

## **SESSION UPDATE TO CONGREGATION ON December 4, 2011**

During this time of transition, the Session is striving to keep the congregation updated on current events. Thank you for your patience and your prayers.

This morning we have some very exciting news to share with you, and we desire to have your input as well as your feedback as Bethel begins to move forward.

As we transition our church to new pastoral leadership, the Session believes that the needs of our church are best served by having an interim pastor in place. At the request of many of you, we have asked Dwain Camp if he would be willing to serve in that capacity for a period of time, and he has graciously accepted the position on an interim basis. As most of you know, Dwain previously served Bethel for 8 years as an Associate Pastor, before pastoring a church in the Middle East for over 20 years. He returns to us with a wealth of experience as a pastor and as a friend to many of you. He will serve as Bethel's Interim Pastor from December through January and will take a break in February to attend to his overseas ministry with Equipping the Saints. Upon his return, he is willing to continue serving as our Interim Pastor if that is your desire. Please mark your calendars for the morning of Sunday, December 18 as the church will host an informal breakfast and reception beginning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to provide you with an opportunity to meet Dwain and his wife Cindy if you have not already done so. Thank you Dwain for your servanthood leadership and please know that our prayers will be with you as the Holy Spirit leads you in this deeply needed role at Bethel. We love and appreciate you.

It is also time to elect new Elders and Deacons. Please help us in this process, by giving us your recommendations. Elders and Deacons must be members of Bethel and meet the Biblical qualifications for the office as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The Session will compile a final slate of nominees after interviews, much prayer, conversation, and Biblical guidance as to their qualifications. This group will then be recommended to the congregation for review and then ultimately for approval. As a reminder, Elders are elected to serve for 5 years and Deacons for 3 years. There is an insert in the Bethel Light that can be used to submit your recommendations, or you can call the church office, or give them to any serving Elder.

The time has also come to begin the process of establishing a Search Committee for a new Sr. Pastor. We need your help in this important process. The Search Committee will be comprised of approximately 9 Bethel members from various backgrounds, ages, and church involvement, so we can have a diverse group with Bethel's best interest at heart. We desire to have godly men and women serving on this committee with the understanding that it will involve a fairly significant commitment of time and energy. Please give us your names of Bethel members you think would make excellent Search Committee team members. Again, please use the insert available in the Bethel Light for this purpose.

For those of you who have been meeting in the Parlor to pray for our church, thank you. In an effort to involve more people in bringing the needs and future of Bethel before the Lord, we would like to move that prayer time into all of our ABF classes. The Session humbly requests that each ABF class take 5 to 10 minutes of class time to regularly and corporately pray for Bethel as we move forward, and ask the Lord to guide our every step.

Finally, the Session is grateful for the many volunteers and staff members that are working hard to insure that all ministries are continuing. Romans 8:31 says, "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

We believe that as we move forward with His will in mind, God is going to bless Bethel with the riches of His Glory. Thank you for being a part of what He is doing in this church.

The Session