

MEETING MINUTES
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
September 25, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Bagge, Thomas Bonhiver, Paul Carlson, Washington Castillo, Ted Fokken, Dan Hanson, Mike Hofstad, Heather Hosfield, Marisa Houghland, Sondi Johnson, Anne Kaluza, Rita Lambrecht, Mark Lewis, Kristin Loncorich, Cory Maass, Scott Madson, Stuart McFarland, Susan Mork, Steven Opheim, Connie Otto, Lisa Paulson, Mary Jo Peterson, Kelly Ramos, Craig Recknagel, Sara Ryberg, John Swanson, Steve Thompson

Staff Present: Jason Beaver, Jerry Gates, Carol Skjegstad, Zach Thompson

Members Absent: Danielle Drevlow, Suzanne Kersten, Dave Kufahl, Christine Olkives

Devotions—Craig R

- Trust: complicated, can easily be misplaced
- Three main places we can place our trust:
 - Other people—betray us, disappoint us
 - Ourselves—we don't have all the answers
 - God—has proven over and over that He alone is trustworthy and faithful, going so far as to send His only Son on our behalf
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- *The overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God...*
- Prayer

Motion to approve Minutes of September Council Meeting; passed

Financial Update and 2019 Budget Draft Review—Jerry Gates

- Questions and Discussion
- Motion to approve Proposed 2019 Budget (subject to a few minor changes) to send to congregation at October 23, 2018, annual meeting; passed

Vision Culture Overview—Zach Thompson

- Troubling church “stats”
 - Average church has 75, sees less than 1 salvation a year
 - 80% of churches in America are either at a plateau or dying
 - 3500 churches close every year
 - 1500 pastors quit ministry every *month*
- Most important question for us to be asking at Calvary: What's the purpose? What's the mission? What's the vision?
- What are we doing or expending energy on that's *not* furthering the vision of the church? That's where the lens needs to be when we make decisions of what to spend our time/energy/money on
- What did *Jesus* say about purpose?
 - Mark 1:16-18 (fish for people)
 - Matthew 28:18-20 (Great Commission: “Go and make disciples...”)

- Luke 15 (parables of lost & found; celebration)
- What did the original church look like?
 - Acts 2
 - Growth and salvation
 - Spiritual hunger
 - Love
 - Service
 - Generosity
 - Is anyone filled with *awe* because of us? What are we doing that could compel people to want to know Jesus because of us?
- “Elephant”: average church person
 - Looking for an occasional Bible study
 - 2.5% of income
 - Willing to *help out* (as opposed to *serve*)—it’s about convenience
 - Wants to be comfortable
- How do we get an elephant moving? Pushing or pulling don’t work
 - Have a crystal clear vision culture
- Clarity leads to unity: the clearer we can be about where God is calling us, the more unified we will be
- People are more willing and passionate about funding a *vision* as opposed to just a *budget*
- Calvary Vision Culture Diagram
 - So much conflict stems from questions are what we *do*; that’s the wrong place to start
 - When we start at the right place—*core beliefs*—and move on from there, decisions of what we *do* become much clearer
 - Beliefs (Three tiers: Core Beliefs, Will Defend, Discuss)
 - Values (Core Values: *What we do* and *Who we are*)—Acts 2
 - Purpose—Matthew 22 (Love God and love people), John 3:16a (why do we love the world? Because God gave His one and only Son...people are worth it)
 - Mission—Matthew 28 (Reach people with the Gospel), John 3:16b (*so that* whoever believes in Him...)
 - Important: *This* is the front door (Jesus’ invitation) for new believers, *not* the beliefs and values; the beliefs and values will come later as the Holy Spirit works in people’s hearts
 - Strategies—*how* are we going to accomplish the mission?
 - To answer the *how*, we need to go back to the *why*.
 - Specific Goals—*where* and *when*; specific goals to help us know if our strategies are effective
 - Is it working, and how do we know?
- Calvary has always had a strong foundation in vision; this is an opportunity to re-invest in that and experience greater unity through that
- Tens of thousands of people within our immediate community that are waiting to be reached with the love of Jesus
- Reaching people vs keeping people
- Small (then large) group discussion: How can worship help us accomplish our vision? Are we currently positioned to *reach* people or *keep* people?

- Reception of visitors; actively looking for the outsider and putting them at ease...forming meaningful connections
- Importance of *educating* congregation on vision and this “reach vs keep” idea
- Lifting people up
- Music
- Fellowship—community of Christ
- Worship—regardless of which style service you attend, the message is consistent
- Common thread: we’re making progress toward a *reach* mindset, but struggle with *keep* mindset roadblocks
- Small groups also have the opportunity to embrace a *reach vs keep* mindset
- Conversation of supporting current members in order to reach people; related, when we see the fruits of our efforts to *reach* people, *keeping* people comes naturally (enthusiasm builds)
- Missing the opportunity of racial diversity within church; our church should represent our community
- The trouble with a “consumer” mentality, rather than a contributor mentality; we want to see people with longevity, but spiritual maturity looks like sacrifice—a heart for the lost

Launch of small groups in January—Pastor Carol

- Starting Galatians Jan. 13: sermon series, Sunday morning education hour, small groups for 7 weeks
- Goal: 50 small groups of 10 people
- Need: 80-100 leaders/hosts/facilitators
- Need: volunteers to answer questions and encourage signup at atrium tables
 - Jan. 6
- *Spiritual growth best happens in a small group*—“circles are better than rows”

Facility Update

- Building progress
- Youthworks
 - Teen mission organization
 - Renting office space from us
 - Currently on 4th floor for foreseeable future
 - They’ve expressed interest in 3rd floor space in the future
 - Discussion
 - Network needs, infrastructure
 - Exciting opportunity for Calvary to partner with like-minded ministries

Governance transition

- Onboarding planning in process
- Saving documentation for historical purposes for future councils
- Will be working with a governance change consultant; one-day workshop and ongoing mentoring
- Dave Glesne has agreed to serve as a coach for new council

Families Moving Forward—Heather Hosfield

- November 4th-11th
- Need volunteers for 2-hour time slots
 - Breakfast hosts
 - Dinner hosts
 - Evening hosts
 - Overnight hosts
- Contact Heather
 - hhosfield@gmail.com
 - 612-803-4651

Annual Congregational Meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2018

- Please attend and encourage as many people as possible to attend to vote in new Council and Nominating Committee

Closed in Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Marisa Houghland

Annual Congregational Meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 27, 2018