



CALVARY CHURCH

Calvary Council Minutes March 16, 2026

Members Present: Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Jana Berndt, Brett Boyum, Mark Stromswold, Whitney Anderson, Brian Baustian, Jeff Rodel, Mark Christenson, and Cheryl Whitchurch

Absent: None

The council meeting was called to order by Brett Boyum at 6:05 pm.

All In Moments:

- 52 kids to receive first communion on Maundy Thursday
- Appreciation and Positive Response to Wider Circle Devotional
- Higher attendance at noon Lenten services
- Partnership with Luther Seminary
- Concordia sponsorship for fall conference at Calvary
- Book of Acts Bible Study

Opening Prayer: Pastor Hans led the group in prayer.

Growing Opportunities for Engagement:

Connect Group Review: The council reviewed the connect groups discussion from the February meeting. Calvary currently has about 30% engaged in small groups. The council brainstormed what could happen in our church, home, and community with 70-80% participating in small groups. The council discussed how we could increase Calvary engagement in small groups and the possibility of additional staff to coordinate and engage more in connect groups. The council also recognized Calvary's financial reality to create more margin in the budget over the next five years. More engagement could drive more financial resources, leading to the question of how we could do both.

Engagement Staffing: Katie R. reported on how adding staff affects Calvary's goal of reaching 90% of budget to create margin. Katie shared a tentative long-term financial plan that could include additional staff and meet the goal of budgeting for margin. The council acknowledged that adding ministry staff is aligned with our North Star objective to broaden engagement and aligned with our belief that engagement leads to investment.

A motion was made by Mark S. and seconded by Mark C. for staff to proceed with the budgeting process for further review, with the draft budget reflecting a new staff position to coordinate small groups. The motion was carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of February Meeting
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals

The council reviewed the February minutes and staff reports as presented. There were no fund approvals.

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

Treasurer's Report:

February Financials: Jana highlighted that February income was once again very strong, coming in at 9% above budgeted income for the month and 8% above YTD. Expenses were 5% below budget for the month, noting that recent snowfall will incur additional expense. Jana reviewed the balance sheet and noted that the \$85,000 principal payment that was made on the mortgage has reduced our monthly interest by \$1,000. We are in a strong financial position as we enter the Easter season. Jana also noted that there are no significant changes in the preschool financials and that the preschool enrollment is at 75% capacity for the next school year..

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

Budget Timeline: Brett outlined the budget timeline for the next fiscal year. Jana and Katie will have preliminary budget conversation with further conversation with Pastor Hans and Bruce. The budget will be presented to council in May for June approval.

New Business:

Council Membership: Ann Stehn has resigned from Council due to taking a new job. The Council expressed their thanks for her years of faithful service. Brett outlined the council membership vacancy. A new member would be appointed by Council to fill the last two months of the vacated term and then be up for reelection for the next fiscal year. The council discussed skill sets to consider in filling the position.

Old Business:

Annual Appeal Updates: Katie reported that we had a good response to round two of the annual appeal. More have signed up for automated giving. To date, 258 households have pledged a total of \$698,000. The shorter appeal time periods with more frequency have shown an increase in response. The next appeal touchpoint will be in June.

Easter: Pastor Hans highlighted the Holy Week and Easter worship schedule. Two Easter worship services will be held on Saturday, April 4 and three Easter services will be held on Sunday, April 5.

Top Three Takeaways:

- The number of people engaged
- Generous financial giving
- Easter

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

The next council meeting will be held on **April 20, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**