

# Tree of Life Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2024, Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: Ronnie Whitman

- 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 Russ Larson. Discussion led to an addition of adding membership adjustments under new business made by Jim Lemaux and seconded by Mark Templet. Motion passed. Approval of agenda then passed.
  2. A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Sandy McCarthy, seconded by Mark Templet. Motion passed.
- D. Financial reports for November with highlights given by Jim Lemaux
  1. Balance sheet showing the general fund checking being \$17, 955
  2. Mortgage at \$1,008,219 which is getting so close to the \$1,000,000 milestone
  3. Dedicated funds – nothing to comment on
  4. No borrowing from seeds this month
  5. Income was \$29,440.51
  6. Staff expenses \$17,419
  7. Building expenses as expected with being under budget since not being used as much now.
  8. Insurance going up in 2025
  9. Total expenses for November - \$38,813 with total for the year being \$546,729.00
  10. SEEDS now sits at \$164,493 with money borrowed and paid back with still maintaining \$159,493
  11. Motion was made to approve the financial report by Russ Larson and seconded by Deb Zimmer. Motion passed.
- E. 2025 budget
  1. Jim said that PC, Sandy McCarthy, Kevin Solberg, Deb Zimmer, and himself met a week earlier to work the budget to make it easier for this meeting.
  2. Jim highlighted ten items to discuss
    - i. Pledged offering came in at \$295,012 and non-pledged offering came in at \$117,085 with total of \$471,697
    - ii. Mortgage is consistent
    - iii. Reduction in computers and software
    - iv. Building costs down due to not being used as much
    - v. Cleaning staff down due to now having robots
    - vi. Grounds needs a new layer of mulch
    - vii. Church liability insurance going up

- viii. Benevolence cutting back to \$15,000 from \$30,000
  - ix. Youth ministry cut back to allow parents who can afford it to pay and church will find ways to help others
  - x. Synod convention increases in cost because PC must go since electing a new bishop along with two other people
3. Total budget comes to \$506,329 with a shortfall of \$34,632
  4. A motion was made to accept the proposed budget by Deb Zimmer and seconded by Sandy McCarthy. Further discussion led to the vote being tabled until next month.
    - i. PC brought up ideas to scale back and said that he would come back with a proposed budget on this for January's meeting
      1. Cut back on his education amount
      2. Gym membership for staff members to go away
      3. Make VBS, synod convention and playground be an adopt a project
      4. Find a way for the building use to bring in more money
    - ii. Motion to table the vote on the 2025 budget until January meeting was made by Sandy McCarthy and seconded by Jenny Jenkins. Motion carried.

#### F. Pastoral report

1. Ted Dinklage was in the hospital, but now back home
2. Dee Donnelson was in the hospital, but now back home
3. Christmas Eve Service is coming together
4. Youth service went very well.
5. Numbers for all of the Advent services have been good and the material, Sanctified Art, has worked out very well.
6. Heidi and husband, Don, are working on something for Christmas service
7. Kevin added that PC went above and beyond to take Gunter Liebel to the hospital

#### G. Old business

1. King's Embrace update – PC, Wayne Rambarran, Rich Obrosky, and pastor from Lord of Life will be going for two weeks in January
2. Building usage – council approval was given for Jakob and Erin, who are getting married at TOL in February, to have wine/champagne at their wedding reception
3. Lake Livingston Church update – Jim Lemaux, PC, and Ronnie met with their council leadership to go through their financial records. Jim said he was impressed with their bookkeeping. PC said two things need to happen
  - i. They need more members in worship
  - ii. An assistant pastor needs to be found (if one can be found, they would pay for that person's salary)
4. Sabbatical update – this is not happening in 2025, so tabled to be brought up next year for 2026. Jim Lemaux suggested that we look at getting a ministry team together to prepare for 2026

#### H. New business

1. We still need to be reminding people that it is important to mark their attendance either on attendance card in church or online

2. Deb said that there are no new members this past month but that the book shows that we have some members that have not been to a service or given money in two years so that our policy states that they should be dropped from membership. They include the following:
  - i. Gayle Merrell
  - ii. John DeWitt
  - iii. Kim King
  - iv. Pasechnick family
  - v. Josh Rogers
  - vi. Swatzel family (requested to end membership)
3. Adopt a Project will be discussed in January
4. Staff was asked to leave
- I. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Zimmer, Secretary