



Approved Calvary Council Minutes October 20, 2025

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

Absent: None

The council meeting was called to order by Brett Boyum at 6:09 pm.

All In Moments:

- Cathy Yseth leading new youth choir
- Youth inviting others into engagement at Calvary
- Parenting Conference
- Pastor Appreciation
- Other pastors reaching out to Calvary for advice on creative budgeting
- Honoring the "All In" lives of long time, faithful Men's Bible Study members who have recently passed
- Team Christmas planning
- Installation of former Calvary pastors, Ben and Alicia Hilding, as the chaplains at Gustavus Adolphus College
- Support of Dasha at Gustavus
- Invitation for Pastor Hans to speak at the technical college, a public institution, and the trust in the church's collective voice

Opening Prayer: Pastor Hans led the group in opening prayer and a devotion on the Parable of the Talents. The council reflected on using, engaging, and investing in what God has given us and how exponential engagement would change our church.

Leadership:

Review of Staff & Council Strategic Plan: Pastor Hans reviewed the council objective #1, identify gifts, invite engagement and invest in people long term and objective #2, clarify our "target market." Both objectives were discussed at previous meetings.

Council Objectives #3 & #4: Engagement: Katie D. led a Calvary Engagement Conversation around Objective #3: Clarify Opportunities for Engagement and Objective #4: Simplify Engagement Entry Points. Katie reviewed current engagement stats & notes and shared current challenges. The council discussed how to strategically and more effectively move people from first time guests to engaged worshipers.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of September meeting
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals (none)

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

Treasurer's Report:

September Financials: Bruce reported that September giving leveled off after an unusually high income in August. YTD income remains up 9% July-Sept over the same months a year ago. He reported that expenses are being managed well with nothing out of the ordinary in monthly expenses. We currently have a church reserve balance of \$140,000.

Calvary's Make Room account balance is at \$380,000, allowing for an additional principal payment to be made soon.

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

New Business:

Annual Appeal Update: Pastor Hans reviewed the annual giving appeal updates. The appeal is broken into 3 time frames throughout the year with 2 week segments in October, February and June. Language was also developed to clarify ways to commit to generosity.

Holiday Schedule: Katie highlighted the November and December Holiday Schedule at Calvary.

Old Business:

Safety & Security: Katie reported that a Calvary Safety Team has formed. Members include Ryan Janssen, Greg Stehn, Darcie Zirbes, and Russ Wilbur. The team will complete a safety assessment of Calvary and attend local and regional trainings. The team will present recommendations to the council in December that would improve our emergency preparedness and overall safety for staff, congregation, and students.

Top Three Takeaways:

- Engagement Update
- All In Appeal
- Safety Update
- Holiday Planning
- Parenting Conference

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Following adjournment, the council moved into a closed session to discuss the lead pastor review. The closed session adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

The next council meeting will be held on **November 17, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.**