

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

March 8, 2017

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

Members absent – Member at large – George Timmins

Guests – Staff members - Bunny Stoutes, office manager, Ryan Dockery, youth director and Deb Zimmer, Welcome Team leader.

Meeting was called to order by President Dennis McConnell at 7:45

- A. The meeting began with an opening prayer by Pastor Chris.

- B. Consent Agenda – motion to approve all items was made by Jack Zimmer and seconded by Lawrence Zuehlke.
 1. Adopt tonight's agenda
 2. Ratify new members – John and Sharon Hardy and Wade Timmins

- C. Discussion Agenda
 1. Old Business – none
 2. New Business –
 - a. Deb Zimmer, Welcome Team leader shared with council the importance of new members to have and wear a name badge. She also stated that the Welcome team believe its best that the new members are not asked to pay for their badges. A motion was made by Kirk Helburg and seconded by Heidi Beckham to enable the Welcome Team to present new members with name badges and have them funded by Tree of Life's current members. All were in favor; the motion passed. A discussion followed on how to accomplish that goal. A motion was made by Kirk Helburg and seconded by Lawrence Zuehlke that we have a noisy offering in to pay for badges. All were in favor; the motion passed. Jack Zimmer announced that he and Deb will contribute the first \$500.00 toward the purchase. Welcome Team members will make decision regarding type of badge and when the noisy offering will take place.

- b. Currently we have two members count the offering after the late service. It has been strongly recommended by a member that we have three members present. Jim Voelz will draft an announcement to the counters for a training session on March 19 after the late service. Heidi Beckham will speak to the group about the new plan and then Jim Voelz will establish a schedule for the counters.
- c. Transitioning from Vanco to Vanco/Realm – Heidi will meet with Bunny to share how the process of transitioning works. Those members who are already registered with Vanco will need to reregister with Vanco/Realm.

Some of the advantages of Vanco/Realm are: text giving and all costs such as camp and VBS t-shirts can be paid online. Kirk Helberg offered to sponsor a wine tasting for all online givers. A date will be determined. Heidi discerned that the majority of those members who use Vanco are unpledged.

3. Financial Reports

- a. A separate checking account has been established for Tree of Life's sabbatical fund for Pastor Chris. Pastor Chris has a separate credit card to use for purchases. He will return all receipts in a timely manner. The signers of the checks are Linda Baumgartner, grant administrator and either Jim Voelz or Dennis McConnell.
- b. Contributions – Currently, the contributions are at 83% of budget with a shortfall of 17%. The pledges are at 99% and the unpledged are at 68% with a 32% shortfall.
- c. Expenditures - Currently, expenditures are at 94% of budget.
- d. Projectors – Pastor Chris shared that several members have made inquiries regarding the purchasing of the projectors for the classrooms. Jeramie Brown paid for them in honor of his grandfather, who passed away. Ten projectors were purchased at a cost of \$100.00 each for a total of \$1,000.
- e. Ryan Dockery reported that \$820.00 will be borrowed from Seeds to pay for camp. We will be able to pay for early camp registrations and save the parents from paying the full amount. The money will be immediately refunded to Seeds after the garage sale on May 6.
- f. Contributions from Seeds will be made to Water to Thrive in the amount of \$5,000 and payment on the mortgage principle for \$2,500.

- g. Bunny Stoutes reported that the cost of trash removal has be cut in half due to the completion of construction which required two trash receptacles.
4. Pastor's Report –
- a. Carolyn McAuthor's husband is doing better. Barb Nelson is doing well in skilled nursing. Bonnie Marrero is also in skilled nursing care.
 - b. Services were held for the son-in-law of Dennis and Maxine McConnell.
 - c. The sermon has been posted live on Facebook for the past several weeks. It has received up to 1,000 hits and the listeners are able to give immediate feedback. An invitation to give financially to the Facebook ministry by texting through Ranco/Realm will be posted.
 - d. The possibility of a third service is being discussed. If this comes about, it will be Wednesday evenings and led by Ryan and Carrie while Pastor is on sabbatical.
5. Having completed the agenda items at 9:15, the meeting was adjourned and all members recited the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Baumgartner, secretary