

## BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting

November 15, 2011

Call to Order: Chairman Mark Bernthal called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Board members present were Mark Bernthal, Gene Roy, John Moldenhauer, Miriam Gustaf, Sonja Burkett and Pastor Hass. Also in attendance were Nancy Shumway, Stan Isaacson and John Lear.

The first order of business was the installation of Nancy Shumway to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Bob Svehla last month. In a case such as this when the remainder of the term is more than six months, the Board has the responsibility to appoint a candidate to fill the vacancy. Nancy, who was a qualified candidate for the Board and stood for election at the Annual Meeting on October 23, 2011, was unanimously elected to serve the remainder of Bob's term which runs through the end of 2012.

Stan and John and Sonja, all elected to two year terms on the Board at the Annual Meeting, will take office on January 1, 2012.

Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor led a discussion of discipleship and reminded those present that while Bella Vista Lutheran Church has a Vision Statement, our Mission Statement is to **Make Disciples (The Great Commission-Matthew 28: 16-20)**. To do that we must be obedient to Jesus and His Word, be intentional in connecting others to Him and take action to grow our faith and serve Him. Pastor provided a Bible study on this topic which we will prepare and discuss at our next meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the October 11, 2011 Board meeting and of the October 23, 2011 Annual Meeting were approved as drafted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reviewed the financial data and the net change in Balance Sheet figures for the year. The special gift of \$5,000 for Joplin Tornado Relief was taken from the Cash Reserve Fund in July. The \$30,000 for debt reduction, which was approved by the members at the Annual Meeting, was paid from the Cash General Fund (the checking account) in October. That is not an interest-earning account whereas the Cash Reserve Fund earns some interest.

Pastor also reviewed worship attendance figures for October.

The five Mission Principle Components from the Guiding Principles (outreach, worship, discipleship, ministry, fellowship) were discussed. At the December meeting the Board will establish 2012 goals for these components. Of particular concern is how we define and measure witness contacts as we strive to make disciples.

The Staff calendar for the remainder of 2011 and the preliminary calendar for 2012 was distributed. An event planning and evaluation form has been developed for use by the Staff in 2012. It will aid us in answering the question, "How are we making disciples?"

A Fire and Emergency Evacuation Plan has been developed for the church. It has been submitted to the Bella Vista fire marshal for approval.

In an attempt to learn the source of our new members and why they remain at BVLC, a short questionnaire will be distributed to the confirmed members who have joined the church during the past three years.

Open Discussion: Pastor explained the procedure congregations will follow for the June 2012 Mid-South District Convention in Memphis and leading up to the 2013 LCMS Convention in Houston. A special congregational meeting to elect a lay representative and to certify a pastor to participate in these conventions will be scheduled in late January 2012.

It was agreed that we will continue to hold only one Board training session for BOD candidates. This is our current policy.

A motion was made by Gene Roy and seconded by John Moldenhauer to approve access to the BVLC safe deposit box at Arvest Bank by Mark Bernthal, Walt Heyne and Ron Burkett.

The church's position on the ten-member Bella Vista Cemetery Board is vacant. It was decided to wait to see if changes are made to the governance of that board by the City of Bella Vista.

Mark and Pastor provided an update on the lawsuit that BVLC and several other entities are defendants in with the City of Bella Vista. It involves a discrepancy in Benton County and City of Bella Vista legal boundaries. Although the suit was filed on October 7, 2011, Pastor, as BVLC's registered agent, has not yet been served with the papers. Until the church is actually served, no action needs to be taken. Lisa Reeves, a local attorney, is advising us on a pro bono basis.

Pastor informed the Board that the Ministry Teams are developing a three-year long range plan during the next three months. It will encompass their vision for ministry in the years ahead and determine what resources (particularly regarding our facility) they need for BVLC to continue to thrive and grow.

Next meeting, prayer assignment and adjournment: The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2011. Gene Roy will lead the prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sonja Burkett, Secretary