

HOPE / BETHLEHEM CONSOLIDATING MINISTRY

On February 5th, 2017, Hope and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches will hold their annual meetings. At each of these meetings (among other annual business), we will vote on whether or not to consolidate into one new congregation in the year 2017. Prior to that, we will have access to earlier reports such as the Envisioning of this New Ministry, the Building Assessments, and Proposed Budget for a New Church. The vote to consolidate will be open to all *confirmed members* of Hope and will need to pass by a 66.6% margin. This is the proposal:

A Resolution to Form a New Congregation

Either vote "Yes" for all of it or "No" for all of it

- We agree to become a new, consolidated, congregation of the ELCA.
- The new congregation will have a new name.
- We anticipate that the consolidation process will be completed by Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2017.

- Our new congregation's vision statement will be-

We are united around God's call to:

- *Embrace diversity*
- *Nurture spirituality*
- *Share Christ's love in the world*

- The new congregation will be located at the Mayfield Rd. property.

The Mayfield Road property will be reconfigured to:

- enhance the worship space (making it new for all members)
- increase accessibility (adding an elevator)
- address safety and security issues

- The new congregation will initially call both pastors – Pastor King and Pastor Shields.
- The new congregation will be a Reconciling in Christ congregation.
- All assets and liabilities of each existing congregation will be combined in the new congregation.

THE HOPE / BETHLEHEM CONSOLIDATION RESOLUTION... WHAT TO EXPECT

If the vote to ratify our consolidation is approved, both congregations will swiftly move into action. At its November 19th meeting of what has become the Steering Committee for this consolidation, we approved the following timeline:

Consolidation Timeline (as discussed at the November 19, 2016 meeting of the Steering Committee)



February 2017:

- **2/5/2017:** Each congregation votes on the Consolidation Resolution. (This will take place within our own sanctuaries; no “joint worship” on that first Sunday of February.)
- **Beginning 2/6/17:**
 - The Taylor road property is put up for sale.
 - The consolidation processes with the State of Ohio, the NEO Synod, and the ELCA will be begun.
- **2/28/17:** The Councils meet together to set up Task Forces to begin work on issues such as building renovations, finances, personnel, and worship.
- **2/6/17 through midnight 2/26/17:** Anyone may propose names for the new congregation. (Submit by email or on paper, to either church office or either pastor.)

March 2017:

- **3/5/17 joint service:** first ballot on the new congregation name: all submitted names on the paper ballot, voting by *members* present. (The result of this ballot will be the top 7 names, or more if ties.)
- **3/19/17 separate services:** second ballot on the new congregation name: top ~7 names on the paper ballot, voting by *members* present. (The result of this ballot will be the top 3 names, or more if ties.)

April 2017:

- **4/2/17 joint service:** final ballot(s) on the new name: top ~3 names on the paper ballot, voting by *members* present. The final name must get at least 51% of the votes; if that doesn't happen on the first vote, we'll vote again on the top 2 names.
- **Beginning 4/3/17:** Begin the processes for new church signage.

May 2017:

- **5/7/17 joint service:**
 - Both congregations vote to legally dissolve. (This could be one combined meeting, with ballots of separate colors for each congregation.)
 - At, or before, dissolution each congregation votes to adopt a new constitution (based on the ELCA model) for the new church they are entering.
 - Members are elected to a short-term (1-year) Council. 5 members will come from each of the churches; the President will come from one congregation and the Vice President from the other.

June 2017:

- Council Retreat to set up/refine Task Forces for the various Ministries (e.g. Worship & Music, Peace & Justice, etc.).
- Following the process determined by the Personnel Task Force (initiated in February), interview for staff positions.

Summer 2017: Begin joint worship every Sunday at some practical point.

October 29, 2017:

- The official launch of the new congregation! Installation of the “new” pastors with Bishop Abraham Allende presiding.

September 2018: Begin review and evaluation of the first year of the new congregation.