

# Tree of Life Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2024, Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Kevin Solberg, Sandy McCarthy, Jim Lemaux, Deb Zimmer, Heidi Beckham, Jenny Jenkins, Ronnie Whitman, Mark Templet, Russ Larson, Chris Lake. Staff: Jill Waldrop, Diana Frederick, John Burkwall, Ikeria Green

Guests: Bernadette McCracken, Ed Ross, Richard Walker

Absent: None

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM
- B. PC opened with prayer.
- C. Consent of agenda and minutes
  1. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Deb Zimmer, seconded by Russ Larson. Motion passed.
  2. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jim Lemaux, seconded by Sandy McCarthy. Motion passed.
- D. Guests attending:
  1. Ed Ross, Council President of Lake Livingston Church & Richard Walker, a member since 2005 talked about the Lake Livingston Church. It started in 1989 with the building being built in 2003. It suffered during COVID. There has been a pastor vacancy since March with membership only at about 20 many of which attend every Sunday. Pastor is interested in helping them be successful.
  2. Bernadette led the audit team which also consisted of Rick Grabowski and Jim Rust and provided detailed summation of their findings to the council. The last audit was 2019 so took longer. Now it will be done yearly so should be easier. Bernadette said that Jill was a great help. The audit conclusion showed the following:
    - i. That we need more diverse signatures so will now use the option of all of the officers only.
    - ii. The ACH Positive pay for EFT payments will be set up only for the general fund for \$50/month.
    - iii. They suggested a turning over of church documents and filing to be kept in the office once a month. Pastor said they have started digitizing all the documents.
    - iv. A motion to accept the audit with these additions/changes was made by Kevin Solberg and seconded by Russ Larson. Motion passed.
- E. Financial report
  1. Jim mentioned the balance of a few dedicated funds:
    - i. Kings Embrace balance \$3,786
    - ii. Disaster relief balance \$1,874
  2. Cash on hand is \$21,000
  3. Endowment fund balance is \$60,103
  4. Four of the ministries are not currently being used so Jim would like these moved to the general fund.
    - i. Adopt a Soldier
    - ii. Endowments
    - iii. Internship
    - iv. Seminary Scholarship

5. A motion to discontinue the above four funds mentioned above and move the monies to the general fund was made by Kevin Solberg and seconded by PC. Motion passed.
6. The King's Embrace Ministry has been a bit of a problem because some coming in is for Pastor's need to support them and the other for the ministry itself so there is a need to divide.
7. A motion was made to set up two funds: 1. Funds for travel and PC's need to support The King's Embrace, 2. Funds directly to support The King's Embrace. Jenny Jenkins made the motion. Ronnie seconded the motion. The motion passed.
8. Pledged amount for September was \$16,854, non-pledged amount was \$11, 503
9. Total Revenue for September was \$32,907.71
10. September expenses were \$44,913 with a deficit of a little over \$12,005.
11. We now pay insurance quarterly of \$3,804
12. Motion was made to approve the financial report by Sandy McCarthy and seconded by Deb Zimmer. Motion passed.
13. Next years budget will be started soon from pledges. Jim will meet with Kevin, Pastor, and anyone else that would like to be included before the next meeting.
14. Jenny reported that Stewardship is going well with her goal of receiving 75% of the goal amount by now was just about there. She said that next year the church will be sending out quarterly statements to help the members be aware of where they stand at those times.

#### F. Pastoral report

1. Pastor mentioned that he wants to go to Kenya late January or early February of next year.
2. He said that Bogart is now on the worship team at our church.
3. He reported that Bibles in the church had been found with antisemitism written in them. These have now been removed.

#### G. Old business

1. Bogart may help with Livingston Church but wanted to get him into the pulpit here first.
2. Paideia update is that all the signs are now down. The money that they owe is still in arrears of \$7000. They still have a lot of items in the church, so it was suggested that a letter be sent to them to let them know that and that they only have so many days to get the stuff back or it is ours. Jim said to address it to Dr. Ted Segó.
3. King's Embrace update – the teacher there is disappointed that the vote to have 3<sup>rd</sup> grade start failed.
4. Building Usage and Rental Policy – Deb said that she and Jill have been working on that policy along with Wedding and Funeral Policies. They will be emailed out to the council this month for approval at the next meeting.
5. Financial audit and Lake Livingston Church have already been discussed.

#### H. New business

1. Trunk or Treat update – Diana said that they have lots of volunteers with 9 trunks and a new banner.
2. New Members – none this month but planning to schedule a New Member Class this next month.
3. Sabbatical – Pastor would like to have another sabbatical (3 months) next summer. It has been eight years since his last one. Plans are shown below. He agreed to line up a preaching schedule and family has offered to provide some financial coverage. Jim asked to have this tabled until a proposal is put together.
  - i. To spend time at the families property in New Mexico to help the people around there.
  - ii. To spend a month in Kenya.

4. Insurance – background checks are needed. Russ said that the insurance group has a lot of good stuff for us to do. Some upgrades need a check for completion. Pastor said they have done the background checks of the staff. Now all volunteers involved with youth will need to be given background checks. It's \$11/person.
  5. No Adopt a Project
- I. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 with The Lord's Prayer led by PC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Zimmer, Secretary