

Tree of Life
Congregational Meeting
January 28, 2018

President Dennis McConnell called the meeting to order at 9:17.

A quorum was established.

Pastor Chris began the meeting with prayer.

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of meeting agenda
2. Approve minutes from January 22, 2017 council meeting
3. Recognize special congregational meeting, May 21, 2017, with no actionable items.
4. Approval of minutes from August 6, 2017, special congregational meeting.
5. Lisa Helberg moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. Maxine McConnell seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

B. Pastor Larry and Shirley Smith were recognized for two years dedicated service to Tree of Life.

C. Dennis McConnell was recognized for five years dedicated service to Tree of Life. Dennis thanked his wife, Maxine, for always being by his side.

D. Chuck Will and Lawrence Zuehlke were recognized for their service on council for the past three years.

E. Larry Klotz, Annie Lindemann, Susie Rust, Richard Schaper and Kevin Solberg were nominated for three year positions on council. Jack Zimmer moved that the nominations be accepted. Dick Mong seconded. With no other nominations made, the nominees were elected to council.

F. Jack Zimmer was nominated to serve a 2 year term as council president. Carolyn Authur moved that the nomination be accepted. Dick Mong seconded. With no other nominations, Jack Zimmer was elected to serve as president.

G. The Financial Report for 2017 with updates for 2017 Stewardship and Seeds for Growth was presented.

1. Members pledged \$440,000 to Seeds for Growth for a three year campaign from 2015-2017. Actual donations received were \$386,896.

Renovations - \$105,350

Debt Reduction - \$25,000

Tithe to selected causes - \$31,000

Loan to General Fund - \$110,220

Balance of \$115,237

Question – Melissa Chapman – Why not use the \$115,237 to pay down the mortgage?

Response – Dennis McConnell responded that he didn't want to write another letter to ask the members for additional contributions to pay for salaries of the staff if the offerings would not cover the monthly expenses. He recommended that the council decide how to allocate the monies. His suggestion would be to designate \$2,000 to \$4000 a month to mortgage reduction. Our loan is due for renewal and with sending additional monies we may get a more favorable rate of interest.

Question – Jim Rust – Why was \$31,000 given to charities and not the \$40,000 as was initial planned?

Response – Dennis McConnell responded that even though we received \$440,000 in pledges, we actually received \$386,896. We gave nearly 10% of that amount to causes.

Question - John Baumgartner – Can the categories under “Other” be designated?

Response – the categories are listed on page 24 of the Financial Report. The “Other” account is used as a pass through.

Question – Dick Mong – What is the amount of the mortgage?

Response - Ted Dinkledge - \$1,325,000.

2. Stewardship Campaign

Pledges increased from 57 to 78 in the campaign for 2018. Projected offerings and income for 2018 is \$523,000. Showing an increase of \$73,978. The pledged amount for 2018 includes a number of members who did not pledge in 2017, but gave regularly.

3. 2018 Budget

Projected offerings and income for 2018 are \$523,000. Proposed expenditures for 2018 are \$548,000. The projected short fall is \$25,000.

In the 2018 budget the staff receive a 5% increase for a staff total of \$261,000. The mortgage is \$95,000. \$48,000 to send the youth to camp and the National Youth Gathering and \$15,000 for Evangelism. Evangelism increased by \$10,000.

Sharon Chaney moved to approve the budget. Maxine McConnell seconded. All in favor. The motion passed

Jim Rust asked for the statistics of the average church attendance.

2015 – 154

2016 – 185

2017- 191

Jim Rust asked about how the Vision Team that was formed several years ago is going to be enacted upon moving forward. Jack Zimmer stated that the vision report is included in the Strategic Plan.

Dennis McConnell asked the congregation to pray for the new council president and the church council as they began their work.

Pastor Larry Smith shared his parting words with the congregation. He said that not all things are physical in the church. Paul said “Do not grow weary in well doing.” He encouraged the church to have broad vision over our work. After thanking the congregation for the privilege to work at Tree of Life, he offered a pray for the church and it’s people.

Pastor Chris shared that helping others was what led as to offering shelter to families during Hurricane Harvey. Pastor shared the church’s experience with providing a shelter, mucking and gutting with when he testified at a state board seeking feedback on the hurricane efforts.

With no further business, Jim Voelz moved the meeting be closed. Larry Klotz seconded. All in the favor. The motion passed. Pastor Chris closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully,

Linda Baumgartner

Council Secretary