



Approved Council Minutes August 19, 2024

Members Present: Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Mark Christenson, Kathy Hungness, Brett Boyum, Ann Stehn, Mark Stromswold, and Cheryl Whitchurch

Absent: Pastor Hans Dahl, Deb Dittberner, Jeff Rodel

Meeting called to order by Mark Christenson at 6:00 pm.

Mission Sightings:

- 18 baptisms at the lake - Personal and meaningful experience - Total of 29 baptisms in 2 weeks
- VBS - 700 people were involved
- Partnership with Bricks to Bread - Calvary, First Lutheran, United Methodist
- Pastor Maddie - Great asset this summer
- Calvary worship and music - Seamless, even in the absence of staff

Opening Prayer: Pastor Angie led the group in opening prayer.

Leadership: Council Priorities for 2024

- Sustaining Ministry: Appeal
- Facility: Improvement Study
- Engagement: Dashboard
- Staff: Sabbatical & Next Gen Minister Hiring
- Lead Pastor Review

Sustaining Ministry: Appeal: Katie reported that we are approaching fall and the public phase of the appeal. A publicity brochure has been completed and videos will continue to be shown at worship. An invite event will be held on Sept 15 for lead donors. The start of the stewardship series, Make Room, will begin on Oct 6. Appeal kick-off events will be held on Oct 6, 7, 8. Champions will each host a table, 5:30-7:30 pm. Council members are also asked to invite people to attend.

Facility: Improvement Study: Katie reported that VCI Environmental did a materials sampling from the basement. 80 samples are being tested. Results should be available after Labor Day.

Engagement Dashboard: Katie acknowledged that there is more opportunity to talk about demographics, especially in financial metrics. We will revisit in upcoming months.

Staff: Sabbatical & Next Gen Minister Hiring: Adrian Walter will begin work at Calvary on Sept 1. He attended VBS and will begin to move into his office and the community next week. A lot of enthusiasm and positive feedback has been received around his hire. Hans and Katie will return from sabbatical on August 27. Staff is excited for their return. We will continue to have conversation about what we have learned this summer from the experience.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of July Meeting
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals

A motion to accept the consent agenda, with the amendment of taking out the percentages listed in the engagement dashboard minutes for the purpose of clarity, was made by Kathy and seconded by Ann. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

July Financials: Bruce reported financials continue to move along well. Income remains over budget YTD and expenses remain under budget. Net general fund income is \$58,000 ahead of budget. Bruce reported that the financials of the preschool have not previously been shared with the preschool board. Bruce made the suggestion to include the board on financials as seen fit.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Mark S. and seconded by Brett. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Property Update: A thorough analysis of property needs to be completed for the insurance provider. Donn Frahm was recruited to lead a committee to video record all property and contents for the analysis. A motion to form a personal property committee, led by Donn Frahm and comprised of 4-6 additional members, to complete an inventory and assess the value of all contents within the facility by June 1, 2025 was made by Brett and seconded by Ann. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Financial Exploration: Katie and Bruce met to form a tentative plan to move to a July-June business year. The twelve month budget would be split in half to allow for making adjustments after six months. A January - June budget would be brought to the council with a 2nd half year budget for July - December. The financial exploration process also includes the incremental goal of budgeting for margin.

Feedback on Congregational Meeting: Mark and Katie reported on the positive comments on the fiscal year shifts. Excitement was expressed over the hiring of Adrian Walter.

New Business:

Calvary Partner Network Conference: The Calvary Partner Network Conference will be on September 28. Representatives from partner churches and local churches will attend to learn and grow. Angie shared information on speakers that will be presenting. The conference is an opportunity for all to think and engage faith in a new way and new chapter. Council members

are asked to attend all or part of the day as they are able, and to invite other ministry leaders to attend as well.

Lilly Grant Finances for Partner Network: Katie reported that there are partner network staffing funds that need to be used. Katie pointed out that currently funding for two staff roles, paid by a combination of church funds and network funds, could be shifted to better reflect their work within the church and for the network. A proposal was made to begin reallocation on Sept 1, 2024 and continue through December 2025. A motion to reallocate church/network funds for two staffing roles to better reflect their work within the church/network was made by Ann and seconded by Kathy. Motion carried unanimously.

Top Three Takeaways:

- 29 Baptisms in 2 weeks
- 700 people involved in VBS
- Bricks to Bread partnership and ministry

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:35 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **September 16, at 6:00 pm.**