

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

January 10, 2018

Members present – President - Dennis McConnell, Vice President – Jack Zimmer, Treasurer – Jim Voelz, Financial Secretary – Heidi Beckham, Secretary – Linda Baumgartner, Pastor Chris Lake and council members at large -George Timmons and Chuck Will

Members absent – Lawrence Zuehlke, Kirk Helberg

Guests – Richard Schaper, Susie Rust, Kevin Solberg, Annie Lindemann, Larry Klotz – church council nominees and Bunny Stouts, TOL office manager

Meeting was called to order by President Dennis McConnell at 7:03

- A. The meeting began with an opening prayer by Dennis McConnell
- B. New Members on council were introduced
- C. Consent Agenda
 1. Motion - Adopt tonight's agenda
 2. Motion – Approve minutes from December 13, 2017 council meeting
 3. Acceptance of new members – Rick and Barb McCracken, David and Linda Fischer and Russ and Debbie Larson
 4. Jack motioned that the Consent Agenda be approved. Heidi seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.
- C. Discussion agenda
 1. Old Business
 - a. no old business
 2. New Business
 - a. Church Council Retreat will be February 17 at 9:00 at the home of Linda Baumgartner
 - b. Discussion of Seeds pledges. Heidi moved that the money collected for Seeds through Dec. 31 that has been designated “paid to principal” have the collection deadline be extended to January 31, 2018. The pay out to principal will be shortly after January 31, 2018. George Timmons seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

- c. Orientation for new members of 2018 budget. Discussion began in October for new budget. We saw the first preliminary budget in November. December all pledges were in. Since then the budget has been tweaked for minor changes.
- d. Revenue side – Pledged offerings were up from 56 pledges to 71. Pledged amount is \$356,217.96. Non -pledged offerings - \$95,758 is a solid number.
- e. Jack presented a new Evangelism budget. The Dream budget of \$15,820 and a Practical and Prudent Budget of \$8,820 were both presented and discussed. It is the choice of council to go with the expanded budget for evangelism. Council is expecting to reap the benefits of this expenditure by gaining new members. The revenues will be closely watched. If the revenues are not coming in as expected, the evangelism line item will be adjusted appropriately.
- f. Maintenance budget is \$9,000. Jack proposes to ask members to sponsor the, purchase of a new light pole for the main parking lot and other projects.
- g. Increase to the professional staff of 5% is included in the new budget.
- h. Expenditures are approximately \$550,000. Shortfall of approximately \$25,000 is projected with the new budget.
- i. Jack Zimmer moved that subject to the verification of the items that need to be verified this budget will be presented to the congregation for approval. Pastor Chris seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.
- j. Reports for annual congregational report need to be into to Bunny by January 23 at 9:00.
- k. Pastor presented his pastoral report. Since Pastor Larry has retired, we have one pastor to do visits, communion etc. Pastor has enlisted the help of lay people.
- l. Codes for the alarm system will be changed January 11.
- m. Don Jorgenson was buried last month and ashes scattered in the graveyard.
- n. Possibility of a memorial walk was discussed.
- o. Mucking and Gutting phase is over for the hurricane. They are on to rebuilding.
- p. Pastor will be going to Rice to testify before a state committee regarding the work that nonprofit groups did during Harvey.
- q. Jack Zimmer closed the meeting by thanking Dennis McConnell, Chuck Will and Lawrence Zuehlke for their service on council.

Having completed all the business. The meeting was declared to be over at 9:27.
Pastor Chris lead council in the saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baumgartner, Secretary