



Bethel Neighborhood Center



Here to offer a renewed sense of hope
Aquí para ofrecer un sentido renovado de esperanza

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/17/16

Rev. Mang Sonna
Executive Director
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God's Generosity Works in Amazing Ways

The Bethel Neighborhood Center's Director, the Rev. Mang Sonna, participated in the yearly meeting of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region held in Kansas, Thursday-Saturday, October 13-15. While there, he anticipated seeking support for the Center's capital campaign.

Bethel's board chairperson recently stated, "The BNC Board of Directors and staff have participated at 100 percent for this project, and we need **\$85,739** to reach our campaign goal. Please help BNC Magnify the Light and Hope to a community in need." The capital campaign has a \$2 million goal, which includes matching funds with an attendant deadline for securing the needed matching gifts.

On Friday morning Central Seminary's Director of Seminary Relations, Robin Sandbothe, strongly encouraged Sonna to attend the annual business session of the meeting. As the session began, Central Seminary's President, Dr. Molly T. Marshall, was recognized for a special announcement. She shared that Central was appreciative of the annual support of the Central Region. She then announced that for the coming year Central would like to donate its portion of the support from the Central Region for 2017 – an amount calculated at about \$85,000 – to help Bethel reach their goal of matching \$250,000 each from the Hall Family Foundation and the Mabee Foundation to reach their campaign goal of \$2 million.

"Listening to Dr. Molly Marshall's announcement," said Sonna, "I was filled with indescribable joy and I could not hold back my tears of gratitude. No words can express my thankfulness to Dr. Marshall and CBTS for their generous gift, for deepening my theological knowledge, broadening my worldview, preparing me for ministry, and for believing in me and the Bethel ministry. God is faithful in answering our prayers and in supplying ALL our needs."

Central Seminary and Bethel Neighborhood Center have a long history of supporting one another. Bethel has provided a learning context for many Central student interns. Central alumni/ae have served as directors of Bethel, including Rev. Sonna.

President Marshall observed, "Eighty-five thousand is a significant amount, about 2% of our budget, and we will work hard to cover this loss. It seemed the right thing to do, however, for Central to give sacrificially to another member of the ABC family. As we do so, we trust the living God that we will have all that we need, and that this gift is an expression of abounding in every good work. Mang and I celebrated together God's provision in the midst of our ABC extended family, demonstrating that God is abundant in blessing every collaboration for good."

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