

Tree of Life Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 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

Absent: None

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM
- B. PC opened with prayer.
- C. Consent of agenda and minutes
 1. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Jim Lemaux, seconded by Ronnie Whitman. Motion passed.
 2. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mark Templet, seconded by Russ Larson. Motion passed.
- D. October Financial Report
 1. Pledge Campaign 2025 came in with \$19,656 more and non-pledged came in at \$17,222 more so total of \$36,878
 2. Oct income was \$44,144
 3. Borrowed \$5000 from SEEDS so total income was \$49,144
 4. Oct expenses were \$41,686 so net surplus of \$7,458
 5. Dedicated funds had no major changes
 - i. Split The King's Embrace to following
 1. The amount to send directly to The King's Embrace
 2. The amount to support the internal ministry
 - ii. Closed four ministries to put in general fund
 1. Adopt a soldier
 2. The King's Embrace to be sent directly
 3. Endowment balance
 4. Internship balance
 6. The Endowment fund is being managed well. It went from \$52,852 to \$61,755
 7. Motion was made to approve the financial report by Ronnie Whitman and seconded by Kevin Solberg. Motion passed.
- E. 2025 Budget Process
 1. 2025 Pledged Offering came in at \$295,012 from 59 families
 2. 2025 Non-pledged Offering estimate is at \$117,085 from 69 families
 3. Revenue side of things are still to be determined
 4. 2024 pledged offerings amount received thus far didn't quite meet the desired amount of \$284,448 with latest projection being \$247,706
 5. 2024 non-pledged latest projection is \$119,560
 6. On the revenue side, building use fee is way behind budget, interest gained will be behind among other areas which causes for a lean year in 2025
 7. December 9th at 6:30 PM a group from the council will meet in Pastor's office to discuss
- F. Pastoral Report
 1. Welfare of the congregation
 - i. Gunter Liebel (87 years old) fell and broke his hip
 - ii. Sandy McCarthy had a knee replacement

- iii. Larry Finke had minor surgery
- 2. Planning trip to Kenya the end of the month with another pastor
 - i. To be there for 10 days
 - ii. Computer lab is great, 20 computers for 70 students
- 3. Things working on to improve things at our church
 - i. To save on cleaning bill will use two robots (Oscor & Ed) to mop and sweep
 - ii. Website has been redesigned and is on a new platform that is cheaper (thank you Jenny's sister)
 - iii. Bought a new Christmas tree for the front of church at a good price.
 - iv. Jill has been good at setting up communicating with the congregation (many would like to use the texting format vs email – need to sign up for this)
 - v. Working on digitizing documents
 - vi. Background checks showed one kickback but moving forward with this
 - vii. Bogart continues to work as deacon, preaching again the Sunday after Christmas so there will be no communion that Sunday
 - viii. Family Promise was a success

G. Old Business

1. Pledge Campaign info was covered earlier, but Pastor asked for one final push to get more to pledge. Jenny will bring it up a few more times to remind the congregation to check their giving in Realm. Jim questioned if people still need help using Realm. Kevin said that Jenny has done a great job with Stewardship Campaign.
2. Paideia update shows they still owe \$7,000 Pastor said that they are really struggling. They left behind a name tag maker that we might trade for some of the money they owe. For this shortfall, we are trying to get more groups to rent the building. There are some opportunities that have come up.
3. The King's Embrace already covered
4. Building Usage and Rental Policy update – Deb said Jill did a great job in finalizing the looks and content of not only the Building Use Policy, but also the Wedding and Funeral Policies. They have been simplified and given an updated fee schedule along with updated services now provided. Jill added that we have also removed the member and nonmember fees with a balance between the two since there is confusion with some whether to consider a member or not. A motion was made to approve these three policies (which had been sent to the council members a week ahead of time to review) by Mark Templet, seconded by Jenny Jenkins. Motion carried. * A vote will be taken next month for approval of a wedding being held at the church to be able to have beer and wine at their reception.
5. Lake Livingston Church is interested in using our services. They need clergy so pastor asked, "Do we want to be a two-campus church?" If we do want to expand, there would be a TOL church in Livingston. Therefore, this is not a merger, but a takeover. That would include taking over the property, but they would get pastoral leadership. A motion was made by Ronnie Whitman to take a better look at this, including the financials. Jenny Jenkins seconded the motion. Discussion was made to have Jim Lemaux, Ronnie Whitman, and maybe two others from the congregation to look at the takeover, not the merger. Motion passed.
6. Sabbatical Update – Pastor hasn't had time to plan. He is looking at this coming summer (after Easter) Pastor needs help figuring out (needs supply preachers, building breakdown backups, people for hospital visits, etc., person to be in charge overall) This will be tabled for now

7. Trunk or Treat Recap – Diana Frederick said that it was awesome and thanks all, especially Heidi Eisenach. There were 9 trunks and quite a few attending from the outside. She is looking forward to next year.

H. New Business

1. New church cleaning strategy was already discussed
2. New members for the month were the Nomad family (Bogart & Donna along with their son, Zak) were brought into membership on November 10th, and Dan Colby was brought into membership November 17th. A motion was made to accept these individuals by Ronnie Whitman and seconded by Jenny Jenkins. Motion carried.
3. Adopt a Project – none needed but Mark mentioned that Robert Thompson has been a great asset to the team.
4. Pastor and Staff were asked to leave for a private discussion among the council members.

- I. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Deb Zimmer, Secretary