

Tree of Life Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Congregational Council was called to order at 7:35pm by President Dennis McConnell. Council members present were: Dennis McConnell, President; Susan Blough, Secretary; Ted Dinklage, Interim Treasurer; Heidi Beckham; Linda Baumgartner; Jim Voelz; Chuck Will; Pastor Chris Lake; Kirk Helberg; George Timmins; Bunny Stoutes and Lawrence Zuehlke. Absent was Ryan Dockery. Visiting was Katherine Lake.

- A. The Meeting began with an opening prayer by Pastor Chris.
- B. Consent Agenda – motion to approve all by Heidi Beckham and seconded by Lawrence Zuehlke. The motion carried.
 - 1. Adopt tonight's agenda
 - 2. Approve October 12, 2016 minutes
 - 3. Approve October 23, 2016 minutes
 - 4. Schedule annual Congregational meeting for January 22, 2017.
 - 5. Schedule annual Council retreat for Saturday February 11, 2017.
 - 6. There were no new members to ratify.
 - 7. 2017 council elections: Kirk Helberg has agreed to serve on council.
- C. Discussion Agenda
 - 1. Old business
 - a. None.
 - 2. New business
 - a. Approve appointment of Kirk Helberg and George Timmons to fill vacated Council positions and to stand for election in January, 2017. The motion to approve was made by Pastor Chris and seconded by Jim Voelz. The motion carried.
 - b. Update and clarify building use policy to authorize the Pastor and Office Manager to waive or reduce building usage fees for members following their best judgment in fulfilling the mission of Tree of Life church. The current fee structure will remain as is. Motion to approve was made by Heidi Beckham and seconded by Jim Voelz. The motion carried.
 - c. Reexamine last month's Council decision to request exemption to bylaws limitation of two terms for serving in the same Council position. The motion made during the October 12, 2016 Council meeting should be changed from "one more consecutive term" to "one-year extension. This will result in a new President beginning to serve on Council in January 2018. A Congregational approval will be sought to change the bylaw in this way at the January 22, 2017 Congregational meeting. A motion was made to

revise the wording in the motion made in the October 12, 2016 Council meeting by Pastor Chris and seconded by Heidi Beckham. The motion carried.

- d. The 2017 budget income estimate of pledged (\$252,545) plus non-pledged (\$171,505) equals \$424,050 compared to \$439,900 in the 2016 budget income. For families that didn't turn in a pledge card, their 2016 pledge was carried forward into the 2017 non-pledged number. A Temple talk about financial giving will be made each of the next two Sundays about "estimated giving" cards and the churches need for them to be turned in in order to begin the budget process for 2017. Council will begin to consider the 2017 budget in the next Council meeting. The motion carried.

D. Financial reports

- 1. Motion to accept financial reports through October 31, 2016 made by Jim Voelz and seconded by George Timmins. The motion carried.

E. Pastoral report

- 1. Staff reviews were completed by Pastor Chris and Dennis McConnell. Bunny is the Office Manager.
- 2. Visitations were made.

- F. With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn at 9:30pm by Jim Voelz and was seconded by Heidi Beckham. The Lord's Prayer was said by all.

Dennis McConnell, President

Susan Blough, Secretary

Date

Date