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**APPROVED COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2022**

**Members present:** Pastor Hans, Executive Pastor Angie Larson, Jana Berndt, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Tyler Geyen, Lukas Gotto, Marc Sugden, Kathy Hungness, and Jennifer Rentz

**Members Absent:** Frank Peterson and Deb Dittberner

The meeting was called to order by President J. Berndt at **6:02 p.m.** Pastor Hans led us in prayer. No new business was added to the agenda.

**Mission shout outs and wins:** Year-end shout outs; getting back together at the lake and in the church proper, 50 first communions, 56 baptisms, 400 kids crates in the Spring, Meals from the Heart, Back Pack Attack, new logo, online worship success, working with North Point Consulting, a full preschool, $79,000 in Covid Catch Up Appeal, 307 households pledged $602,000 for 2022, Trunk or Treat, and over 1600 attendees at Christmas services. WOW!

**STRENGTHENING OUR MISSION AND VISION FOR MINISTRY**

**Strategic Priorities:**

**2021-2022 Priorities:** Calvary’s Organizational Chart (2022 Staffing Plan Draft) was distributed and reviewed.

*Kid and Student Ministry* The Next Gen/Student Ministry team has proposed alternative strategies for hiring in this area.

*Online Church* is going strong. We will begin looking at next step strategies for online ministry.

*Calvary Partner Network* continues to move forward with signing on two new churches; Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota, and Peace and Hope Lutheran Church out of Blacksburg, Virginia which is an online church.

**Supporting our Priorities:**

*Next Gen Minister/Kid and Student Ministry* team has proposed looking at the current needs of each of the programs and hiring part time staff to lead at each age group (program). The programs are: Nursery (under 2), Jam (2-5 year olds), Dig (K-3rd grade), Impact (4th & 5th grade), Elevate (6th-10th grade), and Fuse (10th-12th grade). Pastor Angie would continue to oversee the Next Gen Minister/Kid &Student Ministry and student ministry team.

*Online Church* strategy; establish a team to develop next steps for online church. J. Berndt and L. Gotto have agreed to be on this team. Clay Ostlund and Natalie Watkins were also recommended for this team.

*Partner Church Network:* continues to contact and make conversation with other churches. Currently, a church in Elk River is utilizing some of our materials. Two churches in Wisconsin have been called on and a church in Willmar has shown interest in the Calvary Partner Network.

**SUPPORTING OUR MISSION AND VISION:**

**Consent Agenda:** There has been one fund approval made for $133.90 from the Choirs & Music Dedicated Fund for 3 more stands for our Bell Choir musicians. **Motion was made by J. Rentz, seconded by M. Sugden, and carried to approve the consent agenda**. The consent agenda consisted of the December council minutes, December special council minutes, staff reports, and the fund approval of $133.90.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**Year-End Giving:** B. Luehmann reported Calvary ended the year strong. Robust Christmas giving and the great response from the *Covid Catch Up Appeal* enhanced the year end financials. The 2022 *General Fund Stewardship Appeal* was great with 307 households pledging $602,129.

**December and year-end financials:** December general fund-worship income was great secondary to Christmas giving and some of the Covid Catch Up Appeal monies. We were at 96% of worship income budget for the year and 96% of total general fund budget expenses. Minus the PPP monies Calvary ended the year with a small operations deficit of $5,800. Calvary Preschool showed a deficit in monthly budget net income secondary to expense of the new playground equipment. A payment to the building expansion loan #1 is planned next week. **Motion was made by M. Sugden, seconded by K. Hungness, and carried to approve the December and year-end financials.**

**Dedicated Fund transfer:** With the forgiveness of $125,000 from the PPP loan received in 2020 Calvary ended 2021 with a Net income of $119,200. We discussed dedicated transfer of funds with these monies. We discussed 3 different options for the funds. **Motion was made by M. Sugden, seconded by L. Gotto, carried and approved to pay off the smaller of the 2 building loans with the 2021 surplus monies and the remainder of the monies will be added to the dedicated funds.**

**Lilly Grant Expenditures: T**he Calvary Partner Network Expenditures were reviewed.  **Motion was made by K. Hungness, seconded by J. Rentz and carried to approve the Lilly Grant Expenditures.**

**Old Business:**

**Building Project TimeLine and Expenses:** Income received toward the project in 2021 was $642,588 bringing total donations to $2,664,980. Sixty-eight percent of the total project pledges have been paid. The second gift to the Calvary Endowment Fund was made in the amount of $33,058. The plan is to pay Building Expansion Loan #1 off.

**Covid Update:** With the uptick in Covid cases Calvary is continuing to encourage masks while in the church.

**Communication of Strategies/Mission/Vision/Values next steps**: continue to promote our mission and values through the next series: if God is Love…. Our theme for Lent is “We Are Calvary.” We will spend 5 weeks during Lent incorporating Calvary’s mission into the messages. We will explore the book of Acts daily through the Daily Dose, reviewing a chapter a day.

**2022 Council membership:** D. Dittberner and J. Rentz have finished their council terms. Thank you to both for their years of service on the council. Pam Wilbur and Clay Ostlund were nominated and agreed to serve as candidates for 2022 Calvary Church Council. **Motion was made by L. Gotto, seconded by K. Hungness, and carried to approve these two nominees as candidates for 2022 Calvary Church Council and present these candidates for approval by the congregation at the annual meeting.**

**New Business:**

A note of appreciation and thanks from K. Dahl was read to the council.

**Annual meeting:** has been scheduled for January 30, 2022. 75 people are required for the quorum. The agenda was reviewed. In the absence of the President and Vice President L. Gotto will chair the meeting.

**Homeless to Hopeful:** 65-70 people have volunteered to help Calvary with this program. K. Rentschler spoke with our insurer. Calvary needs to follow the risk management procedure as explained in the policy and one of the volunteers per night is required to be CPR certified. A form will be developed to ensure we are following the risk management procedure. Council felt there was ample insurance coverage. M. Sugden has been working on the liability wording in the contract with the attorney from United Way/West Central Communities Action. The shared liability language in the contract was eliminated**. Motion was made by K. Hungness, seconded by L. Gotto and carried to approve Calvary’s partnership with United Way and West Central Community Actions Homeless to Hopeful Program with the accepted revisions made to the contract language.**

**Lenten Schedule:** *Ash Wednesday* is March 2nd 5:30 and 6:30 pm worship. This will be a different service than the usual Wednesday night service.

*Wednesday Noon Lenten Worship:* The theme is We Are Calvary. There will be a soup lunch served 11:30-noon. The program will be different (possibly Holden Evening Prayer). Worship will be at 12:00 pm on March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6.

*Palm Sunday* is April 10 at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

*No worship or programming* on Wednesday April 13.

*Maundy Thursday* is April 14 at 6:00 pm. First Communion will take place at this service.

*Good Friday* is April 15 at 6:00 pm.

*Easter: Saturday, April 16* at 6:00 pm (modern in Worship Center)

*Sunday,* April 17, at 8:00 am (traditional in Sanctuary), and 9:30 and 11:00 am (modern in Worship Center)

**Council Membership process in 2022:** We discussed having interested candidates apply for the church council position. A Church Council Application form was distributed and reviewed. The application form needs to be received in the church office by November to be considered for the next year’s board opening. The application forms will be available on the Calvary web site. Suggestions were made to revise and shorten the application form. K. Rentschler will make the suggested changes to the application form. **Motion was made by J. Rentz, seconded by M. Sugden, and carried to approve the church council application process as revised.**

**Top Three Takeaways:** 1. Great year ending at Calvary, 2. Thank you to D. Dittberner and J. Rentz for their service on the church council, 3. Partnership with the Homeless to Hopeful Program

**SENT OUT TO SERVE**

Leadership Dates:

January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting at 9:30 am at Calvary

February 21, 2022 at 6:00 pm

March 21, 2022 at 6:00 pm

April 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm

May 16, 2022 at 6:00 pm

June 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm

July 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm

August 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm

September 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm

October 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm

November 21, 2022 at 6:00 pm

December 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm

**Prayer and Adjournment:**  The Lord’s Prayer was recited. The meeting was adjourned at **7:53 pm.**