

Members Present: President Jack Zimmer, Treasurer Jim Voelz, Financial Secretary Heidi Beckham, Secretary Susie Rust, Linda Baumgartner, Kirk Helberg, Richard Schaper, Kevin Solberg, George Timmins, Pastor Chris Lake

Members Absent: Vice-President Larry Klotz, Annie Lindemann

Visitors: Dr. Lizbeth Johnson, Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest

A. The meeting was called to order by President Jack Zimmer at 6:36 pm and Pastor Chris Lake opened with prayer.

B. Consent agenda

I. Motion: Adoption of agenda

II. Motion: Approval of Minutes (February 23, 2019).

III. Motion: Ratify new members: none

Pastor Chris Lake moved to accept the consent agenda. Kevin Solberg seconded. All were in favor and the **MOTION PASSED**.

C. Discussion Agenda

I. Dr. Lizbeth Johnson from the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest presented a program explaining the process for establishing and managing church endowments and long-term financial planning through the LFS. The foundation is 40 years old and has partnered this year with the ELCA, whose constitution model encourages endowment funds. Accounts are opened with \$25,000 and churches' funds are pooled for investment. This is an additional revenue stream for the individual church with the goal of investing in future church growth. LFS helps churches with legacy gifts (no charge, no commission, no obligation) and long term planning goals. Dr. Johnson presented several examples of legacy gifts, including Testamentary Unitrust. She suggested beginning with Legacy Gifts as a first step, perhaps an informational meeting in fall, as part of our Stewardship program. Seed money for an endowment could also include memorial monies in a checking account. As funds accrue to \$25,000, we set up an endowment account. Some churches tithe to their endowment.

Council discussion included appreciation for Dr. Johnson's presentation and positive interest in setting up a committee for further investigation. Treasurer Jim Voelz suggested that our monies would earn greater return using this option. Pastor Chris Lake moved to create an exploratory committee into an endowment fund through LFS. George Timmons seconded. All were in favor and the **MOTION PASSED**. The committee will include Treasurer Jim Voeltz, Vice-President Larry Klotz, Richard Schaper, Ted Dinklage, and George Timmins.

D. Financial report

Treasurer Jim Voelz reviewed the February and March monthly statements, in which giving was somewhat lower than usual. In February we were \$3000 short of budgeted

income and we borrowed \$5000 from our Seeds account. We will repay our Seeds account with \$23,000 when we receive our garage sale proceeds in April. Pastor Chris Lake moved to accept the financial report; Richard Schaper seconded. All were in favor and the **MOTION PASSED**. Our mortgage rate will increase this year, adding a possible \$5000 to our annual payment. Pastor Chris Lake suggested we might be able to reduce the rate raise by ½%. He will make a call.

E. Pastoral report

I. Congregational Update: We have guests who are continuing to attend, but not ready to join. Brent Kovar is in the hospital. Vice President Larry Klotz and Pastor Chris are working on bricks' engraving. TOL garage sale is going well. Carrie is officially our intern. Pastor Chris is planning a trip to Iowa to find out the process of supervising as an internship church.

II. New Storage Container Update: it is in and the base leveled out. We'll get rid of the old storage shed and replace with the new storage unit donated by the Chaffees. Pastor Chris will send a letter signed by himself and President Jack Zimmer to thank them. A bulletin announcement will include that our new container has been generously donated by a family.

Also, money has been donated for a tree removal.

F. Old Business

I. President Jack Zimmer and Pastor Chris report that the Employee Policy Manual is nearly done and can be reviewed next month. Staff reviews will follow.

II. Kevin Solberg gave a Memorial Walk/Prayer Path update. Bishop Mike Rinehart has sent his engraving template to the company and other pastors' will follow that lead.

III. President Jack Zimmer presented a one sheet summary of our Planning Session Review and Strategic Plan from our Council Retreat. Follow-up discussion included continuing plans for high school involvement and participation. Pastor Chris reported that Youth Director Bunny Stoutes has intentional strategy though a slow build is to be expected. We had good success at the Youth Mystery Dinner and two of our youth have preached at Sunday services (Jillian Helberg and Madie Lake). We have high school staff at Lutherhill and some of our college age kids are attending Lutheran colleges (Annika Johnson and Caleb Robinson).

Our long-range Plan summary sheet has names attached to strategies, and we are encouraged to implement our plans.

G. New Business

I. Chuck Will is retiring as Building Team Chairman. We are appreciative of all his faithful work these last years. Larry Finke has accepted appointment as the new Chairman.

II. Our next congregational meeting is Sunday, June 2. Possible agenda items included: Financial Review, Strategic Plan and Team Updates, Endowment introduction, TOL team chairs survey report from Deb Zimmer, Linda Baumgartner, George Timmins.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Rust, Secretary

NOTES: Congregational January 2019 Meeting: Susie Rust confirmed as Secretary (replacing Linda Baumgartner); Congregational Meeting 2018: Jack Zimmer. President 2 yr. term, Jim Voelz(Treasurer), Linda Baumgartner(Secretary), Kirk Helberg, George Timmins, Heidi Beckham (Financial Secretary); elected for 3 yr. terms: Susie Rust, Annie Lindemann, Richard Schaper, Kevin Solberg, Larry Klotz (VP). Congreg.Mtg 2017: Jim Voelz (Trea), Linda Baumgartner (Sec.), Kirk Helberg, George Timmins, Jack Zimmer (3Yr. terms), Dennis McConnell President (term expires in 2017). 2016 Congreg. Mtg.: Susan Blough (Sec.) Elected 2015 - Heidi Beckham, Matt Hannes (2nd term), Chuck Will, Lawrence Zuelke, Elected 2014 - Linda Baumgartner, Alicia Macha (resigned position January, 2015), Jim Voelz. (2nd term), John Nye. (2nd term), Julie Weeks. (2nd term)