

Tree of Life Congregational Meeting Minutes **October 6, 2019**

President Jack Zimmer called the meeting to order at 9:24 am. Quorum was established and Pastor Chris Lake led with an opening prayer.

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of meeting agenda
- B. Approval of minutes from June 2, 2019, Congregational meeting.

Cindy Obrosky moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Dick Mong seconded; all were in favor and the motion passed.

II. Financial Report

Jim Voelz gave the financial report through August. We have a shortfall of \$13,522, which has been covered by borrowing from our Seeds (Dedicated) funds. We are under the anticipated revenue in the budget line item "Other" (essentially building use fees). With projected expenses through the end of 2019, the projected shortfall is \$15,000. Our Dedicated funds balance through August is \$105,011.93. The good news is that our staff has been very efficient and kept administrative costs low (\$19,000 under their budget to date). Conservative estimates of our next year's revenues have been made, with hopes of more monies through our Spring garage sale and Youth Mystery Dinners. An "unconstrained budget" for 2020 is estimated at \$586,575, which will probably be paired down. President Jack Zimmer thanked Jim Voelz, Ted Dinklage, and Heidi Beckham for a great job.

III. Adopt-a-Project funds requested were \$10,600 for a new AC in the Fellowship Hall Building, replacement lights for the parking lot, and a new ice maker in the kitchen. The request was met with collected donations totalling \$11,900, with a surplus of \$1020 for emergency. The narthex rug has been cleaned again but finally will be replaced next week (\$3000, solid rug, rather than carpet squares, with a lifetime warranty).

IV. Stewardship Committee Chairman Jim Lemaux reviewed the objectives of this year's four-week campaign. Echoing the second part of the TOL Vision Statement to "invite, inspire and include all people in Christ's love", the focus has been on "inspired" giving. We are inspired by people, by acts of love, by worship & song, and by Scripture. Our vision is to tithe or to commit to increase giving toward that amount within a defined period of time. Over 87% of our budget is fixed with operational expenses, with 13% growing room. With commitment cards or online commitments through Realm, we can know the pledged income and better plan our budget. Speak with Heidi Beckham to set up online giving; there are different ways to draft funds.

V. Pastor Chris Lake has been ministering to the sick and those facing death and appreciates the support he has received. As we are now an official Internship site for pastors-to-be, an Internship Lay Committee for our Vicar Carrie Petersen has begun meeting as set forward by

Wartburg Seminary guidelines. The committee is meant to reflect her ministry back to her with constructive feedback and help her accomplish her goals for the internship year.

A congregation review of TOL took place with representatives from TOL and Synod, concluding that we were in fairly healthy shape, with many strong ministries, and found our Vicar Carrie to be especially valued and loved. President Jack Zimmer is proud of our top notch staff and Pastor Chris and Vicar Carrie.

VI. President Jack Zimmer reported that the **Nominating Committee** (Vice-President Larry Klotz, Chair, and President Jack Zimmer and Pastor Chris Lake) have been developing a candidate list which will be presented at the December Congregational meeting. There are 4 board openings, as well as President and Vice-President.

VII. **Our new Ministry Leader for the Fellowship Team is Diane Schaper.** We are still seeking a Leader/Co-ordinator(s) for the Care Team.

VIII. President Jack Zimmer reviewed our **2019 Strategic plan priorities as we head into 2020:**

- A. Keeping High school Youth and their families engaged following Confirmation. Our Youth Director Bunny Stoutes has good ideas, which will take time to fully develop.
- B. Maintaining present buildings and managing future expansion in a high growth area. We are in an idea stage, not yet planning stage.
- C. Preserving TOL culture as we grow
- D. Considering our time/talent inventory and development as we change over time
- E. Valuing and improving Bible Study
- F. Identifying, developing, and nurturing future leaders in the church

Dick Mong commented his appreciation for the growing number of children going to Children's Church, indicating the healthy growth at TOL. He also appreciated the online church directory (website and phone). He referenced the importance of daily devotions and inquired why we have differing readings in church from the "Daily Word". Pastor Chris Lake explained that there are multiple lectionaries and we are currently using the Narrative Lectionary in Worship. It is available online at Working Preacher.com.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am. Pastor Chris Lake led the congregation in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Rust
Council Secretary