

Tree of Life Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2019

President Jack Zimmer called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Quorum was established and Pastor Chris Lake led with an opening prayer.

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of meeting agenda
2. Approval of minutes from January 28, 2018 Annual Meeting
3. Approval of quarterly meeting minutes, May 6, August 2, November 11

The minutes from the January 28, 2018 Annual Meeting were amended in the Consent Agenda to change wording from “council” to “congregational”. In the quarterly meeting minutes from August 2, 2018, the misspelling of Olin Crowley’s name was corrected.

A **motion** was made by George Timmons to approve the Consent Agenda. Dick Mong seconded. All were in favor; the **motion passed**.

- ### B. Serving his first term as president of the Council, President Jack Zimmer’s Annual Report summarized some highlights from 2018 at Tree of Life. These included Pastor Chris Lake’s sabbatical, Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, the departure of Youth Director Ryan Dockery to his pastoral internship, the retirement of Pastor Larry Smith, and Seminary Student Carrie Peterson in her role with women’s ministries and pastoral care.
- ### C. President Jack Zimmer continued a summary of Council and Ministry Team efforts in 2018. These included:
1. Continuing support and success of Ministry Teams and Council liaisons with them
 2. Success of the “Adopt-a-Project” program
 3. Continuing review of Council Policy Manual and the Employee Manual/Handbook, a priority as the church population increases
 4. Fiduciary Responsibility & Stewardship; stewardship program formalized over 3-year span
 5. Leadership Development; Jim Lemaux asked if these details will be available to the congregation. Jack Zimmer responded yes, they should be on the website when ready.

A **motion** was made by Dick Mong to accept the President’s Report. Larry Klotz seconded. All were in favor; the **motion passed**.

- ### D. Pastor Chris Lake reported on significant staff changes and roles. These included the departure of Emily Work as Youth Director, the promotion of Bunny Stoutes from Office Manager to Youth Director, and the hiring of Megan Dillon to Office Manager. Our Seminary Student Carrie Peterson is busy in Women’s Ministry, Pub Theology on Tuesdays and Bible Study on Wednesdays. Additionally she is in charge of Sunday morning worship planning. Tree of Life is applying to be an internship site, specifically to invite Carrie to serve her internship here, with Seminary approval. As a potential Pastoral Intern in fall, 2019, she will be allowed to commune the congregation.

- E. Pastor Chris Lake reported that our Sunday worship attendance averages dropped slightly from the 180's to the high 170's. The good news is that we are more consistent in attendance and generally in financial giving as well. There continues to be community growth around FM 2854.

A **motion** was made by Jillian Helburg to accept the Pastor's Report. Peggy Little seconded. All were in favor; the **motion passed**.

- F. Stewardship Chairman Jim Lemaux reported that we had over \$300,000 in pledges and estimated total contributions for 2019 to be \$378,013. Our plan for the stewardship program covers a 3-year span and focuses on our mission statement "to invite (2018), inspire (2019), and include (2020) all people in Christ's love". *See attached slides.*
- G. Treasurer Jim Voelz reported good news from the 2018 financials. Our actual 2018 income was \$531,063 and our actual total expenses were \$541,259. Our shortfall of \$10,196 zeroed out thanks to our carry-over from 2017. All loans from our dedicated Seeds account were paid back. *See attached slides for specific income and expense report numbers.* Jim Voelz commended our Tree of Life Staff for doing a great job to hold our costs down.

A **motion** was made by Lisa Lemaux to accept the Treasurer's Report. Larry Finke seconded. All were in favor; the **motion passed**.

- H. Treasurer Jim Voelz presented the proposed 2019 Budget. The projected offerings & income are \$520,424 (actual 2018 income is \$531,063). The proposed expenditures are \$543,977 (actual 2018 expenditures were \$541,259), with a shortfall of \$23,500. This shortfall is expected to decrease by an estimated \$14,000 carry-over from 2018, and eventual projected shortfall would be \$9,500. The 2019 proposed Budget included a 3% increase in staff salaries, a potential interest adjustment on mortgage, monies used to send 50 people to camp/youth gatherings as a priority, and evangelism expenses. *See attached slides.* Jim Voelz thanked Ted Dinklage, who he insisted, did all the work.
- I. President Jack Zimmer reported ~~that we have changed on the process of considering used for preparing the proposed budget. proposed to the congregation.~~ The Financial Team began in August with a focus on the expenses and ending with balancing of the different scenarios to the results of the Stewardship Campaign. Although, the Council feels the income projections are "conservative", the income available should match the preferred expense scenario. ~~We began earlier (August 2018) and focused on expenses first rather than income. (I have this in my minutes notes, but I remember discussing income first, before expenses at the council meeting. I may have written this wrongly in the minutes)~~ The Council reviewed several possible budgets and the proposed 2019 budget is a conservative one.

A **motion** was made by Lisa Lemaux to accept the 2019 Proposed Budget. Dave Zuehlke seconded. Discussion followed. Dennis McConnell asked when the mortgage interest would be renegotiated with the Mission Endowment Fund. President Jack Zimmer responded yes, in March or April 2019, but we assume the increase will not be significant. He would like to see the church increase our payment on the principal so that we can pay down the mortgage sooner.

Daphne Cox asked if the youth expenses would be covered with fund-raising and the answer was yes. *See attached slides.* George Kadamian asked if we had covered well projects last year. The reply was that our commitment was paid for by the Seeds account as budgeted. Pastor Chris Lake suggested a future project for consideration, supporting The King's Embrace, with whom we are connected through

members David and Linda Fischer. Dick Mong asked the amount of remaining mortgage on the church facility. The response was \$1.3 million, nearly the same as last year.

The **motion** to accept the 2019 Budget as proposed was voted upon. All were in favor and the **motion passed**.

Deb Zimmer suggested that we take time to review the various Annual Reports in order for us and for the Synod to see all that is going on here at Tree of Life.

A **motion** was made by Pastor Chris Lake to affirm Susie Rust as Council Secretary. Dick Mong seconded. All were in favor and the **motion passed**.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned and Pastor Chris led the congregation in closing with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Rust

Council Secretary