

## Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2018

Call to Order

Tim Schlegel

Members: Pastor Duffy; Tim Schlegel; Barb Miller; Jeff Quinton; John Pauling; Char Burchfield; Joan Mohalski; Sarah Handley-Cousins; Glen Gordon; Bill Roberts.

Pastor Duffy led devotion and Lord's Prayer.

March minutes were amended to change the word "agenda" to "minutes." Glen moved to accept; Char seconded.

Accepted.

Treasurer's Report

As of 04/11/2018 there is a balance of \$2796.17 in the operating account and \$12,892.35 in the restricted funds account. There are no outstanding payments due at this time. Next payroll is due on 4/27.

The reports you are now receiving are under the new format Cyle and I have instituted. These will track all movement of funds in and out of the Zion UCC accounts. There will be more changes forthcoming as we continue to tweak our account reporting to make it as understandable and transparent as possible.

Net income is showing a balance of -\$5764.19 for the month. There are a couple of reasons for this. One is that some quarterly payments were due such as the property insurance and the Pastor's pension. Also, there were three payrolls this month, which added a significant cost. The good news is we had the funds to pay them with no stress. We are definitely getting on the right track and just need to keep the momentum building.

Barb moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Char seconded. Report approved.

Trustee's Report

No report this month.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Duffy

1. Thank you to Ray, Ron, Jeff, Jean, Glen, Kim, Barb and Ed for volunteering their time to be at the church on Good Friday. Because they filled the time until 7pm, I was able to spend the entire day visiting home bound/nursing home bound folks. This was important since I left for vacation on Monday.
2. Pastor's Spiritual Retreat in Arizona was amazing! I'm truly thankful for the Sabbath time. Thank you to Charlotte who not only had extra responsibilities in the office, but took care of my dogs while I was away.
3. Complete boundary awareness training in March.

Committee Reports

- Administration: No report.
- Christian Education: End of the year program will be June 10.
- Missions: Sue Clark, Gaye Mehlretter and Char Burchfield will be getting together to discuss what the Missions committee should be working on that could complement the missions that Trustees do. Some ideas include the prison ministry, support for soldiers and veterans, and different smaller-scale collections.
- Church Life + Community Dinners: No community dinner the day before Easter. Next one will be near the end of the month.
  - a. Gaye Mehlretter and Char Burchfield are working on starting a new Women's Group. Will meet at the Howling Rooster on April 21 at 11 am. The organizers are working on getting younger women to join the group to increase age diversity.
  - b. Char Burchfield is thinking about trying to organize an end of the year picnic in June at Ellicott Creek Park after the children's program.
- Memorials: No new deposits or withdrawals. Balance is currently \$2679.37.
- Outreach: Bill Roberts mentioned that he visited a homebound individual who is part of our church community, and reports that is doing well. Bill also chats with someone not within the church regularly via phone. Bill also has been working with the Brighton Community Church, and is hoping to bring some of that church's members to Zion to join the choir and bell choir.
  - a. We discussed welcoming visitors when they come to church. Pastor Duffy would like to have more people join the welcome committee.
  - b. We will have a new members meeting on a Wednesday night sometime soon; there is a small group of people who have expressed a desire to join the church.

- Veteran's Voices: Benefit concert June 2 featuring the Panfil Brothers. Sue House, Gaye Mehlretter, Sarah Handley-Cousins, Glen Gordon, Joyce Dolce, and Bill Roberts will all be selling tickets, and tickets will be available on the Church's website. Bill Roberts is also hoping to sponsor about 50 disabled veterans to attend the concert for free.
  - a. Bill is looking for additional sponsors for the concert.
  - b. The family that VV has been helping is doing significantly better, and several Zion families helped more by donating used furniture for their new rental house. One member of the family has secured a good job at Walmart.
- Pastoral Parish Relations: There was a meeting.
- Health Ministry: Flu immunization scheduled for Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 10-11 am.
  - a. After much searching, Jean has found Tonawanda Paramedics to present a review class on CPR and AED equipment. This will be on a Sunday in mid to late September.

#### Strategy Planning:

- Discussed plans for finalizing plans for the altar. Trustees will handle most of this. Volunteers will help to clear the altar up a bit before a wedding scheduled for April 28.
- SWOC meeting April 26.

#### Old Business

1. Prison Ministry Updates: Char gave the contact with the Prison Ministry all the materials we have collected thus far. We are brainstorming ways to get more people to make more placemats and write more letters.
2. Church Safety: Tim Schlegel received a bid from church member Bob Sedota of \$1295.00 to put locks on the Sunday school classrooms. This will go to the Trustees next. Barb motioned to accept this bid; Glen Gordon seconded.
  - a. Discussions are ongoing to find an individual to come speak to the church about church safety.

#### New Business:

1. The church received an anonymous letter stating that members of the Relic Hunters carry handguns and large knives to their meetings. The leaders of the Relic Hunters assured Pastor Duffy that they do not carry weapons and reiterated to their members that they are not to carry any sort of weapon on church grounds.
  - It is not currently in the by-laws or in any rental contract that people cannot carry weapons on campus.
  - We will discuss amending the by-laws to make the church a gun-free zone.
3. Meat Raffle Discussion: John Pauling has been doing research on potentially hosting a meat raffle as a fundraiser for the church. Ideally, it would be held at the church because this would bring people into the church. Typically, however, meat raffles virtually always serve alcohol. It could be hosted off site. With around 300 people attending, the typical amount raised is around \$4200.
  - a. Consistory decided to pursue securing a location.
  - b. Also should continue discussion of a potential benefit concert.
3. Network of Religious Communities Dinner: Barb Hewitt, Ron Janiszewski, and Jason Whalen will be honored at the Network of Religious Communities dinner this year.
4. Discussed the possibility of printing and selling a Zion cookbook as a fundraiser; tabled discussion for now.
5. Tim submitted a FOIA for information about the cemetery and discovered that the town of Cheektowaga had a box of archives regarding the cemetery; unfortunately, the box did not pertain to our church. He did find some paperwork regarding the cemetery including lists of the deceased, as well as newspaper articles about the cemetery through its history. Tim does still have another contact to track down a deed and will update us when he finds out more.
6. Rev. Marna Pritchard preached last week and was wonderful. Thank you to Pastor Elizabeth for everything that she does.
7. Char is the Zion historian; Char and Jeff pulled some archival materials out and put them on display in the glass display case in the Narthex. We will continue to explore ways to display that material and preserve it for future generations.
  - Discussed ways that we can display some of the history of the church as we approach the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. Sarah Handley-Cousins raised the possibility of doing a small oral history project to preserve some of the institutional memory of the church. This would be digital, and could live on the website; it could also include a video component that could be used in advertising the church.
  - 175 days of Zion: celebrating 175 days of Zion (one day for each year!) culminating in a celebration
8. We need a new member of the Administrative Committee. Debbie Grine would like someone with business experience.

Glen Gordon motioned to close; Jeff Quinton seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.