



CALVARY CHURCH

Calvary Council Minutes May 18, 2026

Members Present: Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Jana Berndt, Brett Boyum, Samarah Hadley, Mark Stromswold, Brian Baustian, Mark Christenson, and Cheryl Whitchurch

Absent: Whitney Anderson and Jeff Rodel

The council meeting was called to order by Brett Boyum at 6:00 pm.

Welcome & Introductions: The council welcomed Samarah Hadley as the newest Calvary council member.

All In Moments:

- Book of Acts Bible Study
- Mother's Day Worship
- Safety Training
- Bricks To Bread Mission Trip and Fundraiser
- Take Stock Fundraiser

Opening Prayer & Devotion: Pastor Hans led the group in devotion and prayer. The council read Acts 6:1-7 and discussed the mission of the early disciples and their investment in God's mission. Council members shared signs in our work at Calvary that indicate investment in where God is moving us, rather than protecting resources.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of April Meeting
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals

The council reviewed the April minutes and staff reports as presented. Katie proposed a fund approval for preschool playground fencing, door, and poles. A bid was received for \$4800. Funds for the project would come from the preschool ERC (Employee Retention Credits) dollars.

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

Treasurer's Report:

April Financials: Jana reported that April was another very generous month at Calvary. Year to date, we continue to run 8% ahead of budgeted income and 11% over last year's income. Expenses are running 2% above budget YTD, but expenses are 2% less than last year. Income continues to outpace expenses creating a larger than planned margin and a solid position going into the end of the fiscal year. Jana also shared that our YTD Make Room Appeal income is at \$379,615. Calvary's Make Room financial position will be assessed to determine if another significant principal payment will be made in June before year end. Jana reviewed another very solid balance sheet. We continue to be in a strong financial position as we wrap up the final months of our fiscal year.

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

New Business:

Engagement Staffing: In response and follow up from the council's previous conversations around engagement staffing, Pastor Hans reviewed the half-time position of a Connect Group Minister that would oversee, recruit, and train leaders of connect groups. The newly created position would start in January of 2027.

A motion was made by Mark S. and seconded by Cheryl for leadership to proceed with the engagement staffing position and to begin the search for potential position candidates. The motion was carried unanimously.

2026-2027 Budget: Jana reviewed the budgeting process for 2026-27. Gratitude was expressed for the projected net revenue at the end of this fiscal year and the financial ability to grow engagement staff. Jana also reminded the council that the draft budget reflects moving toward Calvary's goal of budgeting to 90% margin by 2030. Katie presented the 2026-2027 general fund budget draft. The council gave their blessing for leadership to move forward with the 2026-27 budget for council approval next month.

Lilly Endowment Grant Application: Pastor Hans reviewed Calvary's grant application which focuses on emerging adult engagement, aligning with Calvary's current strategic commitment to deepen engagement and faith exploration among the next generation.

A motion was made by Brian and seconded by Mark S. to approve the application proposal for submission. The motion was carried unanimously.

Old Business: None

Top Three Takeaways:

- Forward movement on engagement staffing
- Strong 2025-26 financials and 2026-2027 budget work
- Lilly Endowment grant application

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next council meeting will be held on **June 15, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**