

Tree of Life Church Council Meeting

Monday, February 20, 2023 6:30 PM ZOOM Meeting

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

Absent: Peggy Little

A. President Solberg called the meeting to order@ 6:32 PM. Pastor Chris started the meeting with a prayer.

B. Consent Agenda

- I. Motion: Adoption of Agenda- Motion made by Lemaux and seconded by Rowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- II. Motion: Approval of Minutes (January 16, 2023) Motion: McCarthy and seconded by Templet. All were in favor and the motion passed.

C. Discussion Agenda: Visitor Dennis McConnell recapped the meeting he attended along with Jill Waldrop regarding RIC- Reconciled In Christ. There will be a May vote on whether the Synod adopts RIC or not. The congregation is not under any obligation to endorse RIC. RIC is a statement in favor of LGBTQIA / Racial Justice. To be a part of RIC, a contribution would be expected but there was no dollar amount given. The church would have to create a lesson statement, establish hiring policies, and the church be able to conduct ceremonies for LGQTBIA individuals. At this time there are 29 out of 65 Synod's in RIC. Some churches are taking years to decide. McConnell recommends TOL be a part of RIC. There will need to be a meeting with the congregation to decide what TOL will do.

D. Financial Reports

- I. Monthly statements (January 2023)
Lemaux stated that Little was tied up and not able to complete the financial reports in time for the council meeting. There were some changes in the 2023 budget. Amazon Smile is discontinuing this

practice and the \$500 income in the budget will now be \$0. The dollar amount for gym membership for Pastor Chris and Jill will be \$275 and \$240 for Green. There was an issue with Pastor Chris's benefits being too low and they will be raised. The budget for phone/intranet will be raised \$1000. Jill was able to rework the contract with Waste Management with a savings of \$2000. The 2023 income was changed to \$472,131 and expenses are \$496,649 for a shortfall of \$24,518. The final budget will come later.

E. Pastoral Report

- I. Pastor Chris reported that he was in Kenya for three weeks along with two other church members and they accomplished a lot at Kings Embrace. Pastor will be getting ready for Ash Wednesday and Easter.

F. Old Business

- I. Kings Embrace Update- Pastor Chris, Wayne and Pat Rowe corrected major issues at the facility.
- II. Paideia Expansion Update- They are using the facility four days a week and everything is going well.
- III. Lutherhill- Green stated that 10 children have signed up so far. There are two families that need assistance to send their kids to camp.

G. New Business

- I. New Members: Nothing to report
- II. Adopt A Project: Two laptops were purchased on credit.
- III. RIC: More information will be needed before a decision is made.
- IV. Anything Else: Pastor Chris stated there is a 53' trailer parked in the back lot. It belongs to a church member that would like to sell it at a good price.

H. Solberg adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm after the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Bliese

Council Secretary