



## Where We Have Been ...

God has blessed our church with financial health and we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Him for providing the facilities, staff and ministries that we enjoy today. We thought it would be helpful and informative to review some of our recent financial history, especially as it relates to our facilities.

**1994** – Bethel Church moves from its South University location to our current home.

**2004** – Growth requires the construction on a new auditorium, offices, and adult classrooms at a cost of approximately \$7 million dollars. Our Bethel Church family generously pledged to pay most of this debt over the next several years through designated giving.

**2011** - Bethel leadership initiates Financial Peace University training (Dave Ramsey's material) church-wide and then in 2012 decided to eliminate our remaining building debt (\$2.3 million) through the Living Above and Beyond Fund. It was also decided to create an emergency fund, and to regularly budget for larger facility maintenance needs through a Facility Contingency Fund.

**2016** - All but \$637,000 of the building loan had been paid. A special effort with matching gifts then brought the momentum necessary to completely eliminate our debt by February 2017. Praise God!

**Since 2012** we have budgeted funds to complete major projects such as paving/repairing much of our parking, re-carpeting/painting most of our buildings, handling significant repairs and upgrades to our HVAC/roof/electrical/plumbing systems, changing our lighting to LED, replacing our Worship Center and FLC video and audio systems, renovating and outfitting our classrooms/foyer with updated technology, and replacing chairs and tables. Most recently, we have been able to completely renovate our Kitchens and FLC, build a maintenance garage, and purchase a skid steer and truck, and install a facility video system with a combination of budgeted monies and gifts from the Living Above and Beyond Fund. In the last 10 years, over \$2.5 million dollars has been invested in order to be good stewards of the facilities God has graciously provided as our ministry hub.

During these last few years, we have also been able to increase departmental ministry funds, add new ministries, increase Global and Local Outreach support, improve compensation and benefits for our staff, and create an Emergency Fund of \$450,000. Even during the COVID-19 Pandemic God generously provided on-budget giving through his people, allowing us to retain our staff and strategize for future ministry even in uncertain times.

In April 2021 we began a new venue in Kindred, ND. A core group of Bethel families committed to leading this venue and now their Sunday meetings draw an average of 70-80 people. We were able to outfit this venue with the audio/visual equipment needed to offer complete worship services right from the start. The funds (\$40,000) came from generous, special gifts to the Living Above and Beyond Fund. This ministry is now self-supporting and is reaching people for Christ in a growing community. We will continue to prayerfully consider other venues as the Lord leads in days ahead.

## An Exciting New Project ...

After last week's Taste of Bethel, I am sure you have noticed that Bethel Church is serious about fulfilling our mission of Loving God Passionately, Loving Others Intentionally, and Serving the World Sacrificially. Our Counseling Ministry is on the front lines in this effort, helping people find hope and healing as they wrestle with life's challenges. As our Elders prayerfully considered how to better meet the needs of this growing ministry, they recently decided that the next large Living Above and Beyond facility investment should be to expand our Counseling Ministries. We have already started remodeling Room 110-S to house three counseling offices and a reception area. Here's why:

- The need for biblical counseling continues to grow. The number of people seeking help has increased dramatically in recent years and waiting lists locally are a common occurrence.
- These new offices will allow our Counseling Ministry to continue to grow and offer more office hours, while at the same time relieving pressure on our current office spaces.
- In our desire to more effectively serve the community, the privacy afforded by a separate entrance through the south doors allows us to be more sensitive to the needs of counselees.
- Bethel Church uniquely offers low-cost professional Christian counseling, regardless of financial means.

We commend this project to you for your prayerful consideration and special financial support. The goal will be to secure another \$30,000 through LAB gifts from those who have a heart for this type of ministry outreach. God has already provided \$20,000. We thank both God and our congregation for their generosity in giving, believing that this strategic initiative will allow us to advance God's Kingdom in a powerful way. Further questions can be directed to me at [GarySiefers@BethelFc.com](mailto:GarySiefers@BethelFc.com)

Blessings,

Pastor Gary





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