

Special Congregation Meeting  
July 31, 2018  
7:00p.m.

Call to Order to Consider Calvary Governance Change Proposal—Dave Kufahl, Congregational President

Opening Prayer—Pastor Zach Thompson, Senior Pastor

Welcome and Overview

- Reason for being here today: The Calvary Council is recommending constitutional and bylaw amendments that are intended to improve our ability to perform our mission
- Overview
  - A collaborative effort by many going back over 5 years, both Council and congregation
  - Summary of changes
    - Council size reduced from 33 to 11
    - Exec committee is abolished and all personnel matters to be handled by full council
    - Council terms are four years with elections every other year
    - Council elects officers
    - Nominating committee is largely unchanged but with two year terms
    - No nominations from the floor
    - Roles and responsibilities are clarified
  - Why should we make these changes?
    - Committees meet and ministries act
    - Clarify roles and responsibilities of staff, council, and congregation
    - Council focused on strategy, vision, and values
  - Does a smaller council reduce representation? *No.*
    - The council is united in mission and strengthened through prayer and the Holy Spirit
    - Smaller council will enable a more open and trusting environment that will allow for a better exchange of ideas
    - Nominating committee's role
  - Nominating Committee
    - A new bylaw sets forth criteria that the nominating committee should consider
    - Thirty days notification to allow congregation to prayerfully consider candidates
    - Nominations from the floor would circumvent the nominating committee process
  - Why four year terms?
    - Continuity: transition time is significant
    - Four year terms with elections every two years will provide continuity, allowing better engagement for larger or longer term topics

- Two step process approval process: Neither the amended Constitution nor amended Bylaws can take effect unless both are approved by the congregation
  - July 31: Congregation approves the proposed amendments to the Constitution
  - Aug. 14: Congregation ratifies the Proposed Amendments to the constitution and approves Amendments to Bylaws
- Explanation of timing and path to new council
- Thoughts and reflections on proposed governance changes—Pastor Zach Thompson
  - Opportunity for *unity*—John 17 (Jesus’ prayer that His Church would be *one*). Through that unity, others may come to know Jesus.
  - Opportunity for *mission*—leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus
  - The “Big Why” behind these proposed changes is to further our mission and free people to minister according to their gifts and passions
  - The question to ask is not “Who will represent *me*?” The question to ask is “How can we all—together, united—best represent Jesus in the world?”
- Amendments
  - Council has been very clear throughout this process that the scope of the changes is limited to governance ONLY
  - The constitution and Bylaws are carefully crafted documents that are interconnected. Changes to wording in one area may have unintended consequences and therefore need to be addressed carefully
  - Council recommends another review of the Constitution/Bylaws in two or three years
- Wrap-Up
  - Council enthusiastically supports making these amendments
  - Updated governance structure will enable us to be more effective at performing our mission
  - These are the *best efforts* of a large and diverse group of Calvary members and the result of hundreds of hours of prayerful deliberation

*Motion to amend the Constitution of Calvary Lutheran Church of Golden Valley as set forth in that document linked on the church’s website as “Proposed Revised Constitution (Changes Marked)” and as made available at this meeting—Steven Opheim; seconded*

#### Discussion

- Support
  - Steven Opheim—strong support and rationale for proposed changes; result will be...an engaged congregation, a discerning Nominating Committee, an effective Council to focus on vision and values, committees to carry out projects and work with Council, committed staff, and Spirit-led leadership of Senior Pastor
  - Mick Lee—excited for a new day at Calvary; Governance does matter, and we are poised to raise the bar and begin best practices for governance here at Calvary
- Opposition

- Rich Graversen—decision-making should not be quick and nimble, but rather deliberate and not rushed; concern that requirement of people needing to serve first on Council before serving on Nominating Committee will result in a smaller and smaller pool of representation; support of “In Support of a Large Council” document as it pertains to representation and leadership training; recommends turning this decision back to Council for further deliberation
  - Note: Proposed Change—*Nominating Committee shall have previously served as a member of the Council or in another leadership position*

#### Vote

- “Yes” vote —means agreement with Council and in favor of proposed changes
- “No” vote—means *not* in favor of making these proposed changes

#### Meeting Recess while votes counted

#### Result of vote: Motion passes (94%)

- Out of 220 total votes:
  - 207 yes
  - 11 no
  - 2 abstain
- Congregational meeting for second vote: August 14, 7:00p.m.

#### Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Marisa Houghland