

Tree of Life Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting

November 11, 2018

9:15

Meeting was called to order at 9:18 by Jack Zimmer, president.

Quorum was established.

Pastor Chris lead the members in an opening prayer.

Dennis McConnell moved to approve the agenda. Deb Zimmer seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Lisa Lemaux moved to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2018 congregational meeting. Sue Rust seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

I. Financial Reports

- a. 2017 audit – Received report. Council has approved the report. Received a clean bill of health.

Council has instituted ELCA “best practice” which calls for 2 unrelated counters after the second service. Volunteers are needed.

Council is working on formulating our practice of “Designated Funds” gifts, especially as relates to the Memorial Pathway.

- b. Budget through October

The Financial Report through October was shared. The offering from pledged givers kept up with the budget through August. During September the total offerings dipped to \$8,800 per week. October offerings slipped again to \$8,100. Historically, November and December are catch up months for pledged members. Council is hoping that November and December of 2018 is no different.

Slides of the up to date 2018 are posted with these minutes.

\$3,000 has been repaid to Seeds. \$5,962 hopefully will be paid before the end of 2018.

Dedicated funds update. A formulized process will be set up that will help maintain a historical record of contributions.

Mary Dinklage asked – What are the prices for the stones for the Memorial Pathway? Jack Zimmer shared that the large stones (12x12) are \$750.00. The large stones are designated for memorial gifts and recognition of a pastor’s service. Also, a large stone will be used to incorporate the names of veterans that are on a memorial near the Education Building. Smaller stones will be _____.

Ted Dinklage asked - What are the requirements for the stones? Do we need to be dead to have a stone? The answer is no, a person does not need to be deceased. Stones can be purchased to honor special occasions in the lives of individual people, families or groups.

- c. Budget draft for 2019. Budget 1 – 2% increase. This includes raises for the staff.

Income side –

We currently beat the 2018 pledges by \$12,000 dollars.

We expected a \$30,000 deficit in 2018. Currently it is an \$18,466 deficit. Appreciation was given to the staff who have shown great restraint with their budgets.

Budget process started earlier than usual because council wants the congregation to be aware of the process and to enable the council to have a sufficient amount of time to be thorough with the process.

- d. Jim Lemaux, Stewardship chair, shared that the 2018 stewardship drive is part of a three year process. 2018 theme has been entitled Inviting all people to Christ's Love. Next year, 2019, will be Inspiring All People and 2020 will be Including All People. Jim thanked everyone who participated in the Stewardship drive. Next year we will have more than six interviews of members and they will be done earlier in the year. Jim asked for volunteers. The sermons will also be tied into the stewardship theme.

2019 campaign -

A little over \$300,000 has been pledged. Jim Voelz requested that those who have not pledged to please do so. Pledges should be in by Dec. 2. If a member of the congregation is working on a pledge plan and won't have it together until January, please let Jim Voelz or Jack Zimmer know.

- e. Joan Bliese moved to accept the financial report. Julie Weeks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

II. Ministries Report

- a. Pastor Chris announced that Carrie Peterson will be able to do her internship at Tree of Life. \$24,000 is the expected amount of her salary. Her internship will start in September of 2019 and be completed in August 2020.

Jim Lemaux asked - Would the plan be for the council to set her salary up as a new line item in the budget? Jack responded that Carrie already has a line on the budget for her salary. This line will need to be increased. Jim Johnson asked - Would this be a separate line item that folks can donate

to? Pastor Chris said that people can make special donations to any line item on the budget at any time.

Michelle Johnson asked - If we are going to become an internship church, do we need to have a special fund that can be used to help the interns? Pastor stated that when Ryan Dockery's mother passed away a fund was established. Pastor Chris also shared that Carrie will be able to do communion during her internship. The models are changing and Bishop Mike is on board with the change.

III. Agenda

Council Election for 2019

Current council will continue with no changed or additions.

Deb Zimmer thanked George Timmons for the cabinet in the narthex.

A member asked for large print documents for the next meeting. Jack responded that they will be provided.

Jim Lemaux asked – Is the budget what we'd like to do or what we think we can do? Jack responded that currently the budget is what we'd like to do if the "dreamers" had their way. The budget will continue to be worked on during the November and December council meetings.

Having completed the business of the congregation, the meeting was closed at 10:03 with prayer by Pastor Chris.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Baumgartner,

Secretary