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**UNAPPROVED COUNCIL MINUTES November 15, 2021**

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

**Members Absent:** Angie Larson, Executive Pastor, Deb Dittberner, and Frank Peterson

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 p.m.** by President J. Berndt. Pastor Hans led us in devotions.

**Mission shout outs and wins:** 2200 kids participated in the Trunk and Treat event. 26 students were confirmed in October. We received a letter of gratitude from a 76 year old woman who has reached our church online and now considers Calvary her home. There have been 65 gifts given to visitors considering Calvary their church. A parishioner from a church joining the Calvary Partner Network visited our church on Sunday. Three families from Battle Lake came to Calvary on Sunday and have been watching us online and now consider Calvary their home church. We appreciate the work involved in the All Saints Day service; families of passed loved ones were invited back. Wednesday nights are busy; kid’s ministry is flourishing

**STRENGTHING OUR MISSION AND VISION FOR MINISTRY**

**Strategic Priorities**:

**2021-2022 Priorities**: *Kid and Student Ministry* continues to search for a leader.

*Online Church* is going strong. We continue to pause in hiring an online minister.

*Calvary* *Partner Network* continues to move forward.

**Supporting our Priorities:**

**Communication of Strategies/Mission/Vision/Values conversation:** Calvary staff has been working on a communication plan for our mission, vision, and values. The Communication plan was reviewed. We looked at the goal of mission, target (key players), channels (tools), activities, and messages. The communication plan was tweaked and will go back to the staff with these suggestions. During Lent we will launch the worship series, “A Beginners Guide (to being a Church/Christian)”.

**Financial Planning:** *The Covid Catchup Appeal* was well received. $51,000 has been committed thus far in addition to the $25,000 gift from a family.

*2022 Stewardship General Fund Appeal Update:* 231 households have pledged $555,449; the number of households who have pledged is down slightly but the average gift amount pledged is higher than the previous year. Automatic giving is up and new people to our church are pledging.

*Next Gen Minister/Kid & Student Ministry Update:* One candidate had been interviewed and was a possibility for the position. He recently withdrew his name as he has completed seminary and has taken an assignment in a different part of the country. Another candidate will be interviewed on the 6th of December. Pastor Hans spoke with the consultant who is helping us search for the Next Gen/Student Minister; it was agreed search fees would be waived if we choose to discontinue the search with their firm.

**SUPPORTING OUR MISSION AND VISION:**

**Consent Agenda:** No fund approvals were requested. **Motion was made by M. Sugden, seconded by T. Geyen, and carried to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the October council minutes and the staff reports.**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**October Financials:** B. Luehmann shared the October financials. Worship Income continues under budget. $31,000 from the Covid Catchup Appeal helped make October general fund income more favorable. Expenses are under budget. Total General Fund Expenses YTD are 1.6% under YTD budget. Preschool financials are doing well. Preschool was able to purchase more playground equipment from the Covid monies they had received. On the balance sheet building Expansion Loan #1 is now at $220,000 and Building Expansion Loan #2 is at $3,782,802.26. At year end we should know the total cost of construction. $661,000 pledged monies has been received for the building fund, $33,000 of the amount will go to the endowment fund. **Motion was made by K. Hungness, seconded by L. Gotto and carried to approve the October financials.**

**Expense approval for trailer:** Calvary wants to purchase a trailer for $3900 that they have been borrowing for two years at the Lake**. Motion was made by K. Hungness, seconded by J. Rentz and carried to purchase the trailer.** M. Sugden abstained from the motion to vote on the purchase of the trailer.

**Old Business:**

**Building Project Timeline and Expenses:** The 11 month warranties walk through was completed. The final payments are being made to the building project.

**Covid Update:** Hospital is full and Covid numbers are up in the county as well as in the state. The Council continues to encourage masking when in the building.

**New Business:**

**Advent Calendar and Christmas Worship:**

*Giving Tree* will begin November 17 - December 15. Gifts can be donated to United Way, Calvary Preschool, and Global Serve Ministries.

*Women’s Advent Brunch* is planned for December 4 at Calvary commencing at 9:30 am.

*Kids and Carols* is planned for December 5 at Calvary.

*Carols and Cocktails* is scheduled December 9 at Gathered Oaks.

*A Night for Weary Hearts* is planned for December 12 at Calvary. This is new this year. J. Berndt will share her story of hope, resilience, and rediscovering joy in the midst of loss.

*Christmas Worship Schedule;* Wednesday December 22 at 6:30 pm, Thursday December 23 at 6:30 pm, Friday December 24 at 1pm, 3 pm, and 5 pm, Sunday December 26 online worship only.

**Council Membership:**

3 members will be going off council this year; D. Dittberner, M. Sugden, and J. Rentz. A questionnaire will be developed for people interested in a council position. The council campaign will run from November 21-December 5. Council will then review the interested candidates for council and choose.

**2022 General Fund Budget Draft Overview:**

Bruce presented the preliminary budget for 2022. This was reviewed and discussed. New this year the budget will include a designated offering strategy were people can give monies to support special projects or programs such as VBS, Backpack Attack, Camperships, Baptism supplies etc. Also under Other Income all Calvary Partner Network and West Moe expense and income reimbursement will be paid directly from the network. Budgeting for staff salary was discussed. B. Luehmann, K. Rentschler, and Pastor Hans will look into the possibility of pre paying some Calvary expenses and discuss salary for staff. Once the council receives the information on possible prepayment expense and salary for staff the council will meet again to discuss these items prior to our December council meeting. At the December council meeting the 2022 budget will again be discussed, reviewed and voted on for ultimate approval by the congregation at the Annual meeting on January 30, 2022.

**Top Three Takeaways:** 1. Communication strategy is moving forward, 2. Christmas at Calvary is planned, 3. Great team at Calvary.

**SENT OUT TO SERVE**

**Leadership Dates:**

December 13 at Calvary

January 17 at Calvary

January 30 Annual Meeting at Calvary

**Prayer and Adjournment:** The Lord’s Prayer was recited. The meeting was adjourned at **8:50 p.m.**