

Tree of Life Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 19, 2025, Zoom Meeting

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

Guest: Jeff Mabrey

Absent: Heidi Beckham

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM
- B. PC opened with prayer and gave well wishes to Mark Templet
- 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 Ronnie Whitman, seconded by Russ Larson. Motion passed.
- D. Jeff Mabrey thanked council for the invitation to be on the council. His acceptance will be voted on at the congregational meeting.
- E. Financial reports for December were given by Jim Lemaux.
 1. Balance sheets show the general checking fund being \$15,613. A loan of \$10,000 was made from SEEDS to cover some upcoming bills so now at \$25,000
 2. New SEEDS for Growth increased \$10,000 so now at \$174,493.41
 3. Mortgage now at \$1,003,956
 4. Dedicated funds stands at \$79,825.62
 5. Income in December was \$39,746; with the loan borrowed from SEEDS \$49,746. \$1200 also came in for PC to use at his discretion.
 6. Expenses for the month were \$43,434; for the year \$544,555.51. Those mentioned were as follows:
 - i. The utilities came in lower probably due to less usage of the building and not using janitorial service and more.
 - ii. Security payment is now paid annually (in December).
 - iii. Grounds line item had a shortfall of \$1200.
 - iv. Education came in at \$618 for confirmation and retreat.
 - v. PC's Kenya trip \$19,130 (but donations covered this)
 - vi. Worship and music \$1321.98
 - vii. Youth ministry \$69.95
 7. A motion was made by Mark Templet to accept the financial report. It was seconded by Sandy McCarthy. Motion carried.
- F. 2025 Budget Finalization
 1. Pledges have been added to make the final amount of \$306,422; non -pledges, therefore, went down to \$103,615 due to moving some to pledged amount bringing total Stewardship drive to \$410,037
 2. Question came up ... "Do we put a line item in the budget for discretionary projects or planned maintenance fund?"
 3. Jeff Mabrey suggested to have a person come to investigate when to anticipate a breakdown of certain equipment. It was suggested to prepare this process for 2026.

4. A few of the 2025 predicted expenses mentioned
 - i. Staff: \$276,957
 - ii. Mortgage is still 4.125% which is good until 2026
 - iii. Camp youth trips will be managed to the needs of the congregation's youth need so removing from the budget plus Youth director position removed to gain \$20,000
 - iv. Now showing \$489,637 revenue
 - v. Motion was made by Ronnie Whitman to approve the 2025 budget proposal and seconded by Sandy McCarthy

G. Pastoral report

1. PC worked out a deal this morning. Heater didn't come on in half the building. Call was made to Tom at Café 105 if he had a guy. He did and is going to pay for the repair in exchange for performing a wedding on Tuesday for him.
2. Fund raising on Facebook is going very well for the trip to Kenya.
3. Those going to Kenya with pastor in two weeks are Wayne Rambarran, Pastor Cassandra Nagle, and Rich Obrosky
4. Projector behind the chancel's lightbulb broke and expensive to fix
5. Conversation happened with Ikeria to lower her hours to just children's church. She agreed.
6. Summer Camp Program is moving forward. Talking to Amanda Welch sounds like a good idea for this area to have. We need to find a director. Diana Frederick is being talked to about that. Russ Larson has experience with being a Project Manager so has agreed to be the PM for this endeavor. PC said it would be great if we could just make \$15,000 for the summer from this. We would need to move quickly.

H. Old Business

1. King's Embrace talked about earlier
2. Building usage talked about with the Summer Camp Program
3. Lake Livingston no change

I. New business

1. New members – Deb reported that there were seven new members added today. They are the following:
 - i. Heath & Leigh Ann Powers, with children Joshua, Lydia, & Hannah (at college)
 - ii. Laura Raybon
 - iii. Kelly Klaevmann
2. Motion was made to accept these new members by Jenny Jenkins, seconded by Mark Templet. Motion passed.
3. Deb said that we brought in 18 new members (9 family units) in 2024
4. Congregational meeting action items
 - i. Give 2025 budget plan
 - ii. Renew membership on council for Deb Zimmer and Sandy McCarthy
 - iii. Add Jeff Mabrey with Mark Templet leaving
5. Adopt a Project – none at this time.

J. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 after closing with the Lord's Prayer led by PC.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Zimmer, Secretary