

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

May 10, 2017

Members present – President - Dennis McConnell, Treasurer – Jim Voelz, Financial Secretary – Heidi Beckham, Secretary – Linda Baumgartner, and council members at large -Lawrence Zuehlke Chuck Will, and Kirk Helberg.

Members absent – Vice President – Jack Zimmer

Guests – Staff members - Bunny Stoutes, office manager, Ryan Dockery, intern, sitting in for Pastor Chris while he is on sabbatical, Pastor Larry Smith, Carrie Peterson, intern, John Baumgartner, Building Team co-team leader

Meeting was called to order by President Dennis McConnell at 7:32

A. The meeting began with an opening prayer by Ryan Dockery.

B Consent Agenda

1. Motion - Adopt tonight's agenda
2. Motion – Approve minutes from April 12, 2017 council meeting
3. Motion - Ratify new members – Sandy McCarthy and Margaret Chomin

George Timmins motioned that the Consent Agenda be approved. Chuck Will seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

C. Discussion agenda

1.Old Business – none

2.New Business

- i. Pastor Larry Smith shared his research on housing allowance for pastors. He also had a realtor evaluate fair market value if he were going to rent his home. Jim Voelz also read the law regarding housing allowance for pastors. Up to 33% of a pastor's salary can be designated as housing allowance. (This motion was revised at a council meeting Sunday, May 21,2017)
- ii. Jim Voelz moved that Tree of Life afford housing allowance for Pastor Larry in the amount of 33% or less beginning May of 2017. Heidi Beckham seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- iii. John Baumgartner shared his research on the insurance for the roof. We have an estimate for replacement for \$83.700 from a local roofing company. Our insurance is for replacement cost. The insurance

inspector did a check May 4 and confirmed that there were signs of hail damage and a few leaks. The inspector is preparing a report which will be sent to the insurance office which will evaluate the claim and determine the actual replacement cost. Then TOL will be notified. Council will inform the congregation at the May 21, 2017 congregational meeting.

- iv. Ryan Dockery received a letter from Anika Johnson requesting a scholarship from Tree of Life. Due to the financial shortfall, a scholarship is not able to be offered during the 2017. George Timmins moved and Heidi Beckham seconded that a scholarship committee be formed to establish procedure and qualifications for 2018. All were in favor. Motion passed. Emily Work will be asked by Ryan to set up a scholarship committee and lead the work necessary to begin the fund. Ryan will also share the council's plans with Anika and thank her for "planting the seed".
- v. Dennis reported that Jack and Deb Zimmer have been asked to be the representatives to the synod assembly in 2018. They are interested in attending. George Timmins moved and Lawrence Zuelhke seconded that the Zimmers be appointed representatives from TOL to synod assembly in 2018. All were in favor. Motion passed.
- vi. Ryan Dockery stated that the carpets are due to be cleaned throughout the church. Bob Peterson, the custodian, has paid for this service in the past. He can no longer offer his gift. The company that Bob called charges us \$750.00 per cleaning which was four times a year. After discussion, council has asked the building committee to spot clean after the garage sale and schedule a thorough cleaning after VBS.
- vii. Chuck Will, Building Team co-chair asked that team leaders be notified when big ticket items are being assigned a line item from the respective team's budget.
- viii. Treasurer, Jim Voelz, presented the financial reports. Pledges are running at 102%. Non-pledged offerings are at 83%. In general, income is running at 94%.

\$2,000 needed to be borrowed from Seeds in April to meet our obligations.

\$8,800 that was borrowed from the Seeds account to enable the families to take advantage of the Early Bird Camp Registration Fee amount was repaid on May 11, 2017.

George Timmins moved and Kirk Helberg seconded that the financial reports be accepted as presented. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- ix. Council reviewed the slides for the congregational meeting.

18 new pledges have been made for the 2017 campaign. These could be from new members or members that did not pledge during 2016 but did pledge during 2017.

23 pledges were not renewed for 2017. This does not include families who have moved or passed away.

Currently, we are running 95% of the budget on expenses.

Regarding the Seeds account –

The actual amount pledged was \$423,000, not \$440.00.

13 of the pledges were forgiven due to moving or death.

The actual amount after the forgiveness is \$409,383.

17% of pledges are less than 50% at this time.

21/63 pledges have made no donation so far during 2017.

16 pledges have been completed. It is not sure, at this time, if that number has been factored into the 21/63.

50% of the pledges have been completed, or ahead or on schedule to be completed with 75% of their three year pledge completed.

Having completed all the business. The meeting was declared to be over at 9:32. Ryan Dockery lead council in the saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Baumgartner, Secretary