

Bethlehem Lutheran Ministries

“Church of Follow the Star”

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My Fellow Members of Bethlehem Lutheran,

Blessings to you this day, and everyday. Your servants on the Board of Ministry, both past and present, continually seek ways in which our leadership bodies can more effectively serve our church, and therefore equip us all for “The Great Commission.” To that end, over the last eighteen (18) months, the Board of Ministry has been reviewing how our church’s “calendar,” is presently set up, and discussing potential changes.

Enclosed for your review and prayerful consideration is a recommendation from the Board of Ministry for an Amendment to the By-Laws. This Amendment would functionally change the time of year for the Board elections, from June (newly elected members assuming duties July 1) to January (newly elected members assuming duties February 1). After review and discussion of the pertinent sections of our Constitution, Bylaws and Provisos (providing precedent); the Board approved the enclosed Amendment, and requisite additions to the Provisos, for presentation to the congregation. The Board of Ministry respectfully submits this to you for prayerful consideration. It is believed, that the proposed change will provide greater opportunity for increased congregational involvement in the nomination and election process, by holding the elections at the beginning of the calendar year, when church attendance is more representative, rather than during summer months when many members are not present. It is also believed that this change will give the Board of Ministry, the Senior Leadership Team and the Pastoral Office a more developed and mature working relationship with one another, before facing very important and long reaching decisions, such as church budget and staff compensation.

Our Constitution and By-Laws are available for you in the church office and on our website at www.followthestar.com under the “Board of Ministry” link.

Pertinent sections of BLCS’s governing documents are:

Bylaws; Article IV, Section A, states, “Every term of office shall begin on July 1 following the election.”

Bylaws; Article III, Section A, discusses, among other items, that a full Voters’ Meeting must be called for an Amendment to the By-Laws to be adopted. The meeting must be publicly announced and the agenda posted as early as possible, at least one (1) week prior to the scheduled Voters’ meeting. The proposed Amendment must be mailed out at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. A final vote will be taken at the scheduled Voters’ Assembly Meeting.

By-Laws; Article VII, states, among other items, at least two (2) open forums must be held prior to the Voters’ Assembly Meeting, to provide a venue for discussion of the proposed Amendment. These two (2) Open Forums are scheduled for **Sunday, 10/21/07** immediately following the 11am service, prior to the Follow the Star “construction day” *and* **Wednesday 10/24/07** at 6:30pm, immediately prior to Bible study. Members of the Board will be on hand to answer questions and provide any necessary clarifications. If you have any questions or need for clarification, please attend one of these forums.

This item of business will be on the Agenda for the 11/4/07 Congregational Meeting, to be addressed prior to the CRS Survey results discussion. After you have reviewed the proposed Amendment and feel satisfied with your understanding of its purpose and effect, please attend the meeting on 11/4/07 at 12:30pm, and vote on this important item. May it please our Lord.

In Christ,
Edward Amey
Board President

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws; Article IV, Section A:

Replace the following sentence:

“Every term of office shall begin on July 1 following the election”.

With:

“Every term of office shall begin on February 1 following the election”.

Proposed Addition to PROVISOS:

II. Board of Ministry Term abbreviations to accommodate Amendment to Bylaws; Article IV, Section A.

“For the existing Board of Ministry Directors and Governing Elders in office on 11/4/07, the date of the Voters’ Assembly Meeting amending the Bylaws; Article IV, Section A; their terms will be abbreviated. Those terms due to end July 1st, 2008, will be abbreviated to February 1, 2008. All other terms will be abbreviated to February 1, 2009. In January 2008, an election will be held for those Board positions that would have come to term in July 2008. The Existing Senior Leadership Team will, in accordance with the Bylaws; Article IV, Section E, Subsection 3, provide nominations for those open positions to the Voters’ Assembly for consideration and selection at a Voters’ Meeting to be scheduled in January 2008. For the selection of members to the Board of Ministry to serve henceforth, members shall serve terms as follows:

- A. Members elected during the January 2008 Voter’s Meeting shall serve a term ending February 1, 2010.
- B. Members, whose positions have not come to term for the January 2008 election, will serve until February 1, 2009.