

**Tree of Life Lutheran Church**  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Congregational Council was called to order at 7:30pm by President Dennis McConnell. Council members present were: Dennis McConnell, President; Susan Blough, Secretary; Larry Anderson, Treasurer; Linda Baumgartner; Jim Voelz; Heidi Beckham; Chuck Will; Lawrence Zuehlke; Julie Weeks; Pastor Chris Lake; Ryan Dockery.

1. The Meeting began with an opening prayer led by Pastor Chris Lake.
2. A motion was made to adopt today's agenda and an additional item concerning "Flowers" was added as item B1
3. A motion was made by Chuck Will to approve the January 30, 2016 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jim Voelz and the motion carried.
4. Old Business
  - a. Council members reasserted support for the seven-year sabbatical cycle for Pastor Chris. Ryan said he would stay at Tree of Life until Pastor Chris returns from sabbatical. Pastor Chris will try to get Bishop Mike's approval for Ryan to serve communion in his absence. Jan Zuelke and Linda Baumgartner may try to apply for multiple sabbatical grants to find the best one.
5. New Business
  - b. New members this month include: Edeltraut Sonnenberg (transfer from Trinity Lutheran of Spring); Florian and Briana Mahrt, infant daughter, Emilia; Daniel and Jessalyn Christenson, sons, Thomas, Isaiah and Noah; Mark and Annie Lindemann, daughters, Abi, Mayrn and Lillie; Mark and Cheryl Templet; and Richard and Diane Shaper. A motion was made by Heidi Beckham to ratify the new church members. The motion was seconded by Julie Weeks.
  - b1. Concerns were expressed about having no Easter Lilies decorating the sanctuary this Easter. It was suggested that next year money be collected up front for the flowers, then purchase them so that the church won't lose money due to nonpayment. This method can also be applied to purchasing poinsettias at Christmas. For the Sunday flower ministry, flowers will be ordered and paid for by the person who signed up to supply them at a designated florist and the florist will deliver the flowers to the sanctuary. Ida and Bunny will determine when to make an announcement in church explaining the new procedure for flowers.
  - c. Two people can attend this year's Synod assembly. Pastor Chris suggested Linda Baumgartner and another person to be determined attend.

- d. Now is the time for discernment for summer intern candidates. There have been two interns hired in the past according to Ryan; it's possible an intern may be determined to be qualified to fill the vacancy left when Ryan leaves. Three interns have applied: Emily Work, Wade Timmons, Stephanie Gossett. A decision about interns will be made after the April Council meeting.
- e. It has been suggested to increase the frequency of contemporary service from once each month to possibly every three weeks. Jeramie Brown will meet with the band to determine how often they would be willing to prepare and play in church. The possibility of having more frequent contemporary services will need to be carefully presented to the more resistant congregation members first to get a feel for attitudes and feelings about it
- f. The "Wish List" idea to plan for a multi-use temporary building and to reconfigure current building usage was mentioned. This, however, is not in the budget. A motion was made to trade an old sound board for an amplifier for the Fellowship Hall by Jim Voelz. The motion was seconded by Lawrence Zuehlke.
6. Financial Reports. Financial spreadsheets were presented. A suggestion for a more specific plan for spending the Seeds for Growth money was made. The next \$5000 "tithe" will be sent to Lutherhill Galveston. A motion was made to approve financial reports by Pastor Chris. The motion was seconded by Lawrence Zuehlke.
7. Pastoral Report was given by Pastor Chris Lake. Bob Peterson's care of the buildings is working out well. Carrie will be here soon to get some non-paid experience. Mary Dinklage is helping with visitations. Pastor Chris's last Sunday before his sabbatical begins is the Sunday after Easter 2017.
8. With no further business, Julie Weeks made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Heidi Beckham. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm with a closing prayer offered by Dennis McConnell.

Dennis McConnell, President

Susan Blough, Secretary