

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GOLDEN VALLEY**

APRIL 20, 2021

A meeting of the council (the “Council”) of Calvary Lutheran Church of Golden Valley (“Calvary”) was held on April 20, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Central Time. The meeting was held in the Gathering Space on the first floor of the Calvary building at 7520 Golden Valley Road, 55427.

The following Council members, representing a quorum for purposes of transacting business of the Council and Calvary, were present:

Garnet Arroyo
Laura Jensen
Todd Loncorich
Stuart McFarland

Lloyd Nelson
Rachel Recknagel*
Phil Reesnes
Andy Roe

Julie Russo
Jon Stepan
Gina VanderWerf

*Rachel attended via online and could both hear and be heard clearly during the meeting.

The following members of the Calvary staff were also in attendance: Zach Thompson, Senior Pastor; Jason Beaver, Executive Director; and Candis Johnson, Finance Director.

Phil served as chair of the meeting. Laura served as secretary. Phil called the meeting to order.

The following activities transpired during the meeting:

1.0 Devotions and Opening Prayer

Led by: Zach Thompson

Biblical focus: Daniel 4

Theme: Leadership is Stewardship (Andy Stanley devotional)

2.0 Business Since Last Meeting

(vote) The council unanimously approved the March 23, 2021, council meeting minutes.

(previous online) The personnel committee met and approved a year-end bonus for childcare employees and a cost-of-living adjustment for staff. Jason explained how these figures fit within Calvary’s finances. Also, kudos to the staff for a great job over this past challenging pandemic year!

3.0 Ministry Update

The new Mission Advisory Group (Dawn Dresser, Greg Stephenson, Stuart, Zach and 2 additional members from the congregation) had its first meeting this month. The group manual is being written. The group is evaluating Calvary’s partnerships with mission partners and prioritizing groups that Calvary can be on the ground with.

It is exciting that Calvary has been able to worship outside since April 11 at the Sunday 10:30am modern service when weather permits, and outdoor services have been well attended. (Secretary's note: the last Easter service (April 4 at 11am, modern) was also outside and was well received.) After Memorial Day, the hope is to have both 9am and 10:30am modern services outside as has been Calvary's summer tradition. The traditional service has been at 9am and 10:30am since April 11 and will remain at these times and in the chapel even through the summer.

Upcoming preaching plans include the Psalms in June and July. August will be a series on Sunday School stories.

Zach asks the council to pray about how to speak into our culture (especially with current events and racial tensions in the Twin Cities) without being a barrier to leading people to Jesus. What would be wise next steps, direction (or end goal?) for the church? Recall last summer, during the Conversations effort, Calvary made three commitments:

1. Effort to have more diversity on the stage (been doing and ongoing),
2. Invite a preacher with a different background (Dr. Sammy Wanyonyi spoke at Calvary March 3 and 5), and
3. Find a church to partner with to build relationships (this effort has been more difficult during COVID but hope to grow.)

4.0 Personnel Report

Candis and Jason are working with the Childcare to evaluate the facility fee that Calvary charges the Childcare. The goal is to calculate the actual cost.

There is still an active search to fill the open Children's Ministry Director position.

5.0 Call Committee Report

The Campus Pastor Call Committee met with candidate Greg Stephenson and his fiancé Lisa on Saturday, 10 April, for lunch, conversation, questions and fellowship. All were more excited after speaking with Greg than going into the meeting (and they were already excited before the meeting.)

6.0 Financial Report

Candis Johnson provided to the Council the financial report for March 2021, and discussed Calvary's financials including as follows:

In general church operations, revenues (\$2.1M) are greater than expenses (\$1.5M), even though both are lower than last year. These reductions reflect less programming and fewer people/activities in the building.

Childcare is doing OK financially thanks to the government grants and loan/support.

7.0 Merger Update

Feedback after Calvary's informational meetings has been positive. People seem excited about Greg.

The feedback after Grace's informational meetings has been more somber. There have been some good questions and conversations. Feedback after Cindy Engelkes' presentation about grief and Greg's introduction was positive.

Both Grace and Calvary are hosting their congregational meetings after Sunday services on April 25. At Calvary, council members are encouraged to attend our congregational meeting, and Phil is looking for 4 council volunteers to help Liz with logistics at the meeting.

8.0 Social Gatherings Lead

Garnet volunteered.

9.0 Service Projects Lead

Todd volunteered.

10.0 Closing prayer

Meeting closed with corporate prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25pm.

Upcoming events in the Calvary Calendar

- Congregational meeting April 25 after the 10:30am service
- Next council meeting is May 25 6pm

Minutes submitted by Laura M. Jensen, Secretary