

Bethel Leadership Team Meeting
May 1, 2019

Present:

Joe Davis, Barbara Reese, Melodee Bright, Kayla Griffith, Justin Smith, Jim Cunningham, Tony Smith, Cathy Myers, Kathy Moss, Bernice Satterfield, Chris Bishop, Elizabeth Hart

The meeting began with the presentation of the New Member Orientation Plan for children. Cathy had developed a brochure to give to the candidate when they first asked about salvation. The brochure gave step by step direction on how to begin to develop a relationship with God by Bible study and prayer.

Justin presented the New Member Orientation Plan for the youth and adults.

After lots of discussion it became evident that our objective is to produce two documents for each age group. One document will be for the candidate and one document for the mentor for ages 11 and younger. Another set of documents will be developed for the candidate and the mentor for 12 and older. The mentor document would be used to help discern if the candidate understands the life changing decision they are making. It would help to identify areas that need additional attention before going forward with baptism.

The following is an outline of the steps as discussed at the meeting for the possible introduction to salvation. This needs a lot of work but is a start. Both the 11 and younger people and the 12 and older would follow the same outline just use words appropriate to the age. Also, this approach would be used with every person wanting to join Bethel.

Step 1: Explain the existence of God

Step 2: Explain how He reached out to us by providing the Bible which has no mistakes in it. It is a complete revelation to mankind and tells us how life is to be lived as it relates to Him as well as every other aspect of life.

Step 3: Understand that all human beings have a sinful nature and all people sin.

Step 4: Sin keeps us from having a relationship with God because God is perfect. The result of sin is death, eternal separation from God.

Step 5: However, God provided a way for the payment for sin to be made so we could have a personal relationship with God now for all eternity. God has provided a way for our sin to be forgiven.

Step 6: God came to live on earth as a man being all human and all God and lived a perfect life. That man was Jesus. Though He was perfect, He died by being nailed to a cross to take our place and pay for our sins. He faced death and separation from God for us.

Step 7: Acknowledge that they are a sinner and believe in their heart what Jesus did for them.

Step 8: They publicly acknowledge that by being baptized they understand and believe all the above items and have asked forgiveness of their sins. This is a beginning of a lifelong process learning about God, hearing Him speak through His Word and others, and talking to Him through prayer.

Step 9: Follow God's direction to become a part of a local congregation of Christian believers.

God gives each body of believers direction in carrying out His will on earth and also gives us opportunity to use specific gifts He has given us to nurture and care for each other and to tell others about how to have a personal relationship with God. He uses our gifts, along with those of others He calls to be in the church, to carry out the mission He gives the church.

Step 10: We at Bethel, along with many other people, have written down what we believe about God and the way He has directed us to live.

The Baptist Faith and Message is a document that explains the beliefs stated in the preceding items along with additional details and many scripture references. It also explains what we believe the Bible tells us about many other aspects of life.

The Bethel Constitution is a document that explains:

- the mission God has called us to,
- the church covenant that explains how we will work together to carry out the mission
- the core values that guide what all that we do at Bethel
- the explanation of the things a person must do in order to be a covenant member of Bethel

The Bethel Bylaws is a document that

- describes a lot of details of how Bethel is organized to carry out the beliefs (Baptist Faith and Message), the mission, and core values
- describes the details of each position in the church
- many other details of church functions.

It is not expected that a person reads and understands all of these documents before becoming a Covenant Member of Bethel. However, asking to become a covenant member of Bethel is to be done understanding that as a covenant member of Bethel, all will strive to live according to the beliefs, mission, covenant, and core values stated in these documents.

The new member training will begin where they will learn about beliefs (Baptist Faith & Message), the mission, the church covenant, the core values, and the discipleship process. The details of how we accomplish this are in the By-Laws. This training would lead to the candidate requesting to become a Covenant Member and being voted into membership by the congregation.