture and against scripture by pursuing this.

Original Motion Vote: Carried

Motion: ***Brent Wolfrom moved that the Elders approach the AGC head office to discuss the possibility of women serving as Elders, and report back to the membership regarding their response within 6 months.***

Phoebe Cohoe seconded. Vote: Carried

**5.6 Nominating Committee Selection** – Nominations were taken for 3 congregants to join the Senior Pastor and Elders’ Chair on this Committee. Stacey Wolfrom nominated Tiffany Nazareth. Phoebe Cohoe nominated Jennifer Ellis. Sharon Mackenzie nominated Tracey Thomson. All three nominees agreed to allow their names to stand.

Motion: ***Dave Dempster moved to accept Tiffany Nazareth, Jennifer Ellis & Tracey Thomson as members of the 2017/18 Nominating Committee.*** Amos Cohoe seconded. Vote: Carried.

**5.7 ADJOURNMENT** – Brian Marchant adjourned the meeting.

Attendance: 35 members; 12 adherents

Minutes prepared by Donna Dickey