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**Unapproved Council Minutes April 19, 2021**

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

The meeting was called to order at **6:01 p.m**.by President Jana Berndt. No additions were made to the agenda.

**Mission shout outs and wins:** Meals from the Heart was a success! 100,000 meals completed which will stay locally. United Way, the Shelf, and West Central Community Action are a few of the entities that will help distribute these. Over half the volunteers at Meals from the Heart were not Calvary members. Shout out to all the people who have been involved in our Building Project for their hard work and dedication. Online ministry continues to go well (more people watched Maundy Thursday online than we have had with in person attendance in years past). 450 Kids Crates distributed this month. Calvary Partner Network held their first advisory board meeting. Shout out to Dr. Deb Dittberner for guidance and keeping us well informed about Covid.

**Strengthening Our Mission and Vision for Ministry**

**Devotions and moment of learning:** Led by Pastor Hans. Devotion centered on the current theme of worship and last Sundays message, “leave the traps behind us and lead a life of freedom”. Pastor Hans led us in prayer.

**Strategic Priorities:**

**Reopening/Latest Covid Guidance:** D. Dittberner shared the newest Covid-19 updates. There has been an uptick in Covid-19. She encourages everyone to continue masking, social distancing, and vaccination. *Communications strategy:* April 9, 2021 a letter was sent out to Calvary members announcing our reopening. On the back of the letter were strategies to create a safe environment for families to worship. These strategies were agreed upon by the council. Also, 12,000 postcards will be mailed inviting people in a 15 mile radiance of Alexandria to come worship with us at the lake.

**2021/2022 Priorities:** *Kid and Student Ministry/Next Gen:* Opportunity Profile (job description) is complete. The Next Gen hiring team will be meeting with Rick Heltne this Wednesday to work through the steps in searching for the Next Generation Minister. *Online Ministry*: continues to flourish. *Calvary Partner Network:* is up and running (see below)

**Hiring Strategies:** *Calvary Partner Network hiring and budget revisions:* The Lilly Foundation approved the budget revision to reallocate grant dollars to support a fulltime Network Administrator and invest more in technology. The position for Calvary Partner Network Administrator has been posted. The Calvary Partner Network advisory board met on April 8, 2021. They developed a document that highlights the Calvary Partner Networks vision and imagined a 3 tiered system to accomplish this. A regular feature in the Calvary Quarterly will highlight the vision/works of the Calvary Partner Network. *Digital Minister:* this position has been placed on pause. *Next Gen Minister/Kid & Student Ministry:* The position for the Next Gen Minister is posted. The hiring team and search consultant are meeting Wednesday. *Accounting Assistant:* Leta Rick has been recently hired for this position. She comes to Calvary with a lot of bookkeeping/accounting experience. She will be working 10 hours per week. *Facility Manager:* Kevin Kincade was recently hired for this fulltime position. He has a lot of experience in facility management. He will begin on May 5, 2021. *Restructuring Organizational Chart:* The 2021 Staffing Plan Draft was reviewed. Highlights of this draft*; Minister of Engagement* is Katie Dahl; she will continue what she is currently doing with added responsibilities of church communication (formerly Heidi’s position) and will supervise the Communications Specialist person once hired. The *Communications Specialist* position has been posted and remains active. The *Office Manager* position (formerly Becky’s position) has been placed on pause. Instead church volunteers are manning the Welcome Center from 9am-1pm, answering the phone, and doing other office/administrative tasks assigned to them.

**Supporting Our Mission and Vision**

**Consent agenda**: **Motion was made by M. Sugden, seconded by D. Dittberner, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda.** This consisted of a fund approval of $57.11 from the Serve Dedicated Fund to Bev Sunde for baptismal yarn, the minutes of the March council meeting, and the staff reports.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**March Financials:** Bruce shared the March financials. We were close to budget. No real changes are seen on the balance sheet with the exception of building pledges received; this number will decrease as the pledge money continues to come in. Year to date we have received $130,000 in building pledge money. The Calvary Lutheran Preschool financials are positive. We will continue to monitor the financials. **A motion was made by F. Peterson, seconded by M. Sugden, and carried to approve the March financials.**

**Approval of network Investment strategy:** The recommendation on investing Calvary Partner Network grant funds and a portion of Calvary’s general reserve was reviewed. **A motion was made by L. Gotto, seconded by K. Hungness, and carried to approve investing the Calvary Partner Network grant funds, and up to $120,000 of Calvary’s general reserve dollars with Edward Jones; in addition allowing the executive council and K. Rentschler to adjust the investment accounts with advice from the financial advisor based on market volatility.**

**2020 Audit Team:** H. Vestrum is leaving the audit team. **A motion was made by T. Geyen, seconded by M. Sugden, and carried to approve adding one additional person to the audit team.** K. Rentschler will ask one of the recommended persons to join the audit team.

**Approval of computer purchase:**  Our current computer used for worship is outdated and does not have the capabilities to deliver high quality digital mixing. Budgeted monies from both the Calvary Partner Network and the Calvary Building Project are available to purchase the computer. The cost to update the computer is $4799.00. $2500 for the computer would come from the Calvary Partner Network computer budget and the remaining $2299 would come from the Calvary Building Project budget. **A motion was made by L. Gotto, seconded by J. Rentz, and carried to approve the purchase of a computer with budgeted monies from the Calvary Partner Network and Calvary Building Project.**

**Old Business:**

**Building Project Timeline & Expenses:** A portion of final retainage dollars will be paid early May, withholding the payment needed to finalize the Worship Center HVAC work. The goal is to resolve this problem before fall worship.

**Annual Meeting:** has been set for June 6, 2021 at Calvary at the Lake. Next council meeting we will discuss the annual meeting agenda.

**Screens at Calvary at the Lake:** The reallocated Calvary Partner Network dollars will purchase two LED screens. 3 different bids were received. The bid went to HB Sound and Light at a cost of $31,100. The screens are mobile and will be used at Calvary at the Lake and at the church proper.

**New Business:**

**Preschool funding request:** Calvary Preschool will see a possible surplus of monies secondary to enrollment/tuition increases (back to pre-Covid level) and additional monies ($8500/month) from the Covid-19 Public Health Support Funds for Child Care from the State of MN. A total of up to $38,625.29 of Calvary Preschool funds was requested from Calvary Preschool to reinvest those dollars as follows: 2% retroactive staff raises, set up a sustainable scholarship fund, and add additional equipment to the playground. **A motion was made by D. Dittberner, seconded by J. Rentz, and carried to approve the preschool funding request**.

**Calvary Partner Network:** closed executive meeting

**Top Three Takeaways:**

1. Meals from the Heart was a success. 2. Church will reopen on Memorial Day weekend. 3. Welcome to our new hires.

**Sent Out to Serve**

**Leadership Dates:**

May 19 6 pm at Calvary

June 6 Annual Meeting at Luther Crest

**Close in Prayer & Adjournment:**

Pastor Hans led us in the Lord’s Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at **8:27 p.m.**