

Calvary Church Council Minutes
Tuesday, February 13th, 2024
Friendship Room

In Attendance: MaryJo de Cathelineau, Bridget Pederson, Shane Baker, Caleb Hansen, Brian Henrickson, Harley Aalfs, John Dean

Absent: Janel Skindelien, Christina Stegeman

Staff: Pastor Dwaine, Pastor Wayne, Erica Mathews, Teri Sokulski, Naomi Powers-Baker

Guests: Sue Roepke, Lori Holmgren, Bob Dickerson

Opening Prayer / Devotional – Pastor Dwaine

Shared Meal Time

Guest – Sue Roepke – Altar Guild Co-Chair – shared from her minutes from the Altar Guild Meeting with details about changes. Nice to set up on Fridays now vs just Saturday. Request for Communion Classes for people to assist with the prep of the communion. Desire younger people to be involved in this task and committee. May 16th there will be a meeting to discuss the trial period and changes, see how the upper room is working, etc.

Request to make the Sacristy and the Upper Room available to the Altar Guild – no opposition from council.

Discussion about having Communion more often and then trying to implement it weekly. Information shared about supplies that can be purchased to pull it off like Chalice, fridge, etc.

- Bob Dickerson mentioned that there is a potter in the congregation, Barry Carlson, and he would like him to be asked and checked in with about the option.
- Bridget asked about the pottery being food safe.
- Lori mentioned giving the congregation a tutorial about how to do the different ways of distributing/receiving communion.
- Rekeying the Upper Room Door is needed.

Agenda items:

January Council Minutes – Motion to accept minutes – Brian; 2nd – Shane; no discussion, none opposed. Accepted.

Financial Committee Update – see reports, REACH Acoustic Study, Carlson Gift, Erica is full time, Special Funds paid back, Jerry Anderson Funds up \$60k.

- Discussion about a website for the County, businesses and non-profits can advertise on the County Site, \$5k is for a minute video but a 30 second video might be all that we need. Church search for Kandiyohi County then our church would be at the top of the list. Can use the video ourselves on our social media.
- There are questions about if there is a yearly fee. Finance Committee hasn't made a decision. Want more info. There are only 12 spots. This will be on the agenda at the next Finance Committee.

- Bob Dickerson shared he thought Leroy Carlson should've been thanked at the Annual Meeting. Discussion was had about a formal appreciation or recognition being needed – some thought he may not want this. Pastor Wayne and Mary Jo will reach out to Leroy Carlson to personally thank him.

Motion to accept financial reports – Caleb; 2nd – Lori Holmgren; none opposed. Accepted financial reports.

Svea Agreement Update – no updates at this time. 3rd Sunday of the Month is their Council Meeting. Pastor Dwaine will be attending their meeting on 2/19/24.

AV Upgrade Status Update – See Financial Report for detail. The acoustic study is going to happen. REACH company is handling this. We had to use some of the technical funds. Looking at special fund being used for the acoustical update.

Call Committee Update – Bridget, Mary Jo, Pastor Dwaine – need committee member names brought forward as potential candidates. Call Committee would like members to be appointed by Council. Teri brought forward Brad Rice, Krista Willis, Bonnie Franzen. Erica had given some names to Bridget – two youth and two young families. Bridget is resigning from call committee to focus on other church projects.

Motion to accept Bridget's Resignation from Call Committee – Brian, 2nd – Caleb. No discussion. Approved.

Committee Names & Committee Fair or Volunteer Fair – Brian. We need to finish the committee member list, make a comprehensive list, work with Teri on the Time and Talent list, check the annual meeting reports. Have a description on each committee available to the congregation. Caleb shared that Stewardship Committee would be a good fit for this task.

- Committee blurb in the bulletin or messenger is an idea. Office needs it by Wednesday of each week – Bridget will do this. Up first – Altar Guild, Stewardship. On deck – Outreach.

Council Member Resignations – Janel Skindelen & Christina Stegeman are not able to fulfill their terms on council. Mary Jo explained their reasons.

Motion to accept resignations – Shane, 2nd – John. None opposed. Motion carries.

Motion to appoint Bob Dickerson to fulfill Janel's term (2 years) and Lori Holmgren to fulfill Christina's term (3 years) – Shane, 2nd – Mary Jo. None opposed. Motion carries.

Installation of the Council – Pastor Dwaine. This is set for February 25th – end of 8 a.m. and beginning at 10:15 a.m. – council members, that are available, attend both.

Strategic Planning – Mary Jo – wants to get this started again to continue the work, the current committee is on pause since late 2022. Our current strategic plan is from 2013 and is very broad. Bridget shared information from a consultant she spoke with, Susan Lange, who shared some insight into the process and steps the council could take when searching for a consultant. Bridget will send a thank you to her for her willingness to share and speak with her. Discussion was had about the strategic plan and the concept of hiring a consultant.

- Bob Dickerson shared that he and many others are tired of this process. He also questioned the use of a consultant and didn't want someone coming to Calvary and telling us what to do. Discussion was had about what a consultant's role is and how they work with a congregation.
- Bridget shared that it was a previous task agreed upon by the council in 2023 that we get estimates from 3 different consultants. Susan Lange was one of the consultants. Ms. Lange shared, in her conversation with Bridget, that the Pastors could reach out to other Pastors they know and find out who they have had success with to gain names of other consultants to reach out to. Ms. Lange also shared that some consultants work with churches and some do not. Pastor Dwaine and Pastor Wayne were asked to reach out to other Pastors to get some names.
- Discussion was had about needing a neutral person that does not go to Calvary to assist in the strategic planning process. Ms. Lange shared insights of having a scope of the work, council being clear on its direction to the committee, knowing how much we want to spend.

Staff Reports –

- Marie Fett – gone for 6 weeks on vacation.
- Naomi Baker – Wed Night Lent Service is scheduled with speakers.
- Erica Mathews – Busy with the youth, soliciting camp scholarships. Upcoming trips to Racine is 9 kids, Nashville is 12 kids. Confirmation leaders are full, chaperones for trips are full.
- Teri Sokulski – busy with everything while Marie is out.
- Pastor Wayne – Visitation has been happening. Shirley Ringness has passed away. Shared service details.
- Pastor Dwaine – looking forward to the Hands of Lent Worship, getting ready for Easter. Volunteered to go on the trip to Nashville with the youth as a chaperone.

Other Items – Mary Jo

- Deacon Sarah Kretschmann – Pastor Dwaine talked about collaborating with Deacon Sarah and her having office space at Calvary – she is the Congregational Engagement Specialist for the Global Refuge.
 - o Keys – rekeying of the offices and shared spaces – discussion of the need for code or badges or at least have one door that is able to do this. Take this to the Board of Finance.
 - o Temporary solution to re-key some doors that need it for the time being.
- Goals for the Year – Mary Jo. She shared that her goals for the year include working on the strategic plan, the ByLaws Committee, and Committee structure.

Next meeting March 12th at 6 p.m. Dinner Volunteer – Brian.

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Bridget. 2nd – Caleb. None opposed.