

Futuring Bethel's Ministry

Bethel United Church of Christ is in transition. We've been there before. God willing, we will be there again. To change is to be alive. Trusting the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, we need to discern who God is calling us to be for now. This is the task of the whole congregation. The Leadership Council and the Search Committee will be able to do their work better if they know where members of the congregation are on some very important questions. Please let us know your agreement or disagreement on the following statements by marking one response per item.

The Bible is factually true. Its teachings should be followed exactly as written.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

We should be more active in claiming our identity as a congregation of the United Church of Christ.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

To balance our budget, we are using as much of the endowment as we can without taking from the principal. If more financial subsidy is needed to support the future health of the congregation, we should use some of the principal of the endowment fund.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(over)

“Open and Affirming” is the understanding that God has made each person good no matter what their sexual orientation or gender identity. Bethel should become an open and affirming church.

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

Bethel needs a pastor who will take the lead

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

Bethel needs a pastor who will follow the lead of the congregation

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

Bethel needs a pastor who with lots of new ideas.

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

(more)

Bethel needs a pastor with lots of experience.

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

Life is about change. Bethel is ready for it.

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

The new pastor(s) should be able to form their own support staff with the gifts and skills necessary for future ministry.

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

Bethel should work to serve people with a similar faith stance to our own.

___ Strongly agree

___ Somewhat Agree

___ Neutral

___ Somewhat Disagree

___ Strongly Disagree

(over)

Blended worship includes a variety of musical styles. Bethel should continue its currently blended style of worship.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Like people, our congregation needs to focus our energy. Please rank in numerical order, 1 – 6, with 1 being highest, the ways we should use our energy. Each number will be used only once.

- To appeal to those who have not been accepted by other churches
- To have a superb ministry with children, youth and families
- To attract those with no faith affiliation
- To serve the current congregation, those who have already served God and our congregation
- To minister to the needs of the community, letting church involvement evolve from that
- To appeal to those in our immediate area, Stockwell, the apartments and condos near us

Bethel should consider, (please mark all that should be considered).

- A solo, all-purpose, full-time pastor
- A full-time pastor with a part-time leader for children and youth.
- A full-time pastor concentrating on children, youth, and young families with a part-time calling pastor.
- Two pastors with different gifts and skills.
- Two pastors; one to lead the church as it is. One to start a new UCC church in the present building. (Rationale: it has been said that revitalizing a church is like starting a new church with baggage. This approach would keep the present going while not weighing down the future.)
- Your suggestion _____

(more)

Your ideas; suggestions; comments; questions:

Name _____
(optional)

6/11/18