



February 16, 2023

Dear Bethel Members,

This letter is to inform you that the Bethel Church Council has called for a special congregational meeting to be held simultaneously *in-person and virtually* on **Sunday, March 12, 2023 @ 11:45am in the Bethel sanctuary**. The sole purpose of this hybrid meeting is to give you the opportunity to vote on the following:

- ☐ I vote to **KEEP Continuing Resolution 2010-02 and Continuing Resolution 2010-03 of Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN.**
- ☐ I vote to **DISSOLVE Continuing Resolution 2010-02 and Continuing Resolution 2010-03 of Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN.**

You must attend the meeting in-person or online and register as a member of the congregation in order to cast a written or virtual ballot. Your vote will be kept *confidential*.

Congregational Meeting Information for Virtual Attendance

If you choose to attend the special congregational meeting via Zoom you may access attendance to the meeting via the *link or phone number* below. You will be asked to check in via the “chat” feature with the name of who is in attendance on the call/zoom and each person’s name in the household who intends to vote. If you have any questions on how to use this link or call, please contact the Bethel church office, #507-288-6430.

Date/Time: Sunday, March 12 @11:45am

Format: Hybrid Meeting You may attend in-person or online and you will be required to sign-in as a member of Bethel so that we can ensure only confirmed Bethel members vote.

Zoom link:

<https://bit.ly/congregational-meeting>

Meeting ID: 886 1861 2038

Passcode: 186219

Phone access to the meeting: +1-312-626-6799

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS 2010-02 and 2010-03

Copies of entirety of each of the Continuing Resolutions to be voted upon are included in this mailing and are included on Bethel’s website, www.bethellutheran.com under “About Us/ Governing Documents”. *What is resolved in these continuing resolutions is as follows:*

2010-02 BE it RESOLVED that Bethel Lutheran Church adopt for a standard for ministry leadership as outlined in the 1990 documents “Visions and Expectations” and “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” shall remain in effect for pastors, interns, and lay ministers serving this congregation (pre-2009 ELCA Assembly).

2010-03 BE it RESOLVED, that the pastors of Bethel Lutheran Church will decline to officiate at or bless homosexual unions or marriages; and

BE it FURTHER RESOLVED that homosexual unions or marriages will not be performed on church property or in the name of Bethel Lutheran Church.

INFORMATION MEETINGS

The Bethel Church Council and Lead Pastor will be providing eight opportunities for you to attend an **information meeting** regarding Continuing Resolutions 2010-02 and 2010-03. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the following questions.

What are Continuing Resolutions?

What is the content and context of these two continuing resolutions?

When did these get adopted at Bethel as continuing resolutions?

Who approved them?

Who do these continuing resolutions affect?

Why are these continuing resolutions remaining in place?

How do these continuing resolutions affect the Call Process?

How do these continuing resolutions affect Bethel's mission and ministry?

Please note: Information Sessions will be for the purpose of offering *clear information* about the two continuing resolutions. Recognizing that people already hold personal opinions about these continuing resolutions, the intent of these sessions is not to debate the resolutions but rather to give opportunity to *learn about* the continuing resolutions. This will allow members to make an informed decision for their vote in March.

Since the sole purpose of the congregational meeting and vote will be to either *keep or dissolve* the continuing resolutions, this will allow our new Call Committee clear direction as they seek to discern who will be our next pastoral candidate for Associate Pastor.

Hybrid (in-person/online) meetings will be held in the Bethel Chapel and do not require advanced registration. The content will be the same at all eight meetings. *If you would like to attend virtually, please call the church office for a Zoom link to the meeting of your choice.

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Feb 22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 1pm	Feb 23 5 pm		Feb 25 8am
Feb 26 11:45am	Feb 27 5pm		March 1 11am	March 2 7pm		
March 5 11:45am						

If you have any questions regarding the special congregational meeting, the voting process for the special congregational meeting or the information meetings, please contact us.

In Christian service,

The Bethel Church Council