

Calvary Baptist Church of Denver
Council Minutes
September 16, 2020

Present: Jim Armstrong, Rick Breitenbecher, Mick Davey, Jim Dykes, John Kron, Sharon Murphy, Virg Musil, David Peterson, Bill Warren, Norma Wick, Becky Worford. Staff: Senior Pastor Anne Scalfaro, Pastor Morgan Fletcher, Pastor Alice Horner-Nelson

Call to Order and Review Agenda

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

Prayer List

Senior Pastor Anne and Pastor Alice reported on the illnesses, celebrations and concerns within our church family this month. Pastor Alice closed in prayer.

Approval of the August Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended to include the word “without” cars under the heading of missions when reporting about the Bootstraps and Blessings ministry.

Financial Report

Virg Musil, Church Treasurer discussed the two spreadsheets he sent to Council—Statement of Activity by Month and Budget vs. Actuals.

Activity by Month:

He reported that pledge income for the month of August was up from what was received in July by about \$4,800.00. However, other offerings were down by about \$3,100.00.

There was also an adjustment in earned income. Total Revenue for the month was essentially \$700.00 above that received in July.

Staff Relations expenses were nearly the same as last month because the church paid Damon Scalfaro for his videography services for the past several weeks. However, total expenditures for the operating budget were about \$1200.00 more than in July.

Subtracting Total Expenses from Total Revenue resulted in a Net Operating Revenue of \$17,000.00 for the month. Net Operating Revenue year-to-date is still positive at \$24,000.00.

Budget vs Actuals:

Pledge receipts for the month were about \$9,700.00 below budget, and are now about \$7,400.00 below budget year-to-date. Total Revenue year-to-date is now \$8,562.00 below budget, and are \$57,400.00 below budget year-to-date. Therefore since we have a gain in Net Operating Revenue for the year of \$24,000.00 we are about \$48,800.00 better off than what we had budgeted through August.

There was a question about the \$80,000.00 the PPP Loan (Payroll Protection Program), the church received. Luwan Jones, our accountant, has set up a separate account for it. Once the loan is forgiven she will move it to a revenue column.

Church Highlights

Our three pastors are such a blessing to our church.

Pastor Alice’s creative reporting the Calvary News at the September 6 Virtual Worship Service. Damon Scalfaro’s suggestion of giving for how many years one has been a church member at the time of offering at the September 13 Virtual Worship Service.

Attendees at The Parking Lot Service on September 12 donated many items for Bootstraps and Blessings. It was very generous!

Allie Hulst’s giving the Welcome at a Virtual Worship Service.

The Calvary Messenger, which everyone received this week, was well done.

Committee and Ministry Team Reports

Walter Rowell, Nominating Committee

Walter was unable to be at Council, but sent Co-Moderator Sharon the following note:

“Our bylaws say that in order to fill a committee vacancy, the Nominating Committee brings a candidate for a Council vote. Therefore, the Nominating Committee moves that Bill Leonard be elected to fill the unexpired term of Gregg Blew on Resource Management.” **The Council approved this motion. Bill Leonard will now fill the unexpired term of Gregg Blew and will be on the Resource Management Committee.**

John Kron, Stewardship

No report this month.

Mick Davey, Staff Relations

The Committee will be meeting next Wednesday with Pastor Morgan and she will be discussing her proposal for her Sabbatical, which will be taken in 2021.

They will begin discussing Anne’s Review and will start working on the Staff Relations Budget.

Bill Warren, Resource Management

The city has granted Calvary the permit for the new roofing project.

The company, Sky Guard, will begin working on the church roof next Monday..

Faith Formation Committee

Pastor Morgan reported that the committee has met with the church school leaders and they will be meeting with the small group leaders.

Mission Team

Anne reported that the World Mission Offering will be taken soon. Bootstraps and Blessings will begin this Monday.

Response from Ministerial Leadership Committee of ABCRM

Co-Moderator Sharon sent each Council Member two letters:

The first letter was sent to David DeMott Chairperson of the Ministerial Leadership Committee of the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains by Senior Pastor Anne Scalfaro dated November 20, 2019. She was respectfully asking the Ministerial Leadership Committee to consider removing ABCRM’s “Statement on Homosexuality” as an evaluative criteria for ordination candidates because it does not allow for all churches within the Region to participate in the ABC-USA ordination process.

The second letter was a reply from David DeMott dated September 2, 2020. The Mission Leadership Committee had discussed Senior Pastor Anne’s request at length. The committee felt that a change to the “Statement on Homosexuality” was not warranted at this time. The request for the MLC not to use the “ Statement on Homosexuality” in its process would require the region board to mandate the change. This would take board actions, and any procedure for affirming, revising, or eliminating the Statement would rest with this body.

Senior Pastor Anne reported to the Council that this concern of the ABCRM holding the “Statement on Homosexuality” as an evaluative criteria for ordination candidates has been discussed for the past five years. She shared the history of those conversations and the correspondence about it on both the regional and national level. Calvary and the ABCRM Region have shared ideas on how this concern might be solved. However, an agreement has never been reached.

The question Senior Pastor Anne placed to the Council is: Do we suggest to the Congregation that we continue to stay with the ABCRM Region and continue to find creative ways to work with the Region even though the Statement on Homosexuality does not align with Calvary’s values and does not allow all members of Calvary to engage in the regional Ordination recognition process or do we join another Region that does align with Calvary’s values and allows all members of Calvary to engage in the regional Ordination recognition process?

Senior Pastor Anne then asked Pastor Morgan to introduce the Faith Formation Process for the evening.

Faith Formation

Pastor Morgan asked that each Council Member take a deep breath and enter a prayerful space.

Consider what joys you have experienced (or our church) through our partnership with ABCRM. Now consider what struggles or frustrations you (or our church) have experienced due to our relationship with ABCRM.

Keeping both those in mind take time to ask God what you need in this moment (insight, peace of mind, clarity, etc.)

Now imagine what it would be like if we stayed with ABCRM.

Now imagine what it would like if we left ABCRM.

Discussion Regarding the Letter from the MLC of ABCRM

After each Council Member completed their thoughts to Pastor Morgan's four suggestions, Anne asked for input on the letter from the MLC and ideas on how we might come to a solution.

There was discussion on the background of the churches, who are in the ABCRM Region, and many of the churches are more conservative than Calvary, especially in regards to Welcoming & Affirming LGBTQ+ individuals. Several Council members, who have worked with the Region on the Regional level, discussed that it may be many years before the conservative churches would approve to dismiss the Statement on Homosexuality for the Ordination Process. There was discussion on the following questions:

If Calvary left the Region, what opportunities in the ABCRM Region would Calvary people miss?

If Calvary joined another Region, would Calvary still be able to participate in ABCRM's projects and programs?

How would our joining another Region affect our partnership with New Hope?

Is it possible to have a dual relationship with two Regions?

If Council did suggest to the congregation that Calvary join another Region, how will this impact our membership?

Several Council Members expressed concerns that staying with the ABCRM Region means Calvary is not being true to our inclusion Statement that welcomes and affirms all people and we should find another Region that fits with our values and may have activities in which we could participate.

If Calvary stays in The ABCRM Region, Calvary can continue to ordain individuals as we see fit, but as have been the cases in recent years, those individuals would most likely opt to not have their ordination recognized by the Region, but instead go through another denomination like the Alliance of Baptists. Not having regional recognition in ABCRM has implications for pastors, who want to serve in American Baptists Churches, and for those who want to be chaplains.

However, the present Executive Minister of ABCRM, Steve Van Ostran, indicated he would sit on Calvary's Ordination Councils if we wanted and he could add his name of support to a candidate's ordination, however, that would still not grant them regional recognition and they would still have to go through another ordination process when they reached a new region (although it could help a candidate when applying to churches).

There was a consensus on Council for the next step. Council asked Senior Pastor Anne to communicate with the Executive Minister of the Evergreen Region to see if he would speak to Council about the Evergreen Region and what they offer so that Calvary knows more about what it would look like to be a part of the non-geographical region. (First Baptist Church of Denver is in the Evergreen Region.) Pastor Anne agreed to contact Rev. Doug Avilesbernal, the Executive Minister of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches USA. Pastor Anne will also contact Rev. Steve Van Ostran, Executive Minister of ABCRM, to let him know that Calvary's Council will be speaking with Rev. Avilesbernal as a next step.

Staff Updates

Pastor Alice

She just completed writing and sending the Calvary Messenger to members. She is busy working on creative ways to present the Gathering.

Pastor Morgan

They had a Youth Gathering on Sunday They will do once month outdoors as long as weather permits. They did not want to do Zoom meetings.

Small groups have started and have started meeting on Zoom.

Pastor Morgan is happy to help people trouble shoot with their technology!

She will help people who need to get a new mobile phone to transfer information from their old phone.

Senior Pastor Anne

She is working on the budget

She is thinking with staff about Advent and Christmas plans.

Agenda Items for the October 21 Meeting

Council will need to decide on how we will proceed for the next three months (December, January, and February) after we know what our local Colorado rules will be regarding what the CDC will be suggesting regarding the pandemic in this coming quarter.

How will we hold an Annual Meeting with the Congregation in January?

Co- Moderator Sharon adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Wick, Council Secretary