

Calvary Council – Together in Christ, Empowered to Be and Make Disciples
Tuesday, May 11, 2021- Bethany Hall- 7pm

Attending: Jeanne Ashburn, Shawn Swenson, Karina Rice, Kim Larson, Amber Willis, Pastor David Severtson, Shane Baker, Holly Ulrich, Pam Dekraai, Kevin Hanson, Mary Jo DeCathelineau, Sandy Hanson, Elissa Nelson, Charles Ulrich, Sara Bennett, Karen Loge, Richard Wog, Erica Mathews, Michelle Kotrba, Pastor Naomi Mahler, Pastor Tim Malek, Pastor Dean Johnson

Devotions: Pastor Dean led devotions and prayer using the book Growing Young.

Approval of Minutes for April 13, 2021 Council Meeting: Elissa Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes, Mary Jo DeCathelineau seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of April Financials: Kevin Hanson presented April numbers. Giving this year versus last year (through April 30) is \$1,000 below last year, which is very good considering the pandemic. Year to date, we are in better shape this year than last. Charles Ulrich motioned to approve financials, Kim Larson seconded. Motion passed.

Board Reports:

Board of Stewardship- Amber Willis reported that the time and talents cards are being mailed out soon. The Required Minimum Distribution cards did not go out last year, so they will be going out soon. They are working on fundraising for the Bell and new Sanctuary Lighting and will be sending a letter to the congregation as well as doing temple talks.

Board of Outreach- Sara Bennett reported that because of personal reasons, Nikki Erickson is withdrawing from Council and Outreach board. Council may need to fill this position; the Outreach board will need to discuss and determine if it needs to be filled. Holly Ulrich reported they are collecting donations for Eagles Nest, which is located in Sauk Centre, and will continue for the next 2 Sundays.

Board of Youth- Karen Loge reported that they have many upcoming events. This Sunday they held a Duluth trip fundraiser where they sold flowers and bars from Frieda's. They are working on Senior Recognition Sunday, and KJ Farhat will be helping organize that on May 23. They are hoping to have an August send-off for the Senior class.

Board of Children- Elissa Nelson reported that they are working on events, including the talent show on May 23. They discussed staffing for a Youth position and how to support those programs, as well as starting to plan for fall Faith Formation.

Board of Worship- Mary Jo DeCathelineau reports that they are looking for more Altar guild volunteers. They are also working on preparing for the farewell on Sunday for

Pastor Tim Malek. They are also adding a Wednesday night worship service in the summer, which will take place outside.

Board of Finance- Kevin Hanson presented two projects that Building and Grounds brought forward. The Bell restoration and Sanctuary Lighting. The Bell restoration needs to happen sooner than later.

Kevin Hanson brought a motion to fund \$18,050 needed to fix the bell out of special funds, concurrently with a fundraiser in conjunction with the Anniversary. Holly seconded. Motion passed. Note: The Bell will be gone for 3 months and then we will have a re-dedication ceremony.

The Finance committee met with the board of worship to discuss Sanctuary Lighting. They had two bids to enhance lighting for worship, including a more expansive package that allows for lighting of the altar.

Both boards gave the recommendation to fund \$35,935 with special funds and to work with stewardship to have a fundraiser where both projects (the bell and lighting) are packaged together, named "Calvary's past and Calvary's future".

Kevin Hanson brought a motion to fund \$35,935 to upgrade lighting in the sanctuary. Charles Ulrich seconded. Discussion regarding the altar lighting and how much more expensive it is in opposition to the other bid. Finance board made it clear that it is less expensive to do it now than it would be try to add it later. Motion passed.

Finance committee also reported that the Sanctuary cameras that were approved in October have been installed. They also informed the council that they are reviewing the Anderson farm, as land prices have gone up drastically.

Staff Reports:

Pastor Tim: Sunday is Pastor Tim's last day; he has a month of vacation after that. The staff has been supportive through the whole journey and he thanked them for that.

Pastor Naomi- Pastor Naomi reminded the council of the positive things that have been done during the pandemic and asked us to celebrate our successes. She shared some of our increased presence on social media.

Pastor Dean- He reported that Grief Care is going well; they will be having a potluck and memorial service next week in the green space. He is working on catching up on funerals, weddings, baptisms that have been delayed from pandemic. He is making 8-10 phone calls a day to regular members to reach out.

Pastor David- He reports that he is finishing the program year strong and that he, Pastor Naomi and Janel will be meeting Friday to have a visioning day to work on faith formation. He is also making calls to members.

New Business-

Sara discussed the logistics of Pastor Tim's farewell. There will be a normal worship and release of call at 9am and following service there will be a farewell fellowship time with cupcakes outside.

Sara received information from the Synod regarding the Gifts of Grace fund. Bishop Jon's has asked for his retirement that donations be made to Gifts of Grace in honor of his service.

Jeanne Ashburn made a motion to give \$2k from Endowment funds to Gifts of Grace, seconded by Richard Wog. Motion passed.

Old Business-

Reminder that we have seven spots to fill at Synod Assembly. Four members are confirmed or strongly considering. The deadline to register is May 17 and Sara asked everyone to please consider attending, as we are electing a bishop. If interested please contact Pastor David Severtson.

There have been updates to the COVID restrictions in Minnesota. Council discussed singing in worship, serving of food, the prayerground/nursery, and fall planning/Sunday school. The new guidelines now read "Congregation singing may occur indoors if all participants wear face coverings". Elissa Nelson made a motion to lift restriction on singing and speaking in unison with masks on. Erica Mathews seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion was had regarding the serving of food, the prayerground and Sunday school. The decision was made that the COVID Task force would meet again to come up with some guidelines on these issues.

Executive Session: Council went into an Executive Session to discuss staffing.

Motion to allow Executive/Personnel to go into negotiations with Pastor Dean to become Interim Lead Pastor, which would end when a new lead pastor is called. Kevin Hanson made the motion, Kim Larson seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourn: Holly Ulrich motioned to adjourn, Charles Ulrich seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer