

Tree of Life Lutheran Church
Council/Vision Team Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2016

The meeting of the Congregational Council and Vision Team was called to order at 9:10am by President Dennis McConnell. Council members present were: Dennis McConnell, President; Susan Blough, Secretary; Larry Anderson, Treasurer; Linda Baumgartner; Jim Voelz; Chuck Will; Lawrence Zuehlke; Julie Weeks; Pastor Chris Lake; Pastor Larry Smith; Ryan Dockery and Vision Team member: Jeremie Brown and guest: John Burkwall. Absent: Heidi Beckham.

1. The Meeting began with an opening prayer led by Pastor Larry Smith: "Let the Kingdom come".
2. Adoption of today's agenda was not done.
3. Morning devotional was offered by Pastor Larry Smith.
4. Old Business
 - a. Congregational meeting held on January 24, 2016 was discussed. It was observed that the attendees showed much interest and engaged in much good discussion, especially concerning finances. Shortfalls and dipping into Seeds was discussed. A follow-up letter which outlines TOL's financial position and any additional funds needed will be sent soon while the Congregational meeting is still fresh on people's minds.
 - b. Jeremy Brown presented the findings of the Vision Team. The Vision Team has defined 34 Vision Goals for TOL to work on over the next three years to help TOL move forward in its mission (list attached). There was additional discussion of the first ten items: Emergency fund (other than the "Seeds" money); Stewardship leader for the Fall 2016 Stewardship campaign; Communicating the financial status/health of the church to the congregation; Facilities Manager and maintaining a "to do" list to be coordinated between Ida Craig, Chuck Will and Lawrence Zuehlke; Church leadership organizational chart showing the network of support teams/committees; Salary and benefits of staff; Increase use of online giving; Youth director after Ryan moves on and the continuation of Youth program; Establish a Welcome Center and possibly a Welcome Team (Bunny as leader, possibly); Youth Group temporary building as a possible short term solution for more space. The Vision team recommended a vision statement: Our vision at TOL is that TOL will be a shining example of Christ's love for all people with those in need. Ways to integrate parents of very young children was also discussed.

- c. The LEAD program was presented by Peggy Hahn at 10:00am. She felt that the “dig down process” as described in The Art of Governance by Dan Hotchkiss would be interesting and helpful for Council to review as an organization chart is developed.
 - d. Ideal Impact energy savings cost and benefits were discussed. The proposal from Ideal Impact would include equipment, software and an implementation plan and support. TOL’s current energy costs are currently approximately \$19,000 per year. Projected annual cost savings are \$6,000. The annual fee for four years is \$4560; after four years, the only additional cost is for software updates-about \$200 annually. Pastor Chris Lake made a motion to move forward with the Ideal Impact proposal. The motion was seconded by Lawrence Zuehlke and the motion carried.
 - e. Update on and discussion about shower and a/c renovations and the establishment of a planning team for the next renovation phase was deferred.
5. New Business
- a. The fourth \$5,000 tithe from Seed’s funds (the \$200,000 level of funds collected has been reached) will be given to Lutherhill-either Galveston or La Grange. Larry Anderson made a motion to make the donation. The motion was seconded by Julie Weeks and the motion carried.
 - b. It was proposed to make a second \$10,000 mortgage payment from Seeds to Mission Investment Fund. This will lower the monthly mortgage payment by about \$100. Pastor Chris Lake made a motion to move forward with the payment. The motion was seconded by Jim Voltz and the motion carried.
6. Financial Reports. Discussion was deferred to the next regular Congregational Council meeting (February 10, 2016).
7. Pastoral Report was given by Pastor Chris Lake. Starting February 1, the bulletin format will be condensed and printed on 8 ½” x 11” instead of 11” x 17” to save money. Worship services will begin in the front of the church instead of the back of the church.
8. A closing devotion was offered by Dennis McConnell followed by the Lord’s Prayer said in unison. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm.

Dennis McConnell, President

Susan Blough, Secretary