

Calvary Council – Together in Christ, Empowered to Be and Make Disciples

Tuesday January 11, 2021- 7pm Bethany Hall

Present: Janel Skindelein, Mary Jo DeCathelineau, Pastor David Severtson, Jeanne Ashburn, Shawn Swenson, Sara Bennett, Teri Sokulski, Pastor Dean Johnson, Pastor Naomi Mahler, Jena Berget, Pam DeKraai, Amber Willis, Michelle Kotrba, Kim Larson, Elissa Nelson, Karen Loge, Naomi Baker - Kevin and Sandi Hanson via phone.

Devotions: Sara Bennett led devotions.

Previous Council Minutes- Elissa Nelson made a motion to approve December minutes with a correction of Richard Wog's name. Karen Loge seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin reported 734k income and 848k was budgeted, expenses were down at 840k from 937k budgeted. There was a deficit of 70k for the year. December was a good month for giving. Giving has been down in the last 3 years. They may bring a recommendation in the future to address the gap. Kevin Hanson made a motion to approve financial reports, Shawn Swenson seconded it. Motion passed.

Pastor Dean Johnson: He reported some reflections on the future of the congregation. He reinforced the need for leaders in the congregation and for people to participate as we move forward. The last year and a half we have seen attendance down on Sundays by around 55 people. He mentioned the farm sale money and how we can use that money to move the congregation forward. We will need a strategic plan for how we can go forward and grow. They are considering having a few listening sessions in the spring to see the congregation's thoughts on what they are wanting in the future.

Pastor Naomi Mahler: She reported that she and Naomi Baker have been working on the worship services for the last season including the Blue Christmas service and Christmas at the Barn in Svea. They did extra home visits in December and have been working on taking care of the congregation. The Willmar Interfaith network is planning an event with a panel discussion featuring speakers of different faiths and also showing a short video. The event is tentatively scheduled for February 13th. She echoed the blessing of the farmland sale and the possibilities of what we can do if we are flexible and willing to work with other organizations and outside the box.

Pastor David Severtson: He reminded the council that he has a specific title of Pastor of Congregational Care and Faith Formation and explained the duties that go along with that. They are beginning the befriender ministry in February. They have two book studies starting soon regarding race.

Janel Skindelein: She reported that Sunday school started back up last Sunday during the rededication of the bell. They decorated bell cookies and had a scavenger hunt. January 30th will be camp Sunday and we will host GLLM ministries and they will do a temple talk and work with the Sunday school kids during opening.

Naomi Baker: She reported that she thoroughly enjoyed her first Christmas at Calvary and going into the Anniversary kick off. The psalm that Gloria Lien wrote, Gloria will rearrange into a choral arrangement so we can sing again. Naomi loves that she gets to work with all ages and is excited for when she can get involved with more people in the future.

Teri Sokulski: She has printed the first draft of the annual report, there are a few corrections. She is working on contributions statements as well. They had a promising interview for the office position.

Board of Children and Family-Elissa Nelson reported that they met tonight and did some sharing of the things they feel Calvary is doing well and things that they think need improvements. They are also discussing new ways to use some of our spaces like the Nursery, Prayerground and Gathering space.

Board of Youth and Family: Karen Loge reported that they are still working on the National Youth Gathering and fundraising ideas. They have been discussing their participation and being more hands on and what they want for the youth in 2022. They are brainstorming ideas for the gap between confirmation and young adults and how they can reach that population.

Board of Outreach: They haven't met yet, they have nothing to report.

Board of Stewardship: Amber Willis reported that they are working on a few ongoing things. The commitment cards were sent out in December and they are working on the best way to communicate with people. They are working to get a cardstock pew sized Connect with Calvary card to distribute and how to communicate without overdoing it.

Board of Finance: Kevin Hanson reported that finance asked the executive committee to join them in deciding how to invest the farmland money. They are working on a sample investment policy to put in place for the future. The cemetery committee is requesting funds for tree trimming and that has been approved.

Board of Worship: Mary Jo DeCathelineau reported that they met last week and discussed bell dedication and the services and Gloria Liens visit. They discussed how the Christmas services went and the attendance. They also started discussing Lent services.

Executive Board: Sara Bennett reported that the Annual Meeting is after the 10:15 service on the 23rd. There is a lunch provided by the youth. There will be a Coffee with the Council at 9:05 am on Jan 16th, please try to attend both. We are postponing having the Building committee members visit the council meeting, until new council members are installed, maybe March

meeting or later. Farmland will be closing soon, on or before February 1st. A reminder that as council members we need to continue to remind people that Farm sale money is not for the General fund and is only for the Capital fund.

Endowment Committee- The committee approves funds to be given out to organizations and are required to give a percentage away every year. This committee should have 6 members but all of our members have termed out and we are looking for new members. We have one person who has agreed to participate. They are hoping to have the committee back up and running by February to review the three requests that are pending. The only thing that came out of the endowment for 2021 was the gift for the bishop, so we need to get those requests moving. The Nominating committee is appointed by the council and makes recommendations to the finance committee. The finance committee brings those recommendations to the council for approval. The Senior Pastor is overseeing that committee.

Strategic Planning and Ministry Site Profile: Mary Jo and Dean have come up with a list of 10-12 people to ask to be on the committee for the Ministry Site Profile. Pastor Steve Cook is willing to come to help the committee. They will email the final 4 or 5 names and if any council members have comments or questions they can communicate that.

Nominating Committee: We currently have 2 positions left to fill; board of worship and board of outreach. We are sitting in a good place, after having 9 positions left to fill. Sara reminded the council that we will need to get a nominating committee for 2023 and she would anyone that is going out of council to consider serving on that committee next year.

New Business: As Kevin said, we are working on an investment policy- more information to come in the future.

Svea: Council was given an agreement that was done between Svea Lutheran and Calvary regarding continuing the collaboration agreement through May 20, 2022. Calvary has not committed to anything beyond that and we need to have discussions on if we want to continue that in the summer. Calvary's summer worship schedule may dictate what we do with Svea in the summer. We are encouraging Svea to work on a Ministry Site Profile and be engaged in what their future will look like. Kim Larson motioned to accept the agreement going into May 2022. Mary Jo DeCathelineau seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn: Mary Jo DeCathelineau made motion to adjourn, Jeanne Ashburn seconded. Motion passed.