

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND,  
WASHINGTON**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 1, 2025**

Council President Vicki Browning called the meeting to order and offered an opening prayer.

**Determination of Quorum.** Recent amendments to Bethany's Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions require a quorum of 20% of church members. We estimate that Bethany currently has approximately 130 active members. Thus, a quorum is approximately 26 members. Approximately 50 members attended the meeting. Thus, the quorum requirement was satisfied.

**Installation of Solar Panels at Bethany.** Treasurer Barbara Swartling provided members with a written summary of the proposed project to install 94 solar panels on the roof of the church and preschool buildings, and to install 3 batteries outside near the north wall of the church building. The total cost is estimated to be \$246,567, which includes \$10,500 in financing costs and a \$22,415 contingency fund.

Barbara explained to members that Bethany received a grant from the Washington Department of Commerce to reimburse Bethany for the first \$213,750 spent on this project. Additional rebate, reimbursements, or recoveries could also be available from the U.S. Direct Pay Investment Tax Credit, or from Puget Sound Energy ("PSE") (though we can't count on any additional rebates).

The Council has recommended that Bethany borrow \$250,000 to fund the project. The loan will be secured by an interest in the solar panels and batteries. The Council recommends that we contract with Cascadia Solar to install the panels and batteries. Construction is scheduled to begin in September, with the system turned on and completed in November.

Once we begin using the solar panels we anticipate energy cost savings of approximately \$5,275 per year, which would pay for the \$10,500 in financing costs in about two years. Even if no additional rebates are received, and even if we

experience unanticipated costs and spend the \$22,415 contingency, the energy cost savings would pay for the financing costs plus the contingency in 6.2 years.

After discussion, the members voted unanimously to approve the Council's motion to:

- a. Authorize entering a contract with the Washington Department of Commerce to implement the grant for installation of a solar system at Bethany Lutheran Church;
- b. Authorize entering a contract with Cascadia Solar for the installation of solar panels and batteries on the church's buildings to fulfill the grant requirements;
- c. Authorize the Congregational Council to obtain a line of credit in the approximate amount of \$250,000 to allow interim financing of the project until grant payments are made to reimburse for work accomplished; and
- d. Authorize Council to take whatever other steps are necessary to meet the requirements of the Department of Commerce grant.

**THE MEETING WAS CLOSED WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER**