

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Agenda, November 8, 2018

Meeting called to order by Tim Schlegel at 7:07 am. Present are Barb Miller, Joan Mohalski, Char Burchfield, Edie Bauer, Sarah Handley-Cousins, Pastor Elizabeth Duffy.

Pastor Duffy opened the meeting with a devotion and the Lord's Prayer.

Glen Gordon moved to approve October minutes. Char Burchfield seconded; approved.

Glen Gordon made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Joan Mohalski seconded; approved.

No trustees report this month. The trustees are meeting next week.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Duffy

1. Sunshine Club met Wednesday, Nov 7. Several people came to a short training. This makes it possible to offer more visits for homebound church members.
2. Inquiring/New Member meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 6:00pm. There will be food, introductions, and information about the church. This meeting is open both to people who want to join the church as well as people who just want more information about the church.
3. Pastor Duffy will be away the week after Thanksgiving. Rev. Marna Pritchard will be preaching and Rev. Jeremy Lopez (Salem UCC) will be on call.
4. Church attendance has been at an all-time high. The 9am service had over 100 attendees (Nov. 4) for probably the first time! The 10:30 service has also been having great attendance. The choir has a lot to do with that! It's an exciting time in the church, let's keep it up!
5. The youth group is anticipating sending 21 or 22 people to Philadelphia this year. That's a large group! At the cost of \$375pp, we'll need even more fundraising ideas. The next fundraiser is the breakfast with Santa on December 15. Youth will need to redouble their fundraising efforts.
6. Pastor Elizabeth attended the Widening the Welcome, Disabilities Conference in Niagara Falls. She learned so much about the UCC Disabilities network, which is a ministry group that teaches churches on how to be "A2A" or Accessible to All. One church gave the example of having a ramp and an automatic door opener – how can you make a church as accessible to everyone? Our church is already fairly accessible because the architect was very conscious of accessibility, but there are still things that we can improve on. For example, Widening the Welcome offers a 'church audit' document that you can use to check your church's accessibility. For example, even though we have a ramp, our church does not have automatic door buttons. We will discuss this with Trustees when it comes to the physical updates to our church and will begin the process for creating a committee to oversee disability related issues.

Committee Reports

- Administration
 - a. We are advertising the application for the nursery babysitter. One thing that we could do is have a tv in the kindergarten room so that older kids can be kept entertained during second service.
 - b. Barb Miller moved to purchase a small tv for the kindergarten classroom. Glen Gordon seconded; approved.
- Missions:
 - a. Christian Ed: The Sunday School students will be making Christmas cards this year. The cards will go to shut ins or to a veterans' hospital.
- Church Life + Community Dinners
 - a. The October Community Dinner cost \$207.73. They served chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans, and apple and cherry crisp. Guests: 95, Volunteers: 18. The cost for this dinner covered both the October dinners and the supplies for the November dinner.
- Memorials: No report.
- Outreach
 - a. Banner will go up soon.

- Pastoral Parish Relations:
 - a. Veterans Voices met the first week of November. There are new members, one of whom is a grant writer. The group has looked at properties for sale in Niagara County, being sold by the town of Niagara, to establish a home for veterans. They will be applying for a grant.
- Health Ministry:
 - a. Jean King did blood pressures recently. No plans at the moment.
- Strategy Planning (SWOC)
 - a. Plans are underway for a fish fry. These kinds of events are fundraisers, but will also help to bring people into the church and make us more a part of the community.
 - b. Char Burchfield is also planning a summer church picnic to take place in July. She is currently looking for an affordable location that could hold us.
- 175th Anniversary Planning
 - a. Char Burchfield is working on planning a dinner to celebrate the anniversary in October 2019. The dinner will be a likely be on a Sunday evening in late October. Char is looking for venues. We will also be planning to raise a fund to sponsor dinner tickets for those who may be unable to afford one, as well as a fund to provide transportation for homebound individuals.

Old Business

1. Pastor Duffy is going to make a color flyer with a QR code for UB students. Sarah Handley-Cousins will post them.
2. New Peace Pole to be donated by Barb J. Discussed putting it on the Parker side of the church.
3. Discussed the question of locks on Sunday school doors. Most already have push-button locks, so we will add push-button locks to the remaining Sunday school rooms. Pastor Duffy and Rob Voss will make sure this is done soon.

New Business:

1. Catholic Charities came to meet with Pastor Duffy to get churches to open faith-based respite programs. These would be seniors who typically go to day-habs. You need volunteers to run the program, but it is only one day per month. It looks like a wonderful program, but it would require a significant amount of volunteer labor that the church cannot support.
2. Pastor Duffy got a kit from Heifer International to place in the church where people can purchase livestock for people as "gifts." We will set up a Heifer International table that will be staffed during coffee hours. Please consider signing up to staff this table.
3. Discussed logo creation.
4. Char Burchfield raised the issue of purchasing a nativity and/or a banner/sign to put on the church for Advent. Glen Gordon made a motion to purchase Advent signs and nativity set out of the Memorials fund. Barb Miller seconded; approved.

Glen Gordon moved to close the meeting at 9:15. Barb Miller seconded; approved.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.

Next meeting will be December 13, 7pm.