



## **Approved February 2023 Council Minutes**

**Meeting called to order by Jana Berndt at 5:02 pm on Monday, February 27, 2023.**

Members present: Jana Berndt, Lukas Gotto, Kathy Hungness, Katie Rentschler, Jeff Rodel, Ann Stehn, Clay Ostlund, Cheryl Whitchurch, Pastor Hans Dahl, Bruce Luehmann

Members Absent: Pastor Angie Larson, Mark Stromswold

### **Mission Sightings**

- 1) Hope Haven went incredibly well and we had a huge number of volunteers to support that work. We had great guests and they felt loved while they were here at Calvary. THANK YOU to all of those who helped make it another great experience.
- 2) Calvary preschool added a new class for next year! It will be a Mon-Fri, all-day class and we are nearly full for classes for the upcoming year!
- 3) We started fundraising for the wells in Ghana this weekend and the matching donations are going great! We are nearly there to purchase our first well.

### **Consent Agenda**

- 1) Consent Agenda for February proposed for approval by Kathy H, 2nd by Clay O, motion carries. This includes one fund request of \$66.35 from the Choirs Dedicated Fund for new choir music.

### **Treasurer Report**

Presented by Bruce.

- 1) February has been another strong month to start off our 2nd month of the year. Many members continually choose to give their entire pledges at the start of the year. Therefore, the January and February months are strong. However, we also acknowledge that it is not something we can count on for the months following as those giving in that manner may be done for the year.
- 2) We are getting closer to being able to make another principal payment on our building project.
- 3) Motion to approve the February financials by Kathy H, 2nd by Clay O, motion carries.

### **Old Business**

- 1) **Introduction of new members** - Members shared a little family history and “about you”. Welcome, Cheryl, Ann, and Jeff! We are very excited to have you join our team.
  - a) We also spent some time going over Calvary’s mission, vision, and strategic priorities that were created/refined a couple of years ago. It was good to take a few minutes to cover what we stand for at Calvary and share that a bit deeper with our new council members.
- 2) **Database Update** - In the last few months, we moved to a new database system for our church that will serve our staff and members better. This allows us to focus on the engagement of members that we want to measure. Some of these include counting the number of people in connect groups, attendance, participating in additional serving opportunities, leadership, etc.
  - a) November was our transition into the new system.
  - b) We went over initial numbers in 6 categories... Worship Attendance, Total Giving, Total Donors, Serving, Connect Groups, and New Profiles to the system. These bar graphs will help us look at and follow the overall health of the church. There are no names, ages, or identifiable information on the graphs. These are represented in total numbers.
  - c) The data will show us more over time as we add to the system and help us make decisions on how to more deeply engage and inspire the people who call Calvary home.
- 3) **Organizational Leadership Structure** - We have been looking at our organizational leadership structure within our church and have been looking at how to spread the leadership a bit more. This would designate leads of different “departments” within our church and break down who everyone reports to. This creates efficiencies within our organization and also gives more specific guidelines for who reports to who. More to come on this very soon, along with an infographic describing and outlining it all.
- 4) **Partner Network** - There have been some great celebrations in this category! We are in year 3 of this grant from the Lilly Foundation and things are going very well. We currently have 6 official partners as we enter 2023 while walking alongside 4 other churches to help them grow and thrive.

### **New Business**

- 1) Officers for the 2023 year. Jana Berndt will continue as President, Mark Stromswold as Vice President, Lukas Gotto as secretary, and Bruce Luehmann as Treasurer. Motion to approve officers by Cheryl W, 2nd by Clay O, motion carries.
- 2) **Sabbatical** - An opportunity has arisen for Pastor Hans to apply for a sabbatical grant that would benefit both him and our church. It would provide Hans with resources and also offset some of the costs of a sabbatical leave.
  - a) There would be a team/small group of leaders within our church to oversee and support this leave. It is new for our church and we are learning as we go, but this would potentially take place during the summer of 2024.
  - b) Motion to approve the formation of a sabbatical team to support the grant writing by Ann S, 2nd by Clay O, motion carries.

- 3) **Calvary at the Lake** - It's just around the corner! The appeal from last summer went through to extend the shade at Sunday services and should be in place by the start of our time out there this summer. Secondly, there have been other conversations about the safety concerns regarding the steps leading from the Dining Hall to the worship area. There is another small team that is meeting to talk about what could be done to make that walk down to the lake less steep and safer for both our members attending service and the youth who are enjoying Luther Crest as a whole.

### **3 Take Aways**

- 1) Very excited about another successful round of Hope Haven!
- 2) The data dashboard is off and running! It is exciting to see the data we will be able to use to inform our decisions start to take shape.
- 3) We have already raised \$1000 for a new well in Ghana! Off to a great start.

**The meeting closed with Pastor Hans leading in prayer and adjourned at 6:09 pm.**