

Congregational Meeting
Calvary Baptist Church of Denver
September 26,2021

The meeting was held in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom and Hybrid.

A quorum was established and Co-Moderator Rick Breitenbecher called the meeting to order at 11:50 p.m. (MDT)

He welcomed everyone on behalf of Calvary Baptist Church of Denver. Rick then explained the reason Council called this meeting. Everyone assembled here today on Zoom and in Fellowship Hall will be asked to vote if Calvary Baptist Church of Denver should leave the ABCRM (American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains) Region and join the Evergreen Association of the ABC (American Baptist Churches) The reason is that in the ABCRM they have a statement that excludes the ordination of persons belonging to the LGBTQ+ community from being recognized by the region, even if they are ordained by an ABCRM church. However, the Evergreen Association of the ABC believes it is up to the local church to make that decision, and has no such statement.

Co- Moderator, Rick, then mentioned what Council has done the past five years to address this issue with ABCRM and then the past few months to educate the church membership in this process.

Council established a Discernment Team, who set up Q & A Sessions with both Region's Executive ministers for our congregation. (Reverend Doug Avilesbernal of Evergreen and Reverend Dr. Steve Van Ostran of ABCRM) The team also had two meetings after Sunday morning worship so members could visit, question, and discuss the two regions with the Discernment Team.

Pastor Anne and Pastor Alice and others preached sermons this summer on Baptist Identity in a series entitled, "Free to Be".

In August, Council voted to hold a meeting on September 26, 2021 after church to ask members to vote on this important matter.

Co-Moderator, Rick, then asked if anyone in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom had any questions. No one responded.

The question was called:

Shall Calvary Baptist Church of Denver change our regional affiliation from the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountain Association to the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches?

The members in Fellowship Hall voted by ballot Yes or No and the Members on Zoom voted Yes or No on line.

The ballots collected in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom were counted.

Co-Moderator, Sharon Murphy, reported that there were 93 Yes votes and 10 No votes.

This means that Calvary will now begin the process to align with the Evergreen Association of ABC.

Co-Moderator, Rick, said this would take time and members in our church can continue to participate in activities in the Rocky Mountain Region, however, Calvary members will be unable to take leadership roles.

He thanked the members of the Discernment Team, the Church Staff, and Council.

Co-Moderator, Rick, adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. (MDT)

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Wick, Council Secretary