

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 24, 2015

Members present: Craig Anderson, Susan Beacham, Rick Bode, Jim Borowick, Paul Carlson, Pete Duelo, Carl Geving, Rich Graversen, Steve Hagstrom, Dan Hanson, Heather Hetzler, Julie Holmen, Heather Hosfield, Marisa Houghland, Tim Johnson, Anne Kaluza, Suzanne Kersten, Dave Kufahl, Cory Maass, Scott Madson, June Mattson, Philip Nelson, Christine Olkives, Steven Opheim, Connie Otto, Jeff Pedersen, Craig Recknagel and Carol Rudd

Also present: Pastors Jeff Krogstad and Carol Skjogstad, Jason Beaver and Jerry Gates

Absent: Dave Eshelman, Linda Glass, Kristi Olien and Lisa Reesnes

Devotions: Marisa Houghland, "Locking Arms," Together is Better. Run with endurance the race that God has put before us.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 22 approved.

Endowment Board

Jerry Gates explained the Calvary Endowment Board organization structure and the process for endowment funds and committees that approve.

Ben Peterson requested approval for three Endowment Board requests.

1. Seniors at Calvary (Dornbusch Congregational Ministries Fund Application)
 - a. Requested \$750, Recommended \$500
2. Early Childhood Programs (weekday) Family Event (Dornbusch Congregational Ministries Fund Application)
 - a. Requested \$1000, Recommended \$500
3. Sweet Potato Comfort Pie Initiative (Outreach Application)
 - a. Requested \$5000, Recommended \$1500

Motion to approve, seconded; funds were approved.

Communion Help

Dorree Adelman said that council members are asked to assist with communion and explained the process of signing up and volunteering. She discussed the basics of helping with communion: check in, job duties, service differences, serving process and the difference of kneeling vs. intinction. Hospitality is very important here at Calvary. "We want this place to be like Disney World."

Question about serving on Thursday nights. Jan Wuollet helps with Thursday nights. E-mail Dorree to be on the list and make yourself known to Jan for future dates.

New Council Member Introductions

Introductions were made. The history of the Council and the role of members were discussed.

Dave Kufahl made the following statement

We need to be examples of leadership in the church. We need to earn back the trust of those in the congregation. We need to be respectful and courteous. We have to ask ourselves what is the best for Calvary, what would Jesus want us to do? We are all on the same team together. He listed larger issues we need to address in the next year.

Financial Report

Jerry Gates reviewed October financial numbers and explained how to read the budget documents. He made a statement about when a decision will be made regarding a General Fund shortfall.

Council Documents

The staff directory, council directory, Calvary organizational chart and minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting were handed out.

Call Committee/Special Congregational Meeting

Dave Kufahl made a statement regarding the October 20 annual meeting. At the meeting the vote was to call Jason Roton as the Children, Youth and Family Pastor. Many good questions were asked during the meeting. A mathematical error was made which resulted in an incorrect announcement and then the meeting was adjourned. Dave Kufahl has apologized for his error. Pastor Roton has been offered the position and has accepted.

Statement was also made about the fact there was no recount, only a new look at mathematical error. Rich Graversen inquired as to what the appropriate follow up would be and what Roberts Rules of Order might apply, since the Congregational meeting was adjourned after announcing the erroneous result. Pastor Krogstad responded that he had consulted with an attorney and that the constitution “trumps” Roberts Rules of Order and that the Call had been issued.

Philip Nelson asked why the numeric results were not made public at the meeting. Paul Carlson raised a question about future votes. Dave Kufahl apologized again for the error.

Pastor Krogstad made a statement about the current status of the call for a Spanish pastor.

Rich Graversen asked for clarification about Megan Percy’s encouragement of youth coming to vote. Pastor Krogstad explained that Megan wanted to encourage youth to come vote as their duty as church members. She stated that they were told if they came to vote she would buy them lunch, without a statement of which way they would be voting.

Communion at Calvary

There was discussion about the background on changes to communion. Changes were made because we wanted to be consistent in the practices for reasons of hospitality.

Questions for discussion:

- Does the desire of some worshipers to receive communion kneeling and using individual cups outweigh the concerns for consistency in our communion practice for the sake of guests?
- Is it desirable to take time to give adequate direction each Sunday to explain our method of distribution when it changes multiple times each month?
- Would it be the council’s recommendation to receive communion kneeling with individual cups the first Sunday of each month, and by intinction other Sundays?

Discussion was opened up.

- How much more time does it take to serve the “traditional way”?
- What about waiting to change at the same time as we change our worship time?
- Preference would be to kneel and use cups the first Sunday of the month. Confusion would be cleared up if we had an explanation of what intinction is.

- The personal time taken for communion is important. Preference to keep the body and blood separate. Preference to keep the traditional way at least on the first of the month as it is a more meaningful way to receive communion.
- Support for this change. This change could be a very good beginning to gain trust again. This is a great idea to bring unity to the church.
- Better direction is needed of where and when to go up to the front. Better training is needed for the ushers.
- “Is the issue intinction or is the issue kneeling?”
 - Both were concerning when the change was made. Bringing the “traditional way” back once a month is a great idea.

Pastor Krogstad clarified, is this change worth the logistical changes? Council unanimously agreed.

Change in Worship Time

Julie Holmen gave a brief history of the worship times committee and suggested changes. This committee was created over a year ago. She explained the process they went through to make their recommendations. They came forward with two sets of worship times, the council voted on their #1 recommendation. We are now bringing this to the congregation.

Julie gave an overview of the reactions to the proposed worship times. We have received 25 comments. We should encourage people to submit comments for or against so that we will know what everyone is thinking. Without more comments we will not have a true sample.

Discussion was opened up:

- Has it been announced how people could provide feedback?
- Why was the 8:45 service changed from the modern in the past?
- What is included in the input card, time and style?
- Possibility to change these recommendations?
- Do we need to make this change now and we should let the congregation know why.
- Are we going to see lower numbers if we take out a service?
- We changed the times in 1989; logistics to make changes outweigh the concerns.
- Possibility of eliminating the 11:15 service?
- We should get a copy of the worship times report to new council members.
- It would be a good idea to get the “temperature” of the church.
- When is the last time that we should be making a recommendation, February?
- We should encourage people in their small groups, during the home meetings and be more visible at church to ask and respond to time change questions.

Encourage people to comment and respond to these options. Continue discussion at the council level.

BCWI Survey Preliminary Results

Pastor Krogstad gave an overview of the survey results. This is a year-by-year process. The survey is only the beginning of the process (the baseline). What does the survey mean for us and what are we planning to do with the results. What is significant progress on a year-by-year basis. This survey gives us the ability to help understand the support our staff needs.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Hosfield

Next Council Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2016.