

# Tree of Life Lutheran Church

## Council Minutes

February 21, 2018

Members present – President – Jack Zimmer, Vice President – Jack Zimmer, Secretary – Linda Baumgartner, Pastor Chris Lake, Susie Rust, Richard Schaper, Larry Klotz, Annie Lindeman, Kevin Solberg, Kirk Helberg

Members not present – Jim Voelz, Heidi Beckham,

Guests –Bunny Stouts, TOL office manager, Emily Work, youth director

Meeting was called to order by President Jack Zimmer at 7:47

- A. The meeting began with an opening prayer by Pastor Chris
- B. Consent Agenda
  1. Motion - Adopt tonight's agenda
  2. Acceptance of new members – Cindy and George McNenney and Jill Waltrip
  3. Annie Lindeman moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. Susie seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.
- C. Discussion agenda
  1. Old Business
    - a. Review of agenda for Council retreat. Jack explained Leadership Development. Jack met with Pastor and Dennis McConnell to discuss creating a “bench” for upcoming leadership rolls. More will be shared at the retreat. Second half of retreat will be March's council meeting.
    - b. Congregational meeting recap -  
January's meeting was a presentation of the new budget. Jack asked for input from old and current council members. Richard suggested that advance information be sent out sooner. Pastor Chris explained that January meeting forces a crunch time for the staff to get reports out and complete the budget. Susie asked if meeting can be moved to March. The constitution states January for the congregational meeting. The 2018 meeting will be moved to January 27. Bunny asked that the reports from groups be given to her before Christmas, if they do not include budget numbers.
    - c. Richard suggested inquiring about others who may be interested in running for church council. Jack said that he, as president is the chair of the nominating committee, will make an announcement to inquire if there congregation members who want to participate in council.

## New Business

- a. Consent agenda will be continued to be used. Meeting will be 90 minutes in length. Jack will attempt to keep folks on the agenda. Jack will use Robert's Rules of Order. He asked a member to begin a discussion with a motion. If there is a second, we will move on with the topic. If not, we are moving on to the next item. Pastor asked if we vote on things that don't have action items. For example the minutes, do we need to approve the minutes. Jack's answer is yes. However, with the financial reports, we vote to receive the financial reports and not to approve them. Jack asked for suggestions to help meetings move along. Kevin asked if council would benefit by having a "sergeant of arms" to help with keeping things running along. Pastor Chris asked if council meeting could be done by Zoom. Susie Rust asked if we could continue to meet in person so the council gets to know each other before going to Zoom. Council will try Zoom out during the summer. Pastor will give an orientation to Zoom during the council retreat in March.
- b. Memorial Stones Proposal – Pastor asked Larry Klotz to check with someone regarding cost for the stones. We should have the number by the end of February. A prayer path is envisioned around the cemetery in the front of the church. Stones could be dedicated in memory of someone or as a memory for work that someone has done or in memorial of an event. Carrie had suggested a idea that the path be extended beyond trees to include a pet cemetery for ashes. Possibility of building a columbarium. The Memorial Stone Prayer Path will be a fund raising campaign. Luther Hill has a model to use for the bricks. Dr. Jorgenson is going to help with the funding in honor of his parents. **Jack suggested beginning the preconstruction of the path by having a discussion with.....(did you say, the congregation)?**. Annie asked if the bricks will be constantly available. Pastor envisioned the bricks going in as a complete path and when someone wants to purchase one, the bricks be removed.
- c. Emily moved (**Can Emily make a motion? She is not a member of council. Perhaps, I should use him**) that we used Seed money for advance payment of camp in the amount of \$15,130 which will reduce the cost of camp to \$450.00 rather than \$500.00 per child. Annie Lindeman seconded. Last year we borrowed from Seeds to pay for camp and then it was paid back from the garage sale to be held in April. We are taking approximately 40 children to camp this year. The parents pay \$125.00 of the camp cost. The \$15,130 does not include sending children to the National Youth Gathering. Garage Sale is April 28 and May 5. Jack called the question. All were in favor. Motion passed.
- d. Selection and election of vice president. Roles of the VP – to fill in if the president is not able to attend. Unofficially, the vice president would pursue the strategic plan is kept in light. The VP does not need to be president when the president's term is completed. The VP would be elected to a three year term. Jack inquired if someone is interested or if there is a nomination. Jack stated that this is an opportunity to used skills and talents to serve God. Pastor would like to see folks involved in leadership who are committed to the vision of the

congregation. Kirk Helberg nominated Larry Klotz to be vice president. Richard Schaper seconded. All were in favor the motion passed. Jack thanked Larry for accepting the position. Jack shared that when a member of council has a desire to accept a position on council to talk to Pastor or him.

- e. Policy manual. Jack moved that we accept the latest rendition of the policy manual as the policy manual for Tree of Life. Pastor seconded the motion. He proposed that we go through the manual page by page. (How much of the discussion should I include) Review will continue on page 5 at the retreat.
- f. Pastor Report – Pastor shared the families that are in need of prayer. Care team has stepped up to help with calls. Carrie has a heavy load this semester and is not available to help out as much as she would like.

Having completed all the business. The meeting was declared to be over at 9:37.

Pastor Chris lead council in the saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Baumgartner, Secretary