Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Friendship Room

Attendance: Bob Dickerson, John Dean, Harley Aalfs, Bridget Pederson, MaryJo de Cathelineau (in-part), Caleb Hanson, Brian Henrickson, Lori Holmgren

Staff: Pr. Dwaine, Pr. Wayne, Pr. Amy, Naomi Powers-Baker, Paula Leuders

Absent: Shane Baker, Marie Fett

Guests: Kim Larson

Shared Meal & Devotions from Bob Dickerson

Adoption of Minutes – Initially Caleb motioned, John second. Discussion. Bob stated he would like to make a correction to the [October] minutes regarding the endowment committee discussion. He disagrees with what it says and would like it corrected or struck. Bob stated he wasn’t asked multiple times to do it, he totally disagrees. He stated there is no need to publicly shame me because I tried to get a meeting together. Bob explained that he was never made chairman of that committee, Bob shared comments about why they haven’t had success, Bob shared that he didn’t feel they should’ve cancelled the last meeting, Bob passed out copies of emails discussing the endowment committee which includes discussion from past and current committee members. Brian stated that the decision was made to not have the meeting because Brian and Pr. Dwaine were unavailable. Bob stated Pr. Dwaine doesn’t need to be there and Brian is not a member. MaryJo stated she asked Brian to take on the committee as the chairman had resigned. MaryJo shared that prior to asking Brian to take on the committee she had asked Bob to get meetings together and when that didn’t happen she asked Brian to help. MaryJo was upset by the discussion and the handout and stated she is so close to getting up and resigning. She stated I am sick of having the meetings be like this. MaryJo reiterated when there was no chairperson – I asked Bob to get a meeting, there wasn’t one after multiple asks so, she asked Brian to have a meeting. A decision was made to not have the last meeting. MaryJo said she will retract what she said so we can move on. MaryJo stated she needs a break, asks Brian to run the meeting in her absence, and left the meeting. Brian stated we are motioning to adopt the minutes, are the minutes accurate – that is the question. Brian asked Bob if the comment was made? Bob said Yes, I made the comment. Bob also shared the members could’ve met and it didn’t have to be cancelled. Brian shared the Pastor is not in a leadership position on that committee.

Another motion to amend the minutes by Lori, John second it. Discussion or further discussion – none. All in favor – unclear how many were audibly in favor. Brian opposes adoption of the minutes retracted. Secretary clarifies that Brian opposes adoption of the minutes with the amendments but all others are a yes – confirmed, all others are a yes. Present for the vote are Bob, John, Harley, Lori, Bridget, Caleb, Brian. Absent are Shane and MaryJo. Motion to approve October minutes with redactions passes by majority vote, 6-1.

Of note from the secretary, after reviewing the documentation Bob distributed, it is unclear from the documentation if it is a true and correct copy of an email thread as there are parts missing in the documentation. It is unclear if the other members knew their emails would be shared in such a manner.

Staff Reports:

Paula – One member requested to leave, that member is living in South Dakota – found a church home there; new members added 11/1; Poinsettias are being ordered.

Naomi: Nothing to report at this time.

Pr. Amy: Looking at the calendar for the upcoming 10 months, looking at everything and figuring out how to do it. Thanks to Pr. Wayne for providing resources for Acolyte training, 3 hrs with students, added in 5th grade, the kids were amazing. Acolyte group is 5-9th grade. They are excited and happy to be part of leading the church. Robes have all been cleaned and hanging, short to long, and are numbered so, you can record which robe fits you on the sheet in the door.

Pr. Wayne: Very pleased with Acolyte training, echoes Pr. Amy’s comments, happy to assist with educating the youth. Visitation continues in earnest – people with medical issues having visits, Baptism planning happening.

Pr. Dwaine: Stewardship campaign – Caleb and I are working on it right now – at least 2 people to ask to come on the committee, stewardship letter has been mailed. Saturday and Sunday Caleb will be doing temple talks. Finance Committee has requested a meeting with Executive and Stewardship – will meet together on 11/19 at 6 p.m. working to discuss the budget. Attendance was brought up, shared there is a downturn in attendance at churches – trend of 5 years is down, that is everywhere, there is a slow uptick happening, online worship is almost doubled. All Saints Day to all Saints Day was compared and there were 27 funerals, these were mostly very dedicated members, about the same amount going into health care systems which attributes to some of the online community, hoping to see a rise in attendance continue.

* Lori Holmgren brought up issues she sees with membership and questioned Pr. Dwaine’s outlook that there is a rise in attendance – looking at the past 10 years we are looking at 5% change; last year to this year down 41% of our people for in-person, people are not showing up, this is sad and disturbing to me, we have people marching out of our church. I watch Vinje’s Wednesday night service online – young families from Calvary attending there. I have a hard time attending, I watch online when I can’t bring myself to come in.
* Brian stated he would be moving the discussion along.

AV Update and Report: met upstairs in the balcony, most equipment is in (here), it’s been decided we are going to delay it – to have everything in and working by Christmas was a worry, Mike talked with REACH, wait until after the first of the year (January) to finalize the audio equipment. It will be too difficult to have it up and running in time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are some items that were damaged in shipping that are getting replaced. The electrician has started his work. There is a cabinet person hired. Naomi mentioned we should be mindful of when lent starts.

Family and Youth Position Opening – Pastor Dwaine shared there is a minimum of five needed for the call committee, have 4 so far, looking at 1 more. Finance and Stewardship Committees will discuss this opportunity – how will this be financed is a concern and discussion point. Accept the position to be on the call committee has been Caleb Hanson, Jane Miller, Michelle Fernholz, and Katie Miller. Pr. Dwaine has not received any application from a layperson for the position, it’s been advertised. Naomi asked where has it been advertised – Pr. Dwaine shared where he sent it like listing it with Synods, ELCA family/youth FB, website, bulletin. It was brought up that it needs to be advertise it on Calvary’s FB. Pr. Dwaine will give that to Naomi for Calvary’s FB.

Finance Committee – Brian refers to the packet that was previously sent to Council. Brian reviews verbally the Financial Summary for October 2024.

Motion to approve the financial reports: John motioned, Bob seconded. None opposed. Motion passes.

Strategic Planning Committee Update: Brian shared the next meeting is January of 2025.

Stewardship Committee Update (Caleb Hanson): We have temple talks Sat/Sun, letter going out this weekend. Looking for members to be on the Stewardship Committee. Meeting between Caleb and Pr. Dwaine again this Thursday.

Security plan (Brian Henrickson): South and East Doors – 1 door will have a ring with camera attached, will go to Marie and Paula’s computers, they can open either door. Down payment was made of $4,500. Installers will work with office staff to get it done. Next we need to deal with the locks and address that there might be many keys in the community, there was no process for tracking this – will work on the inside doors next. Lockman is now called Bradley Company.

Committee Reports – reports submitted by Social Kindness and Creation Care were shared with Church Council via email prior this meeting.

Nominating Committee (Bridget Pederson) – Bridget updated that they are meeting on 11/22/24 with the Nominating Committee, members are Shane Baker, MaryJo DeCathelineau, Caleb Hanson, and Bridget Pederson. The Pastors are invited to this meeting as well. Please put names forward to anyone on the committee.

ByLaws Committee (Bridget Pederson) – Bridget updated Council that the ByLaws group has been meeting and has taken a look at the adopted Constitution and ByLaws from 2022 and have been adding Chapters 13 and 14 with some updates/corrections to other chapters. The Council will receive a copy of the proposed ByLaws and Org Chart by 11/26/24 via email, the ByLaws Committee asked to present at the December Council Meeting.

First Fruits Resolution – This will be discussed on Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Exec / Stewardship / Finance Mtg. John Dean was asked to take the lead on the writing the First Fruits Resolution, he agreed.

Other Items:

* MaryJo resigned as President mid-meeting. She is upset with the issues that Council continues to have and stated this is not how we should do Church, we should all be ashamed of our behavior. MaryJo left the meeting for the night but retracted her decision to resign. Naomi shared that MaryJo “has put up with a lot of shit this year”. MaryJo asked Brian to lead the remainder of the meeting.
* Bridget brought up a Thank You Recognition Event / Effort – from Council to the Congregation; people thought it was a good idea; Caleb shared that Stewardship has discussed ideas in the past; some suggestions on how to do it would be a volunteer recognition Sunday, or End of the School year Picnic, and publishing a thank you message
  + Bulletin – Thank you message for Nov/Dec in Messenger
  + Event – spring, will continue to plan
* Paula brought up Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social – set up, serve, clean up; Paula will find out specifics and email the group.

Next Month: Meal time – Lori Holmgren; Devotions – Pr. Dwaine

Motion to adjourn – John, second – Harley. No opposition.

Adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 7:22 p.m.