

Tree of Life Congregational Meeting

August 22, 2021

Vice President Kevin Solberg called the meeting to order at 9:19 AM. The meeting was conducted live and via ZOOM. Quorum was established with Peggy Little making a motion and Diane Stigleman seconding. All were in favor and the motion passed. Pastor Chris Lake opened with a prayer.

- I. Treasurer Jim Lemaux gave the financial report for the first half of 2021. The pledged and non-pledged income was down \$7500 and \$100 respectively. All other income was up \$2555. TOL obtained a PPP loan in the amount of \$29,154 that went to pay for salary and to SEEDS. As of 7/31, income was \$8315 over projected budget. Expenses were budgeted at \$276,210 thru 7/31 with actual expenses at \$272,504 for a savings of \$3700. The mortgage was refinanced to a lower rate for five years at 4.25%. The remaining mortgage is 1.181 million.
- II. SEEDS money that is invested has grown by \$12,749 for the first half of the year. There is \$129,370 in liquid assets in SEEDS. The seminary scholarship has provided Bunny Stoutes with \$7200. With COVID still ongoing, Lemaux stated the projected shortfall for the year would be around \$41,000 with this being an uncertainty and a conservative estimate. Lemaux projected this amount to be reduced at the end of the year. There was a question from Jim Rust wanting to know if the shortfall was coming from members leaving the church or members giving less. Lemaux will analyze the data and try to find out. There were no other questions regarding the financial report.
- III. Pastor Chris Lake presented his report to the congregation. Pastor Chris introduced Ikeria Green as the new Youth Director. Green will be a part time employee working 15 hours a week the remainder of this year. Green worked this past summer for the YMCA. Green is employed at Conroe I.S.D. Pastor Chris introduced Green who told the audience a little about herself. Green will be starting on 8/23/2021.
- IV. Vice President Solberg advised the congregation on the council retreat this past June. There were 42 responses to the survey sent out with the number one response

- regarding challenge being isolation. The biggest surprise was the loss of staff and online worship and zoom. Hopes and dreams was the return to normal. Councils plans and focus are on Worship, Community and use of building, Staffing and youth, Stewardship and Prayer.
- V. Regarding worship- there was a smooth transition from live to online. There was discussion regarding TOL to go to one service on Sunday. There was a favorable response from the congregation. There will be more discussion regarding this matter.
 - VI. Regarding the community use of the building- we need to build off the relationship with the YMCA. Connect with the homebound and ones hospitalized.
 - VII. Staff and Youth- have a new Youth Director to restart the youth programs. There needs to be a backup to pastoral duties.
 - VIII. Stewardship- return to growth, adopt a project and build a team to assist.
 - IX. Power of Prayer- overcome challenges, renew the call to prayer.
 - X. The 2021 priorities are the budget for 2022, nomination for 2022 council members, stewardship campaign and maximize time, talents and staff resources.

Pastor Chris closed the meeting with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10AM.

Respectfully submitted.

Russell Bliese.

Secretary