

**Calvary Baptist Church of Denver
Council Minutes
August 18, 2021
on Zoom**

Present : Jim Armstrong, Rick Breitenbecher, Mick Davey, Dave Ferguson, Erin Gangloff, John Kron, Virg Musil, Sharon Murphy, David Peterson, Walter Rowell, Lorene Walker, Becky Worford, Christine Zeiler **Staff:** Senior Pastor Anne Scalfaro, and Pastor Alice Horner Nelson

Call to Order and Review of Agenda

Co-Moderator Sharon Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. (MDT)

Prayer List

Pastor Alice reported on the illnesses and praises within our church family. She closed in prayer.

Approval of the June 16 Council Minutes

There was one correction in the Stewardship Committee Report: The minutes should read that the committee hadn't met yet but will be meeting this summer.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Report

Virg Musil, Church Treasurer, reported the following:

Statement of Activity:

- **Pledge Income** for the month of July decreased from that received in the month of June by about \$2,650.
- **Other Offerings** were down from that received in June by about \$950.
- **Total Revenue** for the month of July was down by about \$2,400 from that received in June.
- **Total Expenses** for the month of July were nearly \$31,000 less than what was incurred in June.
- Subtracting Total Expenses from Total Revenue for the month of July results in a negative **Net Operating Revenue** was \$11,329 for the month of July, and is at a slight negative number of \$546 for the year-to-date.

Budget vs Actual:

- **Pledge Receipts** for the month of July were \$11,800 below budget, and are now \$15,460 below budget year-to-date.
- **Other Offerings** for the month of July were \$4,900 below budget, and are now nearly \$6,000 below budget year-to-date.
- **Total Revenue** for the month of July of \$38,505 was below the budgeted amount of \$55,742, but is more than \$64,000 above the budgeted amount year-to-date. Keep in mind that the entire amount of the 2020 PPP Loan (\$85,800) has been recorded as income in the month of March, 2021.
- **Total Expenses** for the month of July were more than \$24,000 below budget.
- Therefore, subtracting Total Expenditures from Total Revenue, still indicates a positive **Net Operating Revenue** for the month of \$6,880 when compared to the budget, and a positive Net Operating Revenue for the year of a little more than \$100,000 when compared to the budget.

Region Affiliation Update

Chairman of the Discernment Team, Walter Rowell, gave an update. The team has been meeting every Monday evening on Zoom. The team has sent a letter (by email or by regular mail to those who do not receive email) to all church members about a possible change in our American Baptist Regional Affiliation. This included a link to sermons about the role of American Baptist Regions and the local church which is on the church website. They explained the role of the American Baptist Church of the Rocky Mountains (ABCRM) and their Statement on Homosexuality, which prevents Calvary and other member churches from having regionally recognized ordinations of qualified persons from the LGBTQ+ community. There are other regions such as the Evergreen Association of American Baptists Churches USA, which do not hold such statements. The Council determined that it is time to bring this issue to the congregation for discussion and a congregational vote on an option that may be more aligned with Calvary's values and vision during this season of ministry.

There will be Tuesday Zoom meetings in September with the Executive Ministers of the Evergreen Association of ABC and the ABCRM. The Reverend Doug Avilesbernal from the Evergreen Association of ABC will speak on September 14 and the Reverend Dr. Steve Van Ostran from the ABCRM will speak on September 21. There will also be two congregational meetings and discussions at 11:45 a.m. on August 22 and September 19 in Fellowship Hall (with a Zoom option for attendance.)

There has been an online Question Box set up for people to ask questions of the Discernment Team, Council or Staff.

Senior Pastor Anne has received some questions regarding this suggested move to another region. She has answered each of the questions.

Walter moved that an all-church meeting be called for September 26 for discussion and a vote for the following motion:
“Shall Calvary Baptist Church of Denver change our regional affiliation from American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains to the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches?” Yes__ No__

There was discussion from the Council about the voting procedure.

The decision will be a majority of the quorum. (quorum is 60) Can people vote on line? If the meeting can be hybrid we can count a poll of ballots answering a Yes or No answer. In the alternative people could mention Yes or No on the chat if they are on Zoom.

Co-Moderator, Sharon asked the Council to vote on the following:
Shall we call a congregational meeting for September 26 and the question to be presented at the meeting will be:
“Shall Calvary Baptist Church of Denver change our regional affiliation from American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains to the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches? Yes__No__”

The Council voted to approve the motion. The September 26 congregational business meeting, which will be a hybrid meeting in

accordance with church bylaws. Information will be sent to the congregation about the hybrid congregational meeting and people, who attend on zoom, will be given directions on how to be involved in the meeting.

Walter, Sharon, Rick and Anne thanked the Discernment Team for their willingness to serve and the work they are doing to bring this matter and vote to the congregation.

Senior Pastor Anne talked about her communication with Steve Van Ostran and Doug Avilesbernal. She has informed them that a Discernment Team is working on a timeline for the church to vote. Steve Van Ostran has been very helpful and Calvary may be able to participate in The ABCRM as much as their bylaws allow. Reverend Doug thanked Anne for keeping Reverend Steve informed of our process. Both ministers have been very helpful in the Discernment process as Calvary seeks the decision that is best for our congregation at this time.

Faith Formation

Christine Zeiler told a story of a young man who left his rural area to see the world. He returned to his hometown many years later and explained the wonderful things he had seen and done. The townspeople were so excited to hear his stories and he suggested they should be brave and do a similar thing. However, none of them did.

She then gave us five sentences to repeat and then reflect, ponder, and mediate on each of them as to how the story may relate to us. She closed in prayer.

Church Highlights

- *appreciated that Council did not meet in July
- * thankful for Angela Leonard and her volunteers for all the work to make Vacation Bible School successful and the colorful decorations in the west wing

- * the baby shower for Pastor Alice and Pastor Matt was lovely and it was very meaningful for Alice's and Matt's parents
- * the guests at Bootstraps and Blessings on August 9 appreciated the left-over food from the baby shower on Sunday, August 8
- * grateful for Zoom and YouTube as it enables those who don't live close to be part of Calvary
- * Rick Breitenbecher thanked everyone for the thoughtful cards, prayers and reaching out to him when his stepfather passed away. "It just reinforces the sense of family that I have with Calvary."

Committee & Ministry Team Reports

There was no report from Resource Management

John Kron, Stewardship Committee

Amy Kehew, a committee member, is writing letters of gratitude and thanks to all the new people who are giving offerings to Calvary for the first time. She has written quite a few letters as Calvary has had a number of first-time givers over the past few months.

The committee is excited about the Fall Campaign. Their overall theme will be "Table of Abundance" and their logo and symbol of that theme will be a cornucopia. They will be adding to the cornucopia each week, and there will be weekly sub-themes during the campaign.

Mick Davey, Staff Relations

The baby shower for Pastor Alice and Pastor Matt went well.

People can still sign up for the meal train for Pastor Morgan and Ian.

Walter Rowell, Nominating Committee

There is no report at this time. His committee will begin their work in October and/or November.

Staff Updates

Pastor Alice

She is preparing for Fall with small groups meeting again which means communications for them need to be updated.

There is a ministry team that meets regarding programs for the coming year

She is finalizing her parental leave plans.

Pastor Morgan will be the point person for The Gathering and will arrange with Anne if she cannot attend. Pastor Matt will be taking three weeks off when the baby arrives. In his absence a music teacher lady from the church, where Matt is working, will take his place.

Pastor Alice will be posting a music position on the seminary job boards for The Gathering in hopes of hiring an additional musician for The Gathering Band.

Nita Brown will do the E News while Pastor Alice is on parental leave Beginning in September when Pastor Morgan returns from her parental leave, Pastor Alice will return to her regular schedule of leading in the morning worship service twice a month (rather than every week.)

She will be hosting a booth for Calvary Saturday, August 21 at the South by Southeast Festival in Bible Park.

Senior Pastor Anne

She is in communication with Pastor Morgan as her first day back is August 26 and her first Sunday will be August 29.

The Connections Class has been postponed for August but will begin in October and will have a Zoom option.

The Gathering Sunday Ministry Fair on September 12 will be held between the 9:00 and 10:00 hour in Fellowship Hall. There will be live music from Calvary's pianists, the theme for the year will be announced and new things on the website will be mentioned. Free gifts will be given and ideas for connections with small groups will be presented for people to sign up and attend.

The Blessings of the Backpacks will be held Sunday, August 22 for students of all ages and blessings for administrators, teachers and other school personnel.

There is a Zoom Cart which can be taken from room to room to facilitate hybrid meetings and classes. The Zoom Cart may be reserved by contacting Lori Grohskopf.

Anne would appreciate feedback from those on Zoom at the Hybrid Council Meeting in September as we test how this technology works.

What Are You Hearing?

There is concern that Council is not communicating in a timely manner with the church members as there is a delay from when the meetings happen to when the minutes are voted upon and posted.

Council hopes to be more accessible so we will discuss options for more open lines of communication. An example of the congregation not feeling like it is fully informed is that some do not know why there are renovations happening in the East Wing.

Co-moderator Sharon suggested that these items be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee to do some brain storming to help alleviate these problems.

Wrap-up

Co-moderators, Rick and Sharon, have been in communication with Lori Grohskopf regarding information she might have received from the CDC in regards to the rise in the COVID cases in Colorado. Thus far Lori has not received any new or different guidelines about what churches should be doing. So Calvary will continue our current protocols.

Adjourn

The next Council meeting will be September 15, 2021 6:30 p.m. (MDT) and will be Hybrid— in-person and by Zoom. **Please let Sharon or Rick know by which method you will be attending.** Co-Moderator Sharon adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.(MDT)

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Wick
Council Secretary