

Tree of Life Church Council Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2020 6:30PM ZOOM Meeting

Members Present: President Jack Zimmer, Vice-President Kevin Solberg, Financial Secretary Heidi Beckham, Secretary Susie Rust, David Fischer, Tom Gros, Jim Lemaux, Richard Schaper, Julie Timmins, Pastor Chris Lake

Members Absent: Larry Klotz

Visitors: Youth and Families Director Bunny Stoutes, Russell Bliese

A. President Zimmer called the meeting to order at 6:37PM. Pastor Chris led the opening prayer. Zimmer and the Council welcomed TOL member Russ Bliese as guest to the July ZOOM meeting

B. Consent agenda

I. Motion: Adoption of agenda *

II. Motion: Approval of minutes (June 15, 2020)

III. Motion: Ratify new members: none

MOTION: Beckham moved to accept the Consent Agenda; Lemaux seconded. All were in favor and the **motion passed**.

C. Discussion agenda

Jim Lemaux presented the Covid Task Force Update; Reopening TOL to in-person worship services continues to be on hold. With volunteer help the sanctuary has been made ready to go whenever that decision is made. Fischer asked if our original Task Force recommendations still hold, as the deciding factor to reopen was "less than 40 new cases daily in Montgomery County". Lemaux answered that currently we are seeing the unfavorable trend upwards of 200-300 new cases daily. Lemaux and Pastor Chris talk several times a week and have launched a Covid-19 stats report appearing Monday, Wednesday and Fridays on our Youtube channel (treechurch). Analyzing uneven statistical reporting has been very challenging. Pastor Chris suggested that when school districts feel safe to return to in-student classes, we may feel more confident about reopening. Zimmer congratulated Jim Lemaux and Pastor Chris for their extensive and fine work.

D. Financial reports

It is with shock and sadness that TOL acknowledged the recent death of Jim Voelz, Council Treasurer and our brother in Christ. In Jim's absence, Zimmer reviewed the monthly statements for June, 2020. With streaming worship service expenses being relatively inexpensive and other normal expenses being down during the Covid-19 quarantine, we are running pretty well. Revenue from pledged and non-pledged funds have dropped off somewhat, consistent with the usual summer trends. TOL was granted a federal PPP loan to help cover

expenses through the end of July (\$40,000). As the loan was a federal emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is assumed that it will not have to be repaid.

All the members of TOL Staff, Pastor Chris, John Burkwall, Bunny Stoutes and Jill Waldrop, as well as worship volunteers, Susan Rinehart, Katherine Lake, Madie Lake, Ben Lake, Ainsley Lake, Jeremie Brown, Shantell Brown, Brooklyn Stoutes and Courtney Stoutes deserve our gratitude and admiration for their hard work and dedication to providing the weekly streamed worship service. Lemaux gave special kudos to all the younger family members who have stepped up; Pastor Chris reported that the younger volunteers made the hard work more fun.

Lemaux and Beckham will review pledged offering and actual giving in August. Schaper asked about attendance trends during the summer. Zimmer suggested that worship has been pretty consistent with our normal summer attendance. Stoutes reported that youth attendance was somewhat reduced. Weekly ZOOM group connections are being reorganized, focusing more on interest areas rather than age groups. Rally Day ZOOM gatherings are planned for Sunday, August 30 following church service at 10:30 AM.

In the absence of Jim Voelz, financial duties and reports are being handled through Ted Dinklage and TOL staff. Pastor Chris is helping to find a suitable person to fill the role of Council Treasurer.

MOTION: Schaper moved to accept the treasury report; Fischer seconded. All were in favor and the **motion passed**.

E. Pastoral report

With the death of Jim Voelz the previous day, July 19, Pastor Chris reported plans to have a ZOOM meeting with the family to discuss the (streamed) funeral service at TOL. As a retired Colonel, Jim will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date. Pastor Chris has been invited to attend.

Baptism for two grandchildren of the Canton's was held on a Sunday afternoon in a streamed service. Deb Zimmer's knee replacement surgery went well. The Mutual Ministry Committee/Coaching Team is scheduled to meet this Wednesday.

F. Old Business

Pastor Chris and Zimmer have finished the review of the Employee Policy Manual and will present it to Council soon.

Solberg was happy to report that the commissioned engraving of several stones for the Memorial Walk/Prayer Path is scheduled for this Thursday, weather permitting.

G. New Business.

David Fischer reported that this is his last Council meeting, as he and his wife Linda are moving to Kentucky to take care of family. The Fischers look forward to a continuing relationship between their ministry, TKE (The King's Embrace in Kenya) and TOL. The TKE boys are doing well in spite of the Covid pandemic and have added three new boys

to their group. Zimmer thanked Fischer for his work on the Council and added that he and Linda have been a blessing to TOL.. **ACTION:** Fischer will send a letter to President Zimmer to formally resign from Council.

H. Zimmer adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM and Pastor Chris led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Rust
Council Secretary

NOTES: **2020 Congreg. Mtg.:** Jack Zimmer President (second 2 yr. term), Kevin Solberg VP, Jim Voelz, Treasurer, Susie Rust, Secretary, Heidi Beckham, Financial Secretary, Larry Klotz, George Timmons, Richard Schaper; and elected for 3yr. term in 2020: Jim Lemaux, David Fischer, Tom Gros.**2018:** Jack Zimmer. President 2yr. term, Jim Voelz (Treasurer), Linda Baumgartner (Sec 2018), Kirk Helberg, George Timmons, Heidi Beckham (Financial Secretary); elected for 3 yr. terms: Susie Rust (Secretary 2019), Richard Schaper, Kevin Solberg, Larry Klotz (VP). **2017:** Jim Voelz (Trea), Linda Baumgartner (Sec.), Kirk Helberg, George Timmins, Jack Zimmer (3Yr. terms) **2015** - Heidi Beckham, Elected 2014 - Jim Voelz. (2nd term),