

## Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Agenda, March 8, 2018

Call to Order

Tim Schlegel

Members present: Pastor Duffy; Tim Schlegel, Barb Miller; Ron Janiszewski; Jeff Quinton; Rob Voss; Char Burchfield; Joan Mohalski; Sarah Handley-Cousins; Edie Bauer; Glen Gordon

Pastor Duffy led devotion and Lord's Prayer.

February Minutes were corrected: There are 8 kids in the confirmation class, not 10-11. Glen moved to accept; Jeff seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's report was accepted. Barb moved to accept; Jeff seconded.

No trustee's report this month because the consistory was not provided with approved minutes. Minutes will be available online before the next consistory meetings.

Community Building

Pastor's Report

Pastor Duffy

1. Lent and Easter dates:
  1. Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>
  2. Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Worship at 7:30pm
  3. Good Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, church open with labyrinth, stations of the cross, and silent prayer
  4. Holy Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Easter Bunny pancake breakfast and youth fundraiser at 10am.
  5. Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>
2. Pastor's Spiritual Retreat in Arizona the week of April 2 - 10. Rev. Marna Pritchard will be preaching April 8.
3. Upcoming date: May 20<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday! Correction to last month's minutes; there are 8 Confirmands in this class.
4. Pastor Duffy shared some statistics regarding attendance. First service has been growing, and has more than doubled since 2009. Both Pastor Duffy and the praise band joined the church in 2010. Second service has decreased since 2010, almost entirely due to church members passing away. Commercials on METV are geared toward people who would attend the second service. Overall, attendance has gone up since 2009, bucking the trend suggested by Pew Research Center that mainline Protestant churches have lost 2% of their membership since 2007.
  - o One important take away is that it seems that music matters. How can we help to bolster the choir? New members in the choir have made a huge difference, and it would be wonderful to see that continue.

Committee Reports

- Administration: No report.
- Christian Education: No report.
- Missions: Missions is currently trying to determine its place with new missions efforts in the church. Char will be meeting with the committee next week to discuss.
- Church Life + Community Dinners: Dinner held on February 24. They hosted 80 guests, served by 10 volunteers. They served ham, sweet potatoes, and dessert.
- Memorials: There were no new deposits or withdrawals. Balance is 2679.37.
- Outreach: Bill Roberts continues to be in touch with Brighton Community Church, which is closing soon. Sue Clark has been working with them regarding a joint concert to mark the end of their church.
- Veteran's Voices is facing challenges rehoming homeless veterans. Veteran's Voices has been able to help keep a local veteran in temporary housing, but working overtime to find something permanent. Veteran's Voices would like to host their benefit concert at Zion in early June.

- Bill Roberts made a motion to approve the concert; Char Burchfield seconded.
- Pastoral Parish Relations: No report.
- Health Ministry: Dash's register tapes always needed. Strategizing getting new nurses and health workers to join Jean King to take blood pressures. Could health ministry hold classes on CPR or babysitting skills for interested parties?
- Visioning: No report.

Strategy Planning: SWOC [Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges] group is working on the potluck, upcoming on March 23. The goal of the potluck is to eat and have fellowship, but also to brainstorm ideas for how to innovate within the church. Any church members who have ideas about new projects for the church are encouraged to reach out to the Visioning committee.

#### Old Business

1. We will continue to have placemats for coloring for prisoners in the Kairos project – feel free to draw any pictures or message that are inspiring. We ask for cookie donations the first Sunday of each month. We will have more information regarding prayer sign ups when our liaison returns from vacation. The prisoners deeply appreciate these gifts.
2. Church Safety: Discussed possibility of having a police officer (active or retired) come to a consistory meeting to discuss how to improve the safety of the church. We should make a more concerted effort to ensure all church members know where the emergency exits are. Consistory will continue to pursue information about locks inside the doors of the Sunday school classrooms. These locks are small, affordable, and easy to operate.

#### New Business:

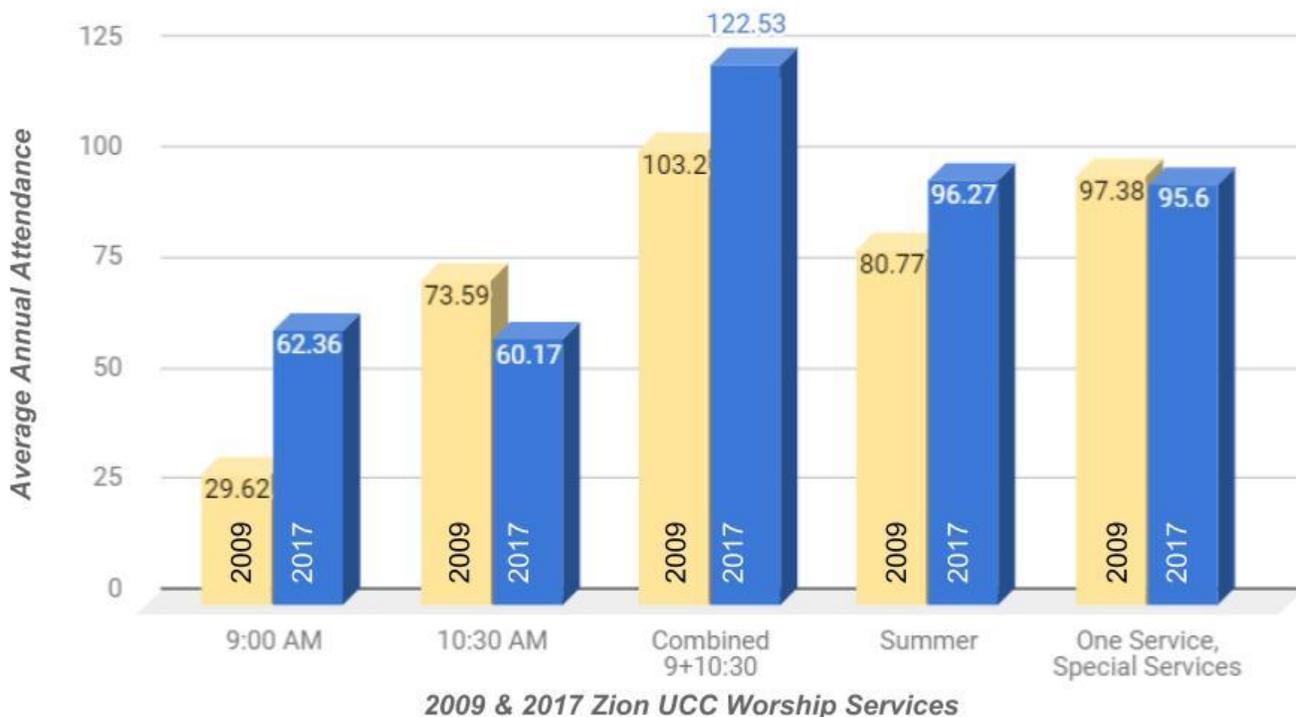
1. Discussed ways to find someone to supervise the nursery. This is particularly important as we put increased focus on church safety. A potential complication might be the barn-style door, which will make locks complicated, and the window could be easily broken. Other churches have turned this into a paid position. Youth discussed, but two would need to work together. Ideas on how to solve this problem would be welcome.
2. Congregational meeting this coming Sunday, March 11. Chair of the Board of Trustees James Cousins will run the meeting. Tim Schlegel will make a short presentation at the beginning. Glen Gordon will carry the mic.

Glen made a motion to close the meeting; Jeff Quinton seconded.

We closed with a prayer.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Attendance Comparison: 2009, 2017



### Comparing 2009 to 2017

From 2009 to 2017 our Sunday attendance (see: *combined 9+10:30*) has increased by 19.33 worshippers.

According to the Pew Research Center, Mainline Protestant weekly church attendance decreased by 2% from 2007 to 2014 (and has continued to decrease, however those statistics are not yet available). However, our Mainline Protestant church (Zion UCC) has increased in weekly attendance since 2009 by 19%.

#### Q: Why use 2009 as a comparison year?

A: Pastor Elizabeth and the Praise Band both began their ministry at Zion UCC in 2010. So looking at 2009 gives us a comparison prior to the arrival of the pastor and the musicians.

Note: in 2010, the average 9am attendance increased from 29 before the praise band began to 47 after the praise band began. Adding the praise band increased the average attendance by 18 worshippers in 2010.

#### Q: Why has 10:30 attendance dropped while 9am increased?

A: Since 2010, we have buried 63 church members. 96% of those church members attended the 10:30 service. Since we lose more 10:30 church members to Heaven annually than we do 9am church members, that accounts for a greater decrease in 10:30 attendance. Also, 62% of our new members attend the 9am service, allowing for a greater increase at the 9am service.

#### Q: What does this mean for the future?

A: If the the first 9 Sundays of 2018 are any indicator of what the 2018 statistics will show, we will see a continued increase in 9am attendance and a slight decrease in 10:30 attendance. In 2018 so far, the lowest attendance at 9am has been 62 people, and if we ignore the baptismal Sunday (with a record 9am attendance of 124), then our average attendance in 2018 at 9am is 72 worshippers. Hopefully, with the help of the commercials and other church growth ideas, we will also see more growth in our 10:30 service in 2018. However, we will have to wait and see what God has in store for Zion UCC this year.