

## Tree of Life Church Council Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2022 6:30 PM ZOOM Meeting

Members present: President Kevin Solberg, Vice-President Sandy McCarthy, Treasurer Jim Lemaux, Pastor Chris, Deb Zimmer, Peggy Little, Tom Gros, Julie Watson, Heidi Beckham, and Mark Templet. Visitors Jill Waldrop, Ikeria Green, John Burkwall.

Absent: Secretary Russ Bliese, Pat Rowe

- A. President Solberg called the meeting to order@ 6:30 PM. Pastor Chris started the meeting with a prayer.

### B. Consent Agenda

- I. Motion: Adoption of Agenda- Motion made and seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- II. Motion: Approval of Minutes (September 19, 2022) Motion made and seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.
  - a. Corrections to September minutes – Julie Watson was not in attendance; biracial couple has not actually yet joined TOL (Pastoral report). (Jill will update before posting on church website.)

### C. Discussion Agenda

No visitors.

### D. Financial Reports

I. Monthly statements (September 2022)

Lemaux presented the financial report for September. Overall decent finances with no red flags. However, we are running at a deficit; still low on offerings.

Total income \$24,500, and total expenses just over \$37,000.

There was discussion around what/how to communicate with the congregation. Are people making their pledges? Or is our current shortfall just the timing of gifts that are made on annual/quarterly basis vs. weekly, biweekly, or monthly? (We have \$238,000 pledged for 2022, and \$206,000 received, so we do appear to be tracking OK.)

Motion made to accept financial report; seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

II. 2023 Budget

a. Jim and Church Staff will meet to discuss budget needs for 2023.

b. Stewardship campaign ends on October 23. The plan then will be to review the pledges and then reach out to people.

c. We should consider how to communicate the financials – put in the bulletins and in the announcements.

## E. Pastoral Report

Pastor Chris reported:

- a. Corinne Myers has had a minor stroke.
- b. A lot of people are coming in and out of the office these days...people NEED US.
- c. He's been teaching the new Confirmation class and loves it! He's teaching for the first time in 10 years.
- d. We're getting really good participation from new folks in the church. They're diving in.
- e. Ikeria and Diana ROCKED the Confirmation lock-in.
- f. Bunny was our guest preacher yesterday; there was a good buzz in the room.
- g. Would like to find a way to get on people's PHONES. We also need to get someone on top of the website, keeping it up-to-date.
- h. Planning for Christmas – theme for Advent will be “bells”
- i. Interred Larry Smith's ashes last week. (Side discussion – it IS OK for us to scatter ashes because (1) we own the land; (2) we aren't burying a body; and (3) the cemetery will always be a cemetery.) (Another side discussion – prayer path stones – we continue doing one at a time and it is taking a while. Might be good to put the idea of the prayer path memorial stones in front of the congregation again and maybe share pictures when we get a new one in.

## F. Old Business

- I. Paideia Classical School Update – everything is going well. We've invited them to the Fall Festival; they've already planned their Christmas Concert and Graduation for this campus.
- II. The King's Embrace Update – Strokes 4 Water was a technical challenge BUT met the goal and then some! Enough money was raised to pay for the well AND allow Pastor Chris to return and bring others with him – an agronomist, plus Wayne Rambarran. Jim Rust is working with Dave Fischer and getting things done with the well people. Jill will cut the first check (for \$15,000) to The King's Embrace this week.
- III. Financial Audit Update – no update to report

#### G. New Business

- I. New Members – Six new members were received on September 25. Motion made to accept new members; seconded. All approved and motion passed. We have a LOT more new members than normal for a given year.
- II. Muck Trailer Situation – Back when the trailer was stolen, there was no insurance on the trailer, just the contents. We got the check and wrote it over to the synod (as they owned the trailer). When Pastor Chris got the trailer back the synod said “just give the trailer to the guy who had it.” Technically, though, the trailer should be ours, since we gave the insurance money over to the synod. So – if they want to give the trailer away, then they should give us the \$2700. Pastor

Chris's question to church council – Do we keep it, give the trailer to the synod, or give it to the guy who had it? After discussion, decision was that if the synod gives us \$2700, they can do whatever they want with the trailer. Otherwise, we keep it. (Pastor Chris hasn't heard back from the guy who had the trailer anyway.....)

- III. Christmas Service – Christmas is on Sunday this year. Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00, 5:00, and 8:00. Just one Sunday service – 10:30 – we'll encourage people to come in their PJs if only just to COME.
- IV. Adopt a Project – none at this time
- V. Anything Else?
  - a. Pastor Chris stated that we should have our gates by the end of the year.
  - b. Kevin Solberg and Pastor Chris are in conversation about potential people to fill council positions being vacated by Peggy Little and Julie Watson at the end of the year.

H. Meeting adjourned. Pastor Chris led the closing with the Lord's Prayer and Solberg adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Waldrop (substituting for Russ Bliese, Council Secretary)