

Tree of Life Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 16, 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, Ikeria Green, Diana Frederick

Absent: None

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

B. Kevin Solberg opened with prayer.

C. Consent of agenda and minutes

1. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mark Templet, seconded by Russ Larson. Motion passed.
2. Minutes correction was given before the motion was made to accept. In section F 4 it should read that the Financial Audit Group consists of Rick Grabowski, Bernadette McCracken, and Jim Rust. A motion was made, with that correction, to approve the minutes by Jim Lemaux, seconded by Heidi Beckham. Motion passed.

D. Financial report for May was given by Jim Lemaux

1. May Operating Funds – had gone from \$54, 837 to \$45,000 and now to \$30, 183
2. May Dedicated Funds - \$91,580
 - i. Disaster relief fund stood out with being over \$292. PC said that we should be able to get some grant money.
3. New Seeds had no change
4. May Expenses - \$36, 702
 - i. New Lawn Service
 - ii. Building electricity down due to cash flow
5. Total income for May was \$26, 087 so a shortfall of \$10,000
6. Jim looked into Realm to study all of the giving so far along with the pledged & unpledged amounts projected. He found the giving lower than expected this time of year for those who had pledged (64 families):
 - i. 5 families had met their goal
 - ii. 37 families were on target
 - iii. 8 families were close to reaching their target
 - iv. 5 families were at risk of meeting it and
 - v. 9 families were at a high risk of meeting their goal
7. Jim found the following for those who do not pledge (68):
 - i. 30 gave more than expected
 - ii. 6 lower than expected
 - iii. 10 haven't donated
 - iv. 22 have given a small donation
8. Jim will look into this again in August. Jenny will give a talk at the next two services about where we are financially and hopefully motivate people. If needed, a letter will be sent. We do have a fall back with seeds and endowment money if absolutely necessary.
9. Motion was made to accept the financial report by Keven Solberg, seconded by Mark Templet. Motion passed.

E. Pastoral report

1. PC is at Luther Hill Camp now with Ikeria and Diana. He said that the kids are having a great time and that the TOL kids are great!
2. There have been a lot of disasters and hurt lately. With Doug Stoutes passing away, PC is helping the family out, because a hard time, financially, with Bunny just now working on getting a church assignment and she is important to us because she is the third pastor to come out of TOL in the last 15 years. Many also helped to clean out the house.
3. The summer activities at the church have been well attended and many thanks to the staff who have done so much work to make this all happen.
4. PC will be heading to New Orleans in a couple of weeks for the National Youth gathering to serve as their tech guy for a week.
5. PC is planning a return trip to Kenya in late January.
6. Vacation time for staff is coming up but they have done the planning for the rest of the year.

F. Old Business

1. King's Embrace Update – still in the process of getting the well fixed.
2. Paideia update – have said that they want to stay, because they can't find anywhere else to go. They would decrease their days to two days a week for \$2000 a month. We will accept that offer. Jenny is putting together a building usage contract. Heidi said that the Conroe Symphony is looking for a place to practice.
3. Bogart Nomad – no update
4. Financial audit group met two weeks ago and will meet with Jill and Jim in August for final review then give a report to the council in September.

G. New Business

1. Insurance Policy & Liability Situation – Russ Larson is working on this with Jill. They chose someone that will help them find an insurance company for us. They were told that our insurance rate could double or triple. It is now about \$16,00 a year. Eric Bowers has sent an application that Jill can answer what she can, and PC will take it from there.
2. Gulf Coast Synod Assembly Update – Dennis McConnell turned in a written report of what went on. He said that there was nothing controversial. One bit of news is that Bishop Mike will step down from this position after this term.
3. New Members – Deb said that there are no new members but that a New Member Sunday is set for July 21st.
4. Adopt a Project – on hold
5. Anything else –
 - i. Rally Day is set for August 18th with a potluck breakfast. Deb said she would get the list for people to sign up on and Jill will put notices in the bulletin and newsletters.

H. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:01

Respectfully submitted
Deb Zimmer, Secretary