

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

Council Minutes

Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Friendship Room

Present: Shawn Swenson, Mary Jo de Cathelineau, Shane Baker, Caleb Hanson, Janel Skindelien, Brian Henrickson, Corey Nelson, Amber Willis
Staff Present: Pastor Dean Johnson, Naomi Powers-Baker, Erica Mathews, Teri Sokulski, Marie Fett

Absent: Bridget Pederson

Pastor and Staff in Attendance: Pastor Dean Johnson, Naomi Powers-Baker, Erica Mathews, Teri Sokulski, Marie Fett

President Shawn Swenson opened the August 8, 2023, Council Meeting.

Guest Presentations:

1. **Call Committee**-Wayne Nelson presented on the Call Committee and their progress in calling a Pastor. Interviews have been completed. Once a candidate is recommended to the council, a vote will be held at council to call the candidate. The candidate's name will be published 3 times and a final congregation vote will be held. The candidate has 30 days to accept the position.

Wayne Nelson also informed the Council that the Call Committee would consider staying intact to call an Associate Pastor. Discussion was held and a unanimous vote was held by the Council to approve the Call Committee to interview for the Associate Pastor position.

2. **Trinity Gathering/LSS Meeting** – Kim Larson updated Council on the Trinity Group and what they are working on. Lutheran Social Services needs a resource center to help youth as they do not have enough space in their current facility. Financial support of this programming was discussed. Mr. Larson asked if more of the Council could attend the meetings. Times of meetings were discussed. Kim Larson will keep us informed of further meetings.

Council Business:

3. **Approval of June 2023 Council Minutes**- A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 2023 Minutes. Motion passed.
4. **Update from Finance Committee** – President Shawn Swenson gave the finance report for the month ending July 31, 2023.
 - a. July YTD financial reports were discussed. Total General Fund income is \$61,725 under the monthly budgeted income by \$6054. The actual monthly budgeted operating expenses were \$59,319 which is under budget by \$9821. The net income for the month was \$2406. Net income year to date in the general fund is \$16,859.
 - b. Thrivent/Jerry Anderson Update. According to Thrivent, the portfolio is doing as expected. Jeanne Ashburn also talked to Shawn Swenson about a Putin Fund that

- was established and in 2020 the value was \$188,000. The fund is now \$245,000. Ms. Ashburn suggested we place this in a balanced fund. This will be discussed by the Finance Board.
- c. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Brian Henrickson, seconded by Shane Baker. Motion passed.
5. **Pastoral Coverage Team** – President Shawn Swenson informed the council of the discussions with Pastor Dean, Executive Board and candidates that would be available for pastoral coverage for Calvary.
- a. Candidates have been contacted to aid with pulpit support and confirmation support. Pastor Dean Johnson is creating a schedule of all participants. Pastor Dean will be working with confirmation students. Confirmation for 10th graders is scheduled for October 8, 2023.
- b. Pastor Dean's retirement is scheduled for December 31, 2023.
6. **Svea agreement extension** – President Shawn Swenson stated our agreement with Svea has been extended to December 31, 2023. The conditions of the agreement are the same. A motion was made by Shane Baker and seconded by Brian Henrickson to approve the Svea agreement. Motion passed.
7. **Strategic Plan** – Mary Jo de Cathelineau shared that she will be making calls to consultants that would be able to help us in the Strategic Planning process.
8. **By-Laws Committee Update** – Bridget Pederson is working on this update and Janel Skindelien has volunteered to be on the committee.
9. **Update to Congregation** – President Shawn Swenson stated he is working on a letter to go out to the congregation.
10. **Committee Reports:**
- a. **Stewardship Committee:** They are working on a letter for stewardship and will be conducting temple talks in the fall. Also working on God's Work God's Hands. Also looking at having a volunteer job fair.
- b. **Youth Leadership Team:** Erica Mathews reported that the leadership team took August 2023 off from meeting but will resume meeting in September of 2023.
- c. **Worship Committee:** Naomi Powers-Baker stated that the Worship Committee will be meeting with the Audio-Visual team to make some decisions about the upgrades.
- d. **Outreach Committee:** The Outreach Committee is looking for more members. The committee consists of Pam DeKraai and Arlene Preslicka.
11. **Staff Reports:**
- a. **Naomi Powers-Baker:** Naomi reported that she has been working with God's Work God's Hands. She has also been working with the Social Kindness Committee to put goodie packages together for kids. She has also been making plans for the fall worship schedule. The Calvary directory will be ready shortly.
- b. **Erica Mathews:** Erica reported that she has been busy with getting ready for Sunday School this fall. The curriculum for confirmation has been mapped out. The Sunday School Christmas program has been designed. The church has supported 80 children this summer.

- c. **Teri Sokulski:** Teri reported that the church needs video volunteers. She also appreciates all the volunteers that help in the office and church. We are also out of the Calvary Cookbooks.
- d. **Marie Fett:** Marie stated everything is going well.
- e. **Pastor Dean Johnson:** Pastor Dean has been working to complete the Pastoral Coverage for the remainder of the year. There will be a new member Sunday sometime in September of 2023. We are also looking for more volunteers to water the flowerpots at Calvary. He continues to visit our members that have been hospitalized.

12. **Dinner Volunteer for next meeting** – Shawn

13. **Devotions** – Given by Pastor Dean Johnson

14. **Adjourn-Lord's Prayer**

Submitted,

Mary Jo de Cathelineau
Council Vice President