

**Tree of Life Council Meeting Minutes**  
**ZOOM Meeting February 17, 2020**

**Members present:** President Jack Zimmer, Vice-President Kevin Solberg, Treasurer Jim Voelz, Financial Secretary Heidi Beckham, Secretary Susie Rust, David Fischer, Tom Gros, Larry Klotz, Richard Schaper, Pastor Chris Lake, Vicar Carrie Petersen

**Members absent:** Jim Lemaux, George Timmins

President Jack Zimmer called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM and Pastor Chris Lake led the opening prayer.

**I. Consent Agenda**

- A. Motion: Adoption of agenda
- B. Motion: Approval of minutes (Jan 20,2020)
- C. Motion: Ratify New members: Bill and Susan Grace, Ed Grave and Anita Rocket

**MOTION: Financial Secretary Heidi Beckham moved to accept the Consent Agenda; Larry Klotz seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**II. Financial Report**

- A. January Monthly Statement:

Treasurer Jim Voelz reported our total *actual* revenue for January as about \$56,000, with non-pledged offerings somewhat less than anticipated. These numbers look better than they are because two members paid their full 2020 pledge in a lump sum (about \$22,000 total). David Fischer observed that if those two pledges were normalized throughout the year, we would be about \$5000 under budget. *Actual* expenses totalled about \$53,000. The *budgeted* expenses for January were about \$71,000 (front-loading a lot of youth expenses). The 2020 budget is being executed as planned.

Our Endowment Fund (through ELCA) earned a \$1984 dividend (see line item "Interest/Market Value Change under Revenues) and underscores placing some of our funds there to be a good decision. President Jack Zimmer asked if our fixed assets were depreciated from last year. Treasurer Jim Voelz answered no, that depreciation is reevaluated every two or three years when we receive the county's property tax evaluation.

**MOTION: Pastor Chris Lake moved to accept the Financial Report; Richard Schaper seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- B. Commitment to The King's Embrace Ministry

President Jack Zimmer reported that the January and February payments have been made to The King's Embrace as part of the \$4000 TOL 2020 commitment (November, 2019 Council meeting action). On behalf of TKE, David Fischer thanked TOL and offered specifics on the ministry at the Council's request. Disbursements from Benevolence for 2020 will include checks to TKE (\$4000), to ELCA (Chicago) (\$4000), and to our Synod (\$16,000), totalling the \$24,000 budgeted for this year.

C. Garage sale income

Vice-President Kevin Solberg and Treasurer Jim Voelz reported that the garage sale income issue was clarified for the concerned TOL member (January meeting) and should be resolved.

### III. Pastoral Report

A. Annette Chapman's mother has suddenly died, and Annette asks for prayers. Annette is in Missouri with her Dad, who also has health issues. George Timmins is in palliative care, still dealing with pain, but looked forward to coming home for the weekend. Ed Johnson has been in the hospital for the last three weeks, but is home now. Barb Nelson has been in and out of the hospital. Vicar Carrie Petersen has been doing well and continuing in ministry, including the ELCA-wide Bold Women's Day worship services this week. Pre-Lenten planning continues. Some arrangements for the Youth Mission Trip have fallen through and alternative plans are being explored. To avoid "robo-calls" our analog phone system is being updated to digital. Our alarm system is now on a cellular system, saving \$25 monthly. Pastor Chris Lake leaves for San Diego for a Continuing Education trip.

B. President Jack Zimmer asked for council volunteers to join Pastor Chris Lake and Youth Director Bunny Stoutes as voting members at the Synod Assembly in New Orleans, May 21-May 23. Costs for assembly registration and hotel (two nights) are covered by TOL. President Zimmer has attended and reported that it is informative and inspiring and introduces delegates to various groups involved in ELCA.

### IV. Old Business

A. Pastor Chris Lake is working to get a more complete copy of the **Employee Policy Manual**.

B. Pastor Chris Lake and Larry Klotz are exploring different companies now, as Stone Creations has been disappointingly unresponsive in moving forward with engraving stones for the **Memorial Walk/Prayer Path**.

C. Discussion about the **Bliese Stain Glass Window** is tabled.

D. The annual **Council Retreat** is set for March 21 (8:45AM-3 PM) at the Baumgartner Residence, with retreat agenda in the morning and the March Council meeting to follow. Bishop Mike Rinehart is facilitating and in preparation, President Jack Zimmer asked for suggested topics to cover that day. Suggestions included: ways to include more women on council, especially as some are finishing terms this year; ways to recognize more worship volunteers as the rotation shifts (annual time-and-talent surveys/sign-ups?); ways to inspire new ideas and ministries; envision what the future might look like.

E. The Council awaits the TOL 2018 Audit report from Kathy Krauzer. Recommendations are needed for persons with accounting experience to head the 2019 Audit.

**ACTION ITEM:** Pastor Chris Lake will look into this. Treasurer Jim Voelz suggested that the annual surveys help identify these persons.

#### **V. New Business**

- A. The **Council Meeting Schedule for 2020** through January 2021 is accepted and will be amended as needed (see attached).
  
- B. **ACTION ITEM:** Vice-President Kevin Solberg will put together the Tillman Academy Summary Report for the next meeting.
  
- C. **Ministry Team Reports from Council Liaisons:** David Fischer talked with Vickie Rogers who heads the Outreach Team. David asked if the Council needs to approve an Outreach activity. The answer is generally no, unless it is a recurring activity at the church. **ACTION ITEM:** David Fischer will forward a list of activities from Vickie to attach to the next minutes. He will talk with her about an invitation to a May or July Council meeting to update us.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM and Vicar Carrie Petersen closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Rust  
Council Secretary

NOTES: Congregational January 2019 Meeting: Susie Rust confirmed as Secretary (replace Linda B.) Congregational Meeting 2018: Jack Zimmer. President 2 yr. term, Jim Voelz(Treasurer), Linda Baumgartner(Secretary), Kirk Helberg, George Timmons, Heidi Beckham (Financial Secretary); elected for 3 yr. terms: Susie Rust, Annie Lindemann, Richard Schaper, Kevin Solberg, Larry Klotz (VP). Congreg.Mtg 2017: Jim Voelz (Trea), Linda Baumgartner (Sec.), Kirk Helberg, George Timmins, Jack Zimmer (3Yr. terms), Dennis McConnell President (term expires in 2017). 2016 Congreg. Mtg: Susan Blough (Sec.) Elected 2015 - Heidi Beckham, Matt Hannes (2nd term), Chuck Will, Lawrence Zuelke, Elected 2014 - Linda Baumgartner, Alicia Macha (resigned position January, 2015), Jim Voelz. (2nd term), John Nye (2nd term), Julie Weeks. (2nd term)