

Tree of Life Church Council Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2023 6:30 PM ZOOM Meeting

Members present: President Kevin Solberg, Secretary Russ Bliese, Treasurer Jim Lemaux, Pastor Chris, Mark Templet, Pat Rowe, Deb Zimmer and Heidi Beckham. Visitor Jill Waldrop, John Burkwall and Ikeria Green.

Absent: Peggy Little Sandy McCarthy and Tom Gros

A. President Solberg called the meeting to order@ 6:39 PM.
Pastor Chris started the meeting with a prayer.

B. Consent Agenda

- I. Motion: Adoption of Agenda- Motion made by Lemaux and seconded by Rowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- II. Motion: Approval of Minutes (November 13, 2023)
Motion: Templet and seconded by Pastor Chris. All were in favor and the motion passed.

C. Discussion Agenda: No discussion.

D. Financial Reports

- I. Monthly statements (November 2023)
Lemaux presented the financial report for November. The November income was \$32,619 and expenses were \$55,668 for a shortfall of \$23,049. No SEEDS money was borrowed or paid back in November.

Lemaux reported that the checking account fund was down. There was not a lot of change in the dedicated funds. The mortgage should be below one million in January 2025. Motion: Zimmer and seconded by Solberg to accept the financial report. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A review of the 2024 budget was conducted. Pledged and non-pledged offerings are estimated at \$441,656 and miscellaneous income at \$23,950 for total income of \$517,606. Expenses are projected at \$526,410 for a shortfall of \$8804. Discussion was held on adding Diana to the youth ministry as a director with additional expense of salary to raise expenses to \$537,358 for a shortfall \$14,752. A motion was made by Templet and seconded by Rowe to accept the projected 2024 budget with a stipulation to discuss staff salary later in the meeting. The motion passed and all were in favor.

E. Pastoral Report

Pastor Chris reported Bunny Stoutes was in town interviewing for final approval from the synod. Stoutes has one more semester to go. Pastor recommended adding Diana to the Youth Staff. There was a complaint that the live stream was dark and this will be corrected. The projector on the back wall is doing a good job. Pastor is hoping for good numbers for Christmas Eve services.

F. Old Business

- I. Kings Embrace: On the trip planned in February 2024, Pastor Cassandra Nagle will also be going along to Kenya.
- II. Paideia: Rent for the 10 months will be \$30,000.
- III. A/C and Adopt a Project: Pictures will be taken and shown at the congregational meeting in January of all the projects completed.
- IV. Legacy Gift Finalization: A letter is needed for procedures. \$25,000 received from Voltz. \$2,500 to go to Lutheran World Relief. Recommend moving the money to the Endowment Fund.
- V. New Council Member Candidates: Ronnie is interested. Jenny said yes. Russ has not been spoken to yet.

G. New Business

- I. New Members: None
- II. Adopt A Project: Concrete work completed. The fire inspection is almost completed. The hot water heater is not working and will need to be replaced.
- III. Anything Else: October Fest brought in over \$2,000.
- IV. Staff Raises: YMCA benefits will continue. John will receive a iPad and a 4% raise. Ikeria will receive a 4% raise. Jill will receive a 4% raise and \$100 a month for her cell phone bill. Pastor Chris a 4% raise. Diana will be on salary as a Youth Director at \$12,000 annual. A motion was made by Rowe and seconded by Zimmer to accept the staff salary raises. All were in favor and the motion passed.

H. Solberg adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm after the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Bliese

Council Secretary