

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

Council Minutes

Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, 6:00 p.m. Friendship Room

Council Members in Attendance: Caleb Hanson, Amber Willis, Corey Nelson, Brian Henrickson, Janel Skindelien, Shawn Swenson, Mary Jo deCathelienau, Shane Baker

Pastors in Attendance: Pastor David Severtson, Pastor Dean Johnson

Staff & Guests in Attendance: Naomi Powers-Baker, Erica Mathews, Wayne Nelson

Shared Meal Time

Devotions & Prayer – Pastor Dean Johnson

Guest Presenter – Wayne Nelson

Call Committee Update (Wayne Nelson) – met on 3/9/23 with Bishop Dee Pederson, we are starting to see inquiries, RMP received from a candidate. Multiple meetings scheduled to prepare for any interview opportunities. Wayne needs copies of the job description – Lead and Associate for candidate to review. Wayne offered to continue doing messenger updates but also is available for a Temple Talk, if needed.

- Question for Call Committee – is it prudent to have two Call Committees going? One for lead and one for Associate? How should that be handled? No decision made, at this time.

Council Business

- MOTION: Adoption of Minutes – change start time to 6 p.m. – Amber Willis motions, Brian Henrickson seconds, motion passes
- Update on A/V (Pastor Dean) – no bids yet, companies have to come out and inventory our current system, Mike Schroeder is leading this task. People have inquired about donating or fundraisers for this.
 - o Council Discussion – when bids come in, what do we do as a council?
 - Thoughts were to have the financial committee review bids, maybe a special meeting of council, has Chris Bennet been kept in the loop – yes, building and grounds has been keeping up with the status, possibly have Naomi attend, too.
 - o Bethany Hall – should this be considered as we look at these A/V options?
- Trinity Group (Shawn Swenson) – lay leaders and Pastors from Vinje, Bethel, and Calvary meeting as a group. What can we do to support each other, collaborate, partner, events as an ELCA community? Positives to the group are open dialogue and we would like some concrete ideas like a marketing campaign on the radio working together. Idea for a speaker to come and talk to us as an ELCA community about social topics. Next meeting April 24th – Council members are welcome to come.
 - o Council Discussion – great way to get together and collaborate, supportive of it. This is a good venture.
- Feedback about Pastor David's announcement – some surprise, thankful for the follow-up letter, happy for Pastor David, sad for us, we are resilient Lutherans and we will get through this.

- Reception for David and Family, April 30th – in between services on his Last Sunday – 9 a.m., stay until the end of 10:15 service, then head to Svea possibly.
 - Council and their families assist with serving at this – sign up at April Mtg
- Update on Staffing Needs – no hires at this time, no one has come forward on the Faith Formation position, on the list at GLLM but we are 6th so not likely we will get GLLM staff help, Pastor Dean talked to Mark Miley (WMS Principal) about any teachers who might be interested in Faith Formation, Pastor David reached out to Ridgewater Campus Ministry twice and hasn't heard back.
- Update from Finance Committee (Shawn Swenson)
 - Shawn is looking for a chair-person of that committee
 - Looking for a treasurer and possible member of Executive Board
 - Looking for 1-2 more people to join this committee
 - Shawn reviewed the financial report
 - Cost savings on staffing because of vacancies
 - Increase expenses like snow removal, and utilities
 - Action Items
 - Personnel Manual – want to get it to be in compliance with laws and have clear benefit options and hiring practices - \$2,500
 - Furnace in the Chapel went out – got replaced – around \$5k
 - Ten17 Media – Tyler Gerking – call committee requested a promo video of Calvary for our website and other places of promotions - \$2k
 - Pastor David – severance package was approved
 - Church Committee Updates
 - Stewardship Committee
 - Finance Committee (see above)
 - Youth Committee steered by the Youth Leadership Team (3 youth and 2 adults)
 - Worship Committee (4 people) – approved summer schedule
 - Outreach Committee – Lenten Offerings was their last action
 - At the end of Lent we need to look at contributing towards LSS since they were slated for Ash Wednesday and we cancelled.
 - Endowment Committee
 - Building and Grounds Committee
 - Council Thank You to Kevin Christianson
 - Council Membership on Committees – how do we want this to look?
 - Finalize Org Chart
 - Council Members that are on Committees report back
 - Calendar of when to have groups visit council
 - Bridget and Amber will do an audit
 - MOTION: Quarterly (Standard Calendar) report from committees or as requested by Council President – Shane D. Baker motions and Amber Willis seconds, motion passes
- Special Committees Updates
 - Pastor Dean's Celebration – people who are interested in helping planning this, come forward.
 - Fundraising Committee for the A/V Equipment – will this be needed, table this

- Depreciation / Capital Planning – goal is to have Bldg & Grounds committee come up with a Depreciation List and present to Finance Committee
 - Idea – Stewardship Drive informs congregation about the numbers needed, like X% increase in your giving, would help us fund the depreciation list
- Strategic Planning – what's our next step? Consensus is to wait for the Lead Pastor.
 - Question and discussion – need a consultant?, keep it on the agenda, have a different structure than the last one, use the old one as a guide
- Staff Reports
 - Erica Mathews
 - Easter Egg Hunt – 5,000+ filled eggs, group of volunteers came together during the day and it went great!
 - First Communion – loved the boxes with the notes from congregants!
 - Seniors – notes from the congregation for the graduating seniors, May 21st, Senior Recognition Service, Quilts will be given
 - Naomi Powers-Baker
 - Holy Week Services
 - Looking for brass members and singers
 - Creation Care Service – people had positive feedback about the service and the speaker
 - Halbritters did fundraiser to pay for the glass communion cup dishwasher trays and they met their goal!
 - Continuing Education Opportunity – lay ministry – this was approved by the finance committee and she's very excited about it!
 - Pastor David
 - Working on transition plans
 - Faith Formation – next year's schedule will work on with Erica, planning for the Fall
 - Congregational Care – BeFrienders want to continue and would like to be more known more broadly – Nancy Holt and Beth Bloomquist leading the way with the others
 - Pastor Dean
 - 3 pending memorial services, 3 pending committal services, 3-4 people in hospice, some pending weddings, 20+ people in Grief Care (about 1/3 are from Calvary and the rest are from the community)
 - Check Hospital every day and reach out and follow up with other pastoral care duties
- Council Executive Session – Staff left the meeting and the Council continued with discussion surrounding leadership needs for the future.