



Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 16, 2023

Members Present: Katie Rentschler, Cheryl Whitchurch, Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Bruce Luehmann, Jana Brandt, Mark Christianson, Mark Stromswold, Ann Stehn, Brett Boyum, and Kathy Hungness.

Members absent: Jeff Rodel

Meeting called to order by Jana Berndt at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Hans Dahl lead the council in prayer.

Mission Sightings:

- An engaging Partner Network Conference
- 475 Kids and Students Participating in Programming
- Calvary Preschool off to a great start with 68 kids attending.

Leadership:

- **Council Priorities and Timeline for 2023:**
 - Lead Pastor Goals: Han reported the appraisal process has worked very well and shared his goals for the coming year. They are focused on stewardship for both the General Fund and the mortgage, developing and executing a sustainable staffing structure, and preparing the congregation for a sabbatical.

Motion to accept the 2024 goals for Lead Pastor: Kathy and Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Staffing Structure:** Katie R. reported that we are still actively seeking a Guest Services Coordinator and Connect Group Coordinator.
- **Implement Dashboard:** Katie reported on our metrics as we seek to understand how we are engaging people in a lifelong faith. Some highlights include welcoming 63 new members this year, Wednesday worship attendance is up weekly almost 100 people over last year, and we had 130 first time guests so far this year.
- **2024 Capital Appeal:** Hans and Bruce: In November 2024 the \$3.4 million mortgage comes due, and plans are in place for beginning an appeal this winter to pay off that debt. The Make Room team will be hosting forums to start a conversation with the congregation about the appeal as well as how we might make more room for people.
- **Partner Network:** The council reviewed the priorities for the Partner Network and will place greater emphasis on long-term sustainability, clarity of what it is and how it can help churches, along with dedicating a full time staff in the coming year.

Consent Agenda: Jana

Katie made the request to amend the minutes from September to remove the New Business since it was in a closed session.

Motion was made to approve the Consent agenda, including the amended minutes, by Mark S. and seconded by Mark C. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce reported the additional funds received in September helped the bottom line. The additional gifts were around \$15,000. Expenses are in line with the budget. Bigger donations are anticipated during November and December as we near the holidays. Some of the funding has arrived and been set aside for the new Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative Grant.

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report by Brett and seconded by Ann.

Old Business: The leadership training, that will be conducted by speaker Tod Bolsinger, date changed to January 19 & 20. Ann and Brett have volunteered to represent the council for this training.

New Business: The only council member that will be leaving in 2024 is Jana. Hans requested the council to encourage individuals from the congregation to apply for the open position and information will be shared in writing and in worship on how to do so.

Pastor Hans applied for and received a Clergy Renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment. This grant will fund a period of rest, renewal, and imagination for his family as well as support the needs of Calvary while he is away. The council unanimously approved the application for a Sabbatical leave for both Pastor Hans and Katie Dahl for a 12 week period in the summer of 2024. Pastor Hans, Jana Berndt, and Bruce Luehmann will be announcing the news of the Sabbatical on November 19th to the congregation in worship.

The council went into closed session to discuss staffing structure and sabbatical logistics.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Next meeting will be at Calvary on November 13, at 5 p.m.