

Approved Calvary Council Minutes October 21, 2024

Members Present: Pastor Hans Dahl, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Mark Christenson, Kathy Hungness, Ann Stehn, Deb Dittberner, Brett Boyum, Mark Stromswold, and Cheryl Whitchurch

Absent: Pastor Angie Larson, Jeff Rodel

Dr. Paul Dovre, representing the NW MN Synod, visited with the council prior to the council meeting. On behalf of the synod he acknowledged that Calvary is blessed to be a blessing to others. He thanked Calvary for their financial support. Dr Dovre gave a synodwide update highlighting the 26 rostered ministers and SAMS in new calls, the generosity that helped synod rostered ministers reduce their seminary debt, the participation of seven congregations in Rural Revival, and the large number of young people and leaders from the synod that attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. He also explained the local and global impact of Mission Support. Churchwide mission support also comes back to the NW MN Synod through partnership grants.

The council meeting was called to order by Mark Christenson at 6:40 pm.

Mission Sightings:

- Make Room Appeal Meetings
- Leadership from Champions
- Small Group Leaders on Wednesday evening programming
- Staff's dedicated teamwork for the Appeal, Calvary Conference, Student Programming
- Partner Network Conference

Opening Prayer: Pastor Hans 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 thanked all for their work and participation in the Appeal Meetings. Attendees felt informed and inspired. Katie reported excitement for the momentum and the financial commitments so far.

Facility: Improvement Study: Katie reported that we are awaiting abatement estimates for the basement. More information should be available before the end of the year.

Engagement Dashboard: Katie reported that we continue to see consistency across the board. Connect Groups remain strong. Serving, leadership, attendance, and giving remain consistent. We continue to get new members and participants. As we build data points, we will be able to see the comparison from 2023 to 2024.

Staff: Sabbatical & Next Gen Minister Hiring: The sabbatical grant allowed for the hiring of a consulting team to follow up and help develop strategies for mission for the next year or two. The consultants, staff, and council will work together to identify 2025-2026 mission priorities.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of September Meeting
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals

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

Treasurer's Report:

September Financials: Bruce reported that September income picked up the lack from August and finances are back on track. Income remains over budget and expenses remain below budget. We are \$68,000 ahead of budget YTD. The preschool had a positive net income with a nearly full enrollment.

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

Old Business:

Financial Exploration: The two goals of the financial exploration process are to change the fiscal year to July-June and to incrementally move towards budgeting for margin. A budget for six months, January through June, will be presented to the council in Nov/Dec.

New Business: The council approved the date change for the Annual Congregational Meeting to February 2, 2025.

Top Three Takeaways:

- Financial position of the church this year
- Appeal and the way people stepped up and invited
- Staff and their hard work

An executive session was held following the council business.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:30 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **November 12 @ 5:00 with All Staff @ 6:00 pm.**