



Approved Calvary Council Minutes February 24, 2025

Members Present: Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Brett Boyum, Whitney Anderson, Kathy Hungness, Ann Stehn, Mark Stromswold,

Absent: Mark Christenson, Cheryl Whitchurch, Jeff Rodel

The council meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Brett Boyum at 5:03 p.m.

Introductions were completed and Whitney welcomed as a new member of the council.

Officer Elections: Kathy Hungness motioned a slate of officer candidates including Mark Christiansen, President; Brett Boyum, Vice-President; Cheryl Whitchurch, Secretary; and to appoint Bruce Luehmann as Treasurer. Motion seconded by Whitney Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mission Sightings:

- Parent groups starting will go for 5 weeks with the option to keep meeting if they wish, initial feedback is that this has been well received. Over 100 people involved in these groups.
- Kudos to Adrian, Angie and Katie D. for all the connection work completed to get new groups started.
- Receiving feedback from new members about how welcoming Calvary has been.
- A potential Calvary partner church has joined us from conversation that was held several years ago.
- A recognition of the influence that Calvary has on other churches and the desire to continue to share broadly.
- Annual meeting was well attended.
- Backpack attack packed over 1500 bags.
- Mentor month went really well.
- Luther Crest has asked Calvary to connect with them on strategic planning for the future.

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

Leadership: Pastor Hans reviewed council priorities for 2024. Next month we will start working to develop new priorities for 2025. Calvary will work with consultants from North Point Consulting to help with strategic planning at the next two council meetings, March 17 and April 14th. Themes to keep in mind as we begin this process: how do we stay relevant in an environment in which church attendance/connection continues to decline, how do we further engage with our members/community, how do we continue to be good stewards of our resources and continue to develop resources. The council plans to review our Mission, Vision and Values and get our new strategic priorities finalized by our May meeting.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of January meeting: under facility improvement study it was requested to add language to make clear that the basement is safe to be used in its current state.
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals

A motion to accept the consent agenda as presented with the one change related to the facility improvement study noted was made by Kathy seconded by Mark. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce & Katie

January financials: Bruce reported that worship income in January was strong, consider that this year the pre-paid pledges came in January whereas last year they were reflected in Feb. 2024. Worship income has been slightly down since late summer/early fall. Total general fund income is \$109,969 and total general fund expenses for January was \$95,750. Monthly payments continue to be made on the mortgage loan. Gifts continue to come in related to the "Make Room" campaign. Employee retention credit refund of \$216,682.82 was total applied for, which will be split according to staff FTEs in the preschool and the rest of Calvary operations. We have received about \$70,000 so far and it has received interest payment as well as the employee retention credit refund. We anticipate additional funds will be received. Decisions will need to be made about how these funds will be used. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ann and seconded by Kathy. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: none**New Business:**

Lenten focus: Wonder Bread will be the theme. We are partnering with Bricks to Bread that helps people with brick ovens for bread in Costa Rica. There is an exploratory missions team going to Costa Rica soon and they will be building an oven while there. There will also be a local partnership with the Methodist Church pizza oven (Wednesday) and bread will be baked there to be sold on Thursdays during the season. Another online bible study will be offered during lent as well.

Top Three Takeaways:

- New groups forming, more active engagement, especially groups of parents
- Working with Luther Crest to enhance summer worship
- Focus on future Strategic Priorities for the next 2 months
- Lent and Easter coming up with focus on bread and new bible study, several services being offered.

The meeting was adjourned @ 6:00 p.m.

The next council meeting will be held on March 17th @ 6:00 p.m.