

Tree of Life Council Minutes

July 22, 2019

Members Present: President Jack Zimmer, Vice-President Larry Klotz, Treasurer Jim Voelz, Secretary Susie Rust, Linda Baumgartner, Kirk Helberg, Annie Lindemann, Richard Schaper, Kevin Solberg, Pastor Chris Lake

Members Absent: Financial Secretary Heidi Beckham, George Timmins

A. The meeting was called to order by President Jack Zimmer at 6:32 pm and Pastor Chris Lake opened with prayer.

B. Consent Agenda

I. Motion: Adoption of agenda

II. Motion: Approval of Council minutes (May 13, 2019)

III. Motion: Ratify new members:

Pastor Chris Lake moved to accept the Consent Agenda; Linda Baumgartner seconded. All were in favor and the **motion passed**.

C. Financial Reports

I. Treasurer Jim Voelz reviewed the monthly statements (May and June). Our finances look good. The line item "other revenue" is still behind last year, due to fewer occasions of building use fees. President Jack Zimmer asked why this might be; Treasurer Jim Voelz will look into this. The staff is diligent to keep within their budgets and is making up for this reduced revenue. We have repaid \$5000 to the Seeds Fund. The Endowment Fund has been set up.

II. Kevin Solberg asked a question about the youth garage sale funds: if we make more than the Youth Program needs, does it carry over to next year's Youth Funding. The answer is that any extra funds go into the General Fund. The reasoning is that if the garage sale monies did not meet their goal, the TOL General Fund would pick up the slack to ensure all who applied could still go to camp/mission trip.

Vice-President Larry Klotz moved to accept the Financial Report; Annie Lindemann seconded. All were in favor and the **motion passed**.

D. Pastoral Report

I. Pastor Chris Lake shared a congregational update over the last 8 weeks. We averaged 117 participants at VBS, with lots of visitors. Special kudos to Bunny as Director, Brenna Chaffee working with special needs kids, and all the volunteers. Ellie Petersen did a great job on the sermon this past Sunday; Parker Fry would like to preach at a future service. The youth-led service on July 21 was done well and well-received. We are proud to be a teaching congregation.

II. Pastor Chris ministered to the Loftin family, Rene (wife), Sara (daughter), and Scott (son), as they lost their husband and dad, Curt Loftin. He died suddenly this month during the week his son Scott was at Camp Lutherhill. Pastor Chris ministered to Rene and Sara here in town and continuing, had to deliver this sad news to Scott at camp. The announcement made to campmates was devastating as well, but a fellow

campmate, Sloan Zuelke, was especially helpful to minister to Scott. A funeral for Curt Loftin was held at Tree of Life.

III. Joan Bliese is in hospice and being kept comfortable.

IV. Intern Carrie Petersen will be commissioned as Vicar on Sunday, July 28. A person who has volunteered to donate money for a special project is interested in supporting Carrie's continuing internship here. The Melissa Scholarship Fund is an appropriate place for the monies to be directed.

V. Youth Director Bunny Stoutes is going forward with a candidacy process, looking for acceptance at either Wartburg or Luther Seminary. The process lasts 5-6 years, and Bunny plans to remain here during her training.

VI. Bishop Mike Rinehart and Pastor Chris Lake are going to visit the mission "The King's Embrace" in Kenya August 26-September 2.

E. Old Business

I. President Jack Zimmer shared an update on the **Employee Policy Manual**. Review included 2 half-day sessions with Richard Schaper, Pastor Chris, and the entire staff. President Jack Zimmer gathered and reviewed how other church manuals were organized; and submitted the first complete draft for TOL. Amanda Dillon worked with staff to produce the next edited draft that was reviewed and revised last month. The committee is 95% done, lacking only a few more documents.

II. Vice-President Larry Klotz reported on the **Memorial Walk/Prayer Path**. He has taken 5 names over to the Stone Creations and they render computer images of the engravings to review. When approved, they will engrave the stones. There is a delay of 10 days due to summer vacations. We eagerly anticipate the finished stones and the TOL informational brochures to come.

III. Information and promotion of the **TOL Endowment Fund** will begin this fall, in coordination with our Stewardship Program. Dr. Lizbeth Johnson from Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest (LFS) will do a Temple Talk at Sunday services, October 6, along with a presentation during Sunday School.

IV. Treasurer Jim Voelz reported that TOL is still in negotiations surrounding the **increased mortgage rate**.

V. Treasurer Jim Voelz will revisit information to be published about financial/IRA considerations for members over 70 years of age.

F. New Business

I. Richard Schaper reported on the **air conditioning situation**. . A summer inspection revealed that we have a bad unit for heating/cooling the hallway and foyer in the Fellowship Hall and it is leaking. An AC unit over the music room was repaired for \$921. A unit on the left side of the sanctuary was repaired.

During VBS there was a leak in the kitchen part of the Fellowship Hall. Six bids were requested for repair or replacement of the faulty unit. Three bids came in from the companies of Luxury Air, Air Specialist, and Scogin-Aire. The recommendation is to accept the bid from Luxury Air for a new "Comfort Maker" (builder's grade) Carrier unit, for \$7190. This is a 5 ton, 14 Seer Unit with the appropriate warranty. The Council was in agreement. Richard Schaper so moved and Vice-President Larry Klotz seconded. President Jack Zimmer suggested that we ask the congregation to help with the costs

through an Adopt-a-Project program this fall and moved to **amend the motion** on the floor. Kevin Solberg seconded. All were in favor and the **motion passed**.

ACTION ITEM: arrange for new AC unit in the Fellowship Hall in time for Sunday School in September. Discussion followed on additional projects that could be put on the list: replacement lightbulbs in the sanctuary and outside, and the narthex carpet.

ACTION ITEM: investigate cost of replacement carpet squares in the narthex.

II. The Council decided on September 15 for our next Congregational meeting. Agenda items may include: a big picture look at the 2020 budget, the Stewardship campaign, the Adopt-a-Project campaign for the new AC unit and announcement of the Nomination Process.

III. The Nomination Committee for 2020 Elections is chaired by Vice-President Larry Klotz and includes President Jack Zimmer and Pastor Chris Lake.

IV. In general conversation, Vice-President Larry Klotz suggested a couple of items: we needed tops for our coffee cups and voiced an objection to pita bread crumbs left in the communion chalice during communion. Pastor Chris and the Worship Team will address these issues.

G. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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)