

# Tree of Life Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2024, Zoom Meeting (Includes April Information)

Members Present: Kevin Solberg, Sandy McCarthy, Jim Lemaux, Deb Zimmer, Mark Templet, Jenny Jenkins, Ronnie Whitman, Russ Larson, Chris Lake. Staff: Jill Waldrop, Ikeria Green, Diana Frederick

Absent: Heidi Beckham

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

B. Chris Lake opened with prayer.

C. Consent of agenda and minutes

1. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Jim Lemaux, seconded by Deb Zimmer. Motion passed.
2. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Russ Larson, seconded by Sandy McCarthy. Motion passed.

D. Financial report for March and April was given by Jim Lemaux

1. March Operating Funds - \$54, 837, April Operating Funds - \$45,000
2. March Dedicated Funds - \$92,801, April Dedicated Funds - \$93,106
  - i. King's Embrace had an increase in April. There has been some difficulty in managing the account, but now Realm has clarity on where it should go.
  - ii. Internal Ministries have not shown significant change.
  - iii. Endowment Fund balance moved from \$52,000 to \$57,000.
3. New Seeds for growth shows \$20,800. Money owed to Seeds is \$159, 493.
4. March Expenses - \$48,091, April Expenses \$35,439
  - i. Mortgage rate is still good for 18 months and will need to be looked at before that time comes.
  - ii. Staff Expenses - \$23,410
  - iii. Building Expenses - \$8,121 One electricity check was stolen from a mailbox. This system is getting more compromised so Jill said that if we can do it electronically, it could be safer and faster. PC said that the Audit Committee needs to look at how we use our payment process. The Audit Committee ( Rick Grabowski, Bernadette McCracken, and Russ Larson) will be meeting this Sunday. Jenny Jenkins said that the lost check should be reported.
5. Gross net shortfall of \$9,848. Sandy said that we had talked about adjusting the budget according to the giving. Jim said that we should do that so **we will look at it next month.**
6. Total income year to date is \$200,704 with a budget of \$528,606
7. Total Expenses year to date is \$197,682 with a budget of \$544,556.
8. Motion was made to accept the financial report by Sandy McCarthy, seconded by Ronnie Whitman. Motion passed.

E. Pastoral report

1. Daughter, Madie, graduated from college and gave the commencement speech at Texas Lutheran. Daughter, Ansley, was hired to work camera at the graduation so it was a proud moment.
2. Doug Stoutes passed away. PC is helping the family out, because a hard time, financially, with Bunny just now working on getting a church assignment.
3. Flooding is still going on. PC showed pictures of all the devastation in River Plantation. He has been working with Dori Jones/Synod Disaster Group. He is requesting \$1,000 to reimburse us for helping to defray our expenses. The Houston Tool Bank called to see if there is anything else needed. Pastor told them and they provided

4. Info given that Plymouth United Church of Christ is going to sell their property, because they can't afford it anymore. He said that that is happening more and more.
5. A long-time friend of PC, Bogart Nomad, is moving to Texas from Nebraska and will be looking for part time work. He is a Deacon and a caretaker of his child with Downs Syndrome.

#### F. Old Business

1. King's Embrace Update – Kenya trip accomplishments with Wayne Rambarran, Rich Obrosky, and Bruce Rockstroh were as follow:
  - i. Internet installed. The boys have never used a computer and are behind in their learning. 60+ tablets are being donated so they will have access to the internet now.
  - ii. Well's pump and motor were replaced but still not getting the amount of water they wanted out of it. The equipment will be checked out to see if it is a problem or the installers. There is still dirt in the well but don't know why. PC is planning to return next January to help figure it out. They also added a timer to the well.
  - iii. Went to other communities who needed wells fixed and fixed them. It was so greatly appreciated.
2. Paideia update – they have been paying but still owe \$9,000. We still don't know if they are staying or going. We gave them until July to let us know.
3. National Youth Theatre will be coming back.
4. Financial audit group met four weeks ago. They are Rick Grabowski, Bernadette McCracken, and Jim Rust.

#### G. New Business

1. New Members – Deb said there are no new members these past couple of months.
2. Adopt a Project – Mark said we need to complete the fire inspection. He will set a date that works for him and Jill.
3. Anything else –
  - i. Dennis McConnell will be our visitor next meeting discussing Synod Assembly.
  - ii. Deb said that she will offer to help update the policies and procedures Handbook concerning the building rental. She will ask others to join her and will keep Jill in the loop.

#### H. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:21

Respectfully submitted  
Deb Zimmer, Secretary