

## Tree of Life Church Council Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2023 6:30 PM ZOOM Meeting

Members present: President Kevin Solberg, Vice-President Sandy McCarthy, Treasurer Jim Lemaux, Pastor Chris, Tom Gros, Mark Templet, Deb Zimmer, Pat Rowe, and Heidi Beckham. Visitors Jill Waldrop, John Burkwall and Ikeria Green.

Absent: Peggy Little and Russ Bliese

- A. President Solberg called the meeting to order@ 6:36 PM. Pastor Chris started the meeting with a prayer.
- B. Consent Agenda
  - I. Motion: Adoption of Agenda- Motion made by McCarthy and seconded by Gros. All were in favor and the motion passed.
  - II. Motion: Approval of Minutes (October 16, 2023) Motion: McCarthy and seconded by Pastor Chris. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- C. Discussion Agenda: We will have presentations later in the meeting: (1) Jenn Wingerter and Ted Seago from Paideia; and (2) Amanda Welch. Pastor Chris excused himself during the presentations.
- D. Financial Reports
  - I. Monthly statements (October 2023). Lemaux presented the financial report for October. The October income was \$75,841 and expenses were \$33,413 with an overage of \$42,428, and without the legacy gift, an overage of \$17,428. No SEEDS money was borrowed

or paid back in October. Motion: Zimmer and seconded by Pastor Chris to accept the financial reports. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- II. 2024 Budget Review. Began review of the proposed 2024 Budget. We have 62 families who have pledged \$276,000 for 2024. Budget review was paused to hear presentations.

C1 Jenn Wingerter from Paideia spoke to us about the financial shortfall the Conroe campus is experiencing. They are focusing on marketing and fundraising and requested we consider decreasing the rent through the end of the school year (May 2024) to \$2,000/month. Wingerter and Seago expounded on the school and its mission.

C2 Amanda Welch representing Alden Bridge Presbyterian Preschool, a not-for-profit organization, proposed renting portions of the education building to start another preschool/daycare for children 15 months to 4 years. We would need to do several things to get the building ready, from cleaning carpets and touch-up paint to installing a sprinkler system. Installing a sprinkler system would cost around \$20,000. They want a 5-year lease with a rough estimate of the rent being \$4,500/month. They would need the building beginning June 1, 2024, to have time to get permitted, licensed and rooms set up.

Due to time limitations, we will consider these two proposals at a later date.

D.II. continued. Lemaux finished reviewing proposed 2024 Budget and all were in favor of the proposed budget.

#### E. Pastoral Report

Pastor Chris brought up the following items:

- I. The non-profit, Texas Tool Bank, would like to park a storage unit in back of the church by the dumpsters to use as an additional location for business. After discussion, motion made by Lemaux and seconded by Templet. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- II. Southwest Foundation handles TOL's Endowment Fund. Liz, our representative retired and the new person assigned to us who would like to visit us. All were in favor.
- III. Principe de Paz Lutheran Church in Houston has been struggling with recent H/VAC expenses (about \$8,000). We discussed making a donation to help this struggling Hispanic ministry. Pastor Chris will get back to us regarding amount needed, etc.

Pastor Chris reported that Cathy Jackson will be having serious surgery this Wednesday; and Bob Fellers is in cardio rehab and doing well. He also advised us to be careful when closing up our buildings and turning the alarm on.

#### F. Old Business

- I. Kings Embrace: Things are on track for trip planned in February 2024.
- II. Paideia: See C1.

- III. Oktoberfest Debriefing – Due to time limitation, tabled until next meeting.
  - IV. A/C and Adopt a Project: Nothing to report.
  - V. TOL Legacy Gift Recommendation – Due to time limitation, tabled until next meeting.
  - VI. New Council Member Candidates: Russ Larson, Ronnie Whitman and Jenny Jenkins.
- G. New Business
- I. New Members: Connie Anderson and Angela Jones. Motion to accept made by Lemaux and seconded by Beckham. All were in favor and the motion passed.
  - II. Adopt A Project: Nothing to discuss.
  - III. Anything Else: We need more handicap parking. Approved moving “Visitor Parking” to parking slots facing the cemetery and redesignating the original slots to “Handicap Parking”.
- H. Solberg adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM after the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Rowe, filling in for

Russ Bliese, Council Secretary