



## Approved Council Minutes July 15, 2024

**Members Present:** Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Mark Christenson, Kathy Hungness, Deb Dittberner, Ann Stehn, Mark Stromswold, Jeff Rodel, and Cheryl Whitchurch

**Absent:** Pastor Hans Dahl, Brett Boyum

Meeting called to order by Mark Christenson at 6:05 pm.

### **Mission Sightings:**

- Volunteerism at Luther Crest - Strong, consistent leadership of Mark Stromswold
- Prioritization of wiring repair by Jeff Rodel at Luther Crest
- Houseboat - Best ever! Seniors stayed for an extra day. Participants had all that they needed.
- Special music @ 8:30 services has enhanced worship.
- Staff and volunteers covering during sabbatical
- Baptisms at the lake
- Thank you from Hans and Katie for the irreplaceable memories created during sabbatical
- Thanks to Katie R for all that she does.

**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
- Lead Pastor Review

**Appeal:** We are currently in the informational phase of the appeal. Two videos have been shared at worship so far this summer. More information will be presented in early August to save the dates for upcoming events. Financial commitments to the appeal have been strong and we now have reached our goal of 6 months of reserve dollars for the next five years of our mortgage.

**Facility Improvement Study:** Katie reported that we are targeting an August date to begin taking steps to explore, scope out, and obtain a dollar figure for the potential basement abatement needs.

**Engagement Dashboard:** Katie gave an update on the April-June quarter. Giving continues to be strong. There were 18 baptisms, 56 1st time guests, and an average attendance of 855. Lake attendance is stronger this year over last. 55% of pledges have been received at the mid year point. Katie also answered previous council questions about the average gifts received through Venmo, Push Pay, and check offerings.

**Staff: Sabbatical & Next Gen Minister Hiring:** Adrian Walter has been hired as the Director of Next Generation Ministries. He will start in September, initially building relationships, and teaming with Pastor Angie in next generation leadership. He will build websites, podcasts, etc to launch the next part of the grant Jan 1st.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Minutes of June Meeting
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals

A motion to accept the consent agenda as presented was made by Mark S. and seconded by Kathy. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**June Financials:** Bruce reported that our income continues to remain strong keeping us ahead of budget. June worship income and total income are over budget and spending is below budget. Shout out to generous worship income and staff management. We now have 48 days cash on hand with a goal of 60-90 days. We were able to make a \$20,000 principal payment on the mortgage at the end of June.

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

**Personal Property Update:** A thorough analysis of property needs to be completed for the insurance provider. Plans are being made to complete the analysis with the guidance of the provider.

**Lilly Grant Financials:** Bruce and Katie provided clarity on our current 3 grants.

1. Calvary Partner Network - 1 ½ years remain with a balance of \$426,990. Bruce and Katie will have more in-depth spending conversations going forward. Once the grant is completed the Partner Network will be sustainable and eligible to apply for a sustainability grant.
2. Christian Parenting and Caregiving Grant
3. Sabbatical Grant

The Partner network Conference is on September 28.

**Old Business:**

**Financial Exploration:** Katie and Bruce will have further discussion for potential fiscal year shift and budgeting for margin. They will provide more details in August

**New Business:**

**Wednesday Worship Schedule:** The Wednesday worship schedule will be shifting times to better meet the worship needs of all.

4:45 - Pizza

5:15 - JAM, DIG, Impact

6:00-6:45 - Worship, Nursery, Elevate Small Groups

7:00-7:30 - Elevate & Epic Student Worship

7:30 Epic Small Groups

**Agenda for July 24th Congregational Meeting;**

5:00 - Take Stock Event

6:00 - Congregational Meeting - State of the Church - A look at where we are going

- Welcome
- Financials - Bruce
- Make Room Appeal
- Facility Improvement Study
- Sabbatical & Hiring

- Adjusting Schedule  
Ice Cream Social to follow.

**Top Three Takeaways:**

- Positive financial trend
- Hiring of Adrian Walter
- Direction of appeal
- Staff handling of sabbatical

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:19 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **Aug 19, at 6:00 pm.**