

Tree of Life Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
June 13, 2018

Members present - President- Jack Zimmer, Financial Secretary - Heidi Beckham, Pastor Chris Lake, Acting Secretary- Susie Rust, Richard Schaper, Annie Lindeman, Kevin Solberg, and George Timmons

Members not present- Secretary-Linda Baumgartner, Vice President- Larry Klotz, Treasurer – Jim Voelz , and Kirk Helberg

Meeting was called to order by President Jack Zimmer at 6:35 pm. NOTE: this meeting was conducted electronically and remotely, using ZOOM.

A. Pastor Chris gave the opening prayer

B. Consent agenda

I. **Motion:** Adoption of agenda *.

II. **Motion:** Approval of minutes (May 9 2018)

III. **Motion:** Ratify new members: Dick & Shirley Hazel and Dean & Luanne Miller

Heidi Beckham moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. Annie Lindeman seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

C. Financial reports

I. Monthly Statements (May)

No financials were reported this month as Ted Dinklage was gone due to family emergency. We will have two statements to review next month.

II. Rhelm Report

Heidi Beckham reported that four contributors (totalling \$450 monthly) are still on the old system. Lisa Lemaux is still trying to contact them. Susan Phillips is one of these contributors; she has no phone number, but does have a Georgia address. Emails have been sent using Avanco contact information with no response.

Action item - Heidi Beckham will forward emails to Pastor Chris, who will follow-up with these four.

Jim Voelz

Heidi Beckham

D. Pastoral report

Pastor Chris shared the families that are in need of prayer. Summer activities include camps for elementary and confirmation youth (June), followed by the Lutheran National Gathering (June), and VBS in July. All is going well at Lutherhill Camp. New Summer Intern Annika Johnson attended her first Staff meeting today. Pastor Chris shared an update on his meeting with Butch and Mary Nye.

Council member were mailed the job description for Summer Internship and Annika Johnson was suggested to fill the role. Respondents were very confident in her leadership and office skills to help with summer activities, including VBS. Bunny Stoutes (Office Manager) and Carrie Peterson (Seminary Intern) are very supportive. The funds are already available in budget.

MOTION: George Timmons moved that we accept the job description and Annika in this role. Susie Rust seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

E. Old Business..

- I. The Fellowship Hall roof repair, including the removal of the steeple, has been completed and paid for. Funds remaining from the insurance settlement, is \$4000-5000. Discussion followed on how to handle these remaining funds. It was suggested that if any funds were capital related, then it is a Seeds item and that we should save this as a rainy day fund for big maintenance items. There was agreement that we establish a Dedicated Building Maintenance reserve fund; the council must authorize use of these funds. The motion was made by Richard Schaper and second George Timmons and passed.
- II. Referring to the "Adopt-a-Project" funds (\$6300 needed and about \$3600 collected so far), Richard Schaper suggested that these be used as designated and that we should update congregation on what projects have already been completed. Pastor Chris reported that this was already in the works for the upcoming bulletin.
- III. Kevin Solberg gave an update on the future Memorial Walk/prayer path. He spoke with Ryan Lee, the owner of Stone Creations of Texas as to pricing, which would include a minimum of 15-20 stones at \$35 per stone. Stones could be taken over to them to be engraved fairly quickly. He reported that Larry Klotz has been researching companies to do the construction. Jack Zimmer asked how soon can we start construction and how quickly can we put together the marketing material in order to start selling stones..The Council also wanted to ensure the Dr. Jorgenson's vision for his donation was well understood and honored. It was suggested we invite Dr. Jorgenson to a council meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Pastor Chris will invite him.

After a lengthy and informative discussion, President Zimmer summarized: Dr. Jeff Jorgenson wished to pay for the pathway as a memorial gift. Stone Creations appears to be a good choice to do the engraving. TOL plans to sell stones at an equitable margin to generate surplus funds. We still need to research how much we should charge.

Can the path completed by fall? Can we pre-sell stones? The prices need to be reasonable (\$100 for small stone?) for anniversaries or birthday remembrances, noting that we will fill up the pathway quicker for normal remembrances. Special (larger) stones could be more expensive. Pastor Chris suggested the pathway could also be used to spread ashes with purchase a larger more expensive stone but would

still be a less expensive alternative to traditional burial costs. It was suggested 3 or 4 levels of pricing (affordable, medium, high) based on size of stone and purpose should be created.

Action item: Kevin will research possible sizes and price we should use as well as work with Larry Klotz on a construction schedule for the pathway, and report at the next council meeting.

IV. Discussion followed on implementing priorities of the Strategic Plan:

- Staff annual reviews/Employee Manual: PC and Jack are researching and drafting this.
- Youth Ministry: Kevin and Annie reported. Question from garage sale about scheduling for next year due to tight calendar: Is there money in Seeds for paying early registration (discounted fees)? Council agreed this precedent has been established, as long as there is money in Seeds.
- “Next Generation” Church Leaders. Deferred to July meeting
- TOL “presence” in Community: see New Business

F. New Business.

I. Filling the Social Outreach Ministry Chairperson Vacancy.

(Linda B and Shirley F had been leading our participation in Family Promise and we are no longer participants.) New scope and direction for the Social Outreach Chairperson was discussed. At the February council retreat, we discussed the possibility of canvassing our congregation members to see what ministries they may already be involved in outside of TOL and perhaps our church could join in, in some way. This could address two desired initiatives: first, to reach out in Christian love into our community and secondly, to elevate recognition of TOL along with our vision and mission. This new direction for Social Outreach was enthusiastically endorsed by Council

With this new direction in mind, President Zimmer referred Council to our list of “Future Leaders” that had been established and discussion ensued as to potential candidates for this new Chair position. Council provided good insight to Zimmer.

Action Item: with this in mind and Council’s advice, President Zimmer will work to fill this Chair position in order to take Social Outreach in a new direction

II. Policy Manual Review

Continued from page 13 and the review was completed. The Appendix was left as presented with a few changes. President Jack Zimmer will revise the document as discussed, turn over to Bunny for formatting and share with Council for final adoption.

G. Adjournment

With no further business, President Zimmer adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm. Pastor Chris closed with prayer.

NOTE: The next council meeting is July 11 at 6:30 pm and again will be done remotely, using the Zoom conference meeting application. August is the next congregational meeting, perhaps eliminating the council meeting for that month.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Rust, Acting Secretary for Linda Baumgartner

NOTES:

Congregational Meeting 2018: Jack Zimmer. President elected to 2 year term, Jim Voelz, Treasurer, Linda Baumgartner, Secretary, Kirk Helberg, George Timmons, Heidi Beckham, Financial Secretary; and new members elected for 3 year terms, Susie Rust, Annie Lindemann, Larry Klotz(elected for 3 year term as VP), Richard Schaper, Kevin Solberg.

Congregational meeting 2017: Jim Voelz, treasurer, Linda Baumgartner, Kirk Helberg, George Timmins, Jack Zimmer, Dennis McConnell, President, term expires January, 2018

Congregational meeting 2016: Council members - Susan Blough (recording secretary)
Elected 2015 - Heidi Beckham, Matt Hannes (2nd term), Chuck Will, Lawrence Zuelke,
Elected 2014 - Linda Baumgartner, Alicia Macha (resigned position January, 2015), Jim Voelz.
(2nd term), John Nye. (2nd term), Julie Weeks. (2nd term)