

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 02.11.2025

Call to Order: 7:08pm by Dave Dombrowski

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Kalee Mielke (remote), Robin Fowler, John Pauling, W. George Darrall, Kelly Deschamps, Cheryl Lindstrom, Dave Dombrowski, Jeff Quinton (Alternate), Elena Camp (Alternate), Ted Camp (Trustees)

Absent: Debby Williams, Pierre Albrecht-Carrie, Bob Sedota

Devotion and Lord's Prayer: Pastor Elizabeth

Election of Officers: Recommendations of Dave as President, John as Vice President, and Debby as Secretary. Motioned for approval by George and seconded by Cheryl. All attending members approved.

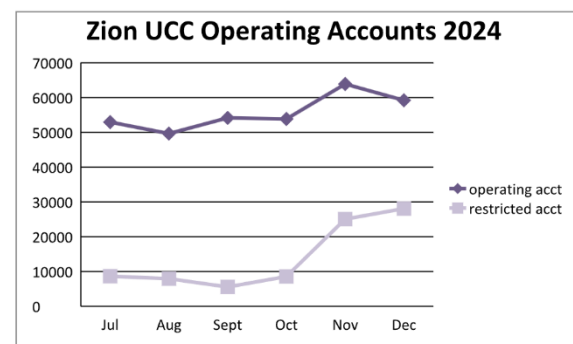
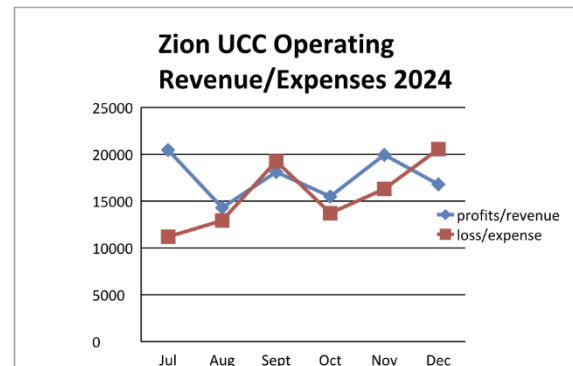
Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes: Motioned for approval by Elena and seconded by Kelly. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report: As submitted by Ron. Motioned for approval by George and seconded by Elena. All attending members approved.

- As of 2/7/25, there is a balance of \$68,532.79 in operating account and \$31,294.41 in the restricted funds account.
- Revenue for January was \$18,077.70. Net income was \$3,432.25. In comparison, revenue for January 2024 was \$12,903.97 and net income was \$-623.10.
- There were no notable P&L events in January.
- We are off to a solid start and with a little luck and a lot of strong effort, it should be another good year.

Financial Graphs Presentation: George Darrall

- George met with Ron with the intent of complimenting the great work that Ron provides us monthly with illustrative graphs to visually support key data points.
- These graphs can be provided along with the Consistory Financial Report.
- George provided us with 4 sample graphs:
 - Graph 1 illustrating monthly historical revenues vs. expenses
 - Graph 2 illustrating monthly historical balances of restricted and operating accounts
 - Graph 3 (to be provided annually) illustrating current to prior year annual income vs. expenditures
 - Graph 4 (to be provided as needed) illustrating current year endowment fund and total church asset balances
- George would produce Graphs 1 and 2 monthly, email these images to Pastor Elizabeth, and she would insert these on top of our Consistory minutes.
- Motioned for approval by George and seconded by John. All attending members approved.



Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) Update:

- Kalee facilitated a wonderful session on “Dealing with Grief.” This was well-attended, extremely well-delivered, and deeply appreciated.
- Kalee is in her 3rd week at Catholic Health (after having left Hospice). She is feeling really good about this transition.
- Her church (First Congregational in Niagara Falls) has started a Community Learning Project with community prayer.
- She plans to show/review the movie, “The Chosen” at a local nursing home.
- She has successfully started a Live Stream service at her church.
- She has finished essays for her board certification for Chaplainship.

Pastor’s Report:

- Sunday worship has gone back to two services, 9 & 10:45. This will stay the same until Pentecost/Confirmation on June 8th.
 - For the switch to Daylight Savings time on March 9th, we agreed to one service at 10:45am.
 - That day, we will also have an informational table on Dunkirk Conference Center (DCC), after the service.
- Schedule for the season of Lent:
 - Ash Wednesday is March 5th: Ashes will be available during the day (drive thru) and in the evening during 7pm Ash Wednesday worship.
 - Lenten Bible Study will be Thursdays at 7pm in the Overflow room: March 13 – April 3 (the NRC dinner is scheduled for April 10th, so the series will end the week before).
 - Holy Week Schedule: April 17: Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm. April 18: Good Friday, Church open for Stations of the cross, 8am – 12pm. (Holy Saturday: Youth Group’s Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt). Easter Sunday: April 20, two services as normal. There is an optional Ken-Ton Clergy Led Sunrise service at Elmlawn Cemetery that Pastor will share info about when she has it.
- Pastoral Care Team Luncheon: postponed to spring. Too many people who would like to attend can’t attend on the 16th.
- (200) New Welcome Mugs have arrived, cost of \$700.
- July 13th: Pastor will be away. Larry Benn, a retired Pastor will fill in this day.
- Pastor has joined the Committee on Ministry of the Western Association. This is the committee that ordains and disciplines pastors, it also offers support to pastors and churches.
- There is a large UCC Church in Nebraska that has shared some interesting (and staggering) stats. One of these is that there are only 350 out of ~4,000 churches (which is only about 7%) that regularly see Sunday attendance in excess of 50. What we are doing here at Zion UCC is good!

Trustee’s Report (Ted): Shared work in progress around projects and process

- **Projects:** Trustees are developing a Capital Improvement Plan (to include timelines and scheduling for ongoing projects). Some of these include:
 - Pew cushions: are in the final state of production and should be coming soon!
 - Kuck Hall refurbishment: RFP is going out to quote; once these are received back, there will be a congregational presentation
 - Outside Concrete work: will be working with engineers to include future visioning for areas like the courtyard as well as consideration for ADA compliance
 - Outside Water Faucet repairs
 - Water damage to sanctuary ceiling
 - **Process:**
 - Church Rental Process; currently re-evaluating, as this hasn’t been reviewed in some time
 - Signatory Updates in process for Ron
 - Memorial Scholarship: Brianna is beginning to announce for this
 - Dunkirk Conference Center (DCC) Scholarship: will put some more background details into this
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Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John)

- Basket Raffle, our most important fundraiser, is coming up on March 15th.
- We are hoping for ~225 baskets/gift cards (to match or exceed what we had last year).
- We still need volunteers, bakers, and crock-pot cookoff entrants.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education & Missions (Kelly)

- Youth created Valentines for Vets
- Currently thinking about next mission

Health Ministry (Debby, provided in advance)

- Medicare ABC's (in January) was well attended. February class on Dealing with Grief & Loneliness was wonderful with 16 people attending.
- Next class is Sat. March 8 from 10 – 11am on Our Mental Health.
- The class on Sat. April 12 from 10 – 11:30am is Live your Healthiest Life. The topic is on nutrition and healthy eating.
- The last class is Sat. May 10 and is an Active Shooters Workshop with the Town of Tonawanda Police department.
- Blood pressure clinic will be Sun. March 2 in between services and Dawn's Exercise Buddies will be Wednesdays, February 12 and 26 from 5:30 – 6:30pm.
- The ministry team will be meeting in June/July to start planning for next year's class presentations and topics

Altar Guild (Robin)

- No updates
- Per congregation, there is a preferred gluten-free wafer. The other one is not tasty.

Memorials (George)

- No updates; current balance in account remains at \$4,673.40

PPRC/Admin (Cheryl)

- No updates

Community Assistance Ministry (Jeff)

- No updates

Environmental Ministry (Jeff)

- New members include Jeff, Cheryl, Tim Rentschler and Ray Greiner (as advisor)
- In March timeframe, will meet to consider ideas for the area adjacent to parking lot (potentially something sports-related, planting of additional trees, etc.)
- During the week after Easter, the visiting Youth group will cultivate the soil for our vegetable gardens as it will be too early to plant.

Network of Religious Communities (In the absence of Pierre)

- Thursday, April 10 is Annual Appreciation (awards) dinner at Grapevine in Depew
- Nominations for this year: Elena Camp, Debby Williams, Barb & Ed Miller, Adam Korte; Congratulations to all!
- Motioned for approval by Dave and seconded by John. All attending members approved.

Community Dinners (in the absence of Bob)

- No updates
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Food Pantry (Jeff)

- Jeff continues stocking the pantry with generous donations from our congregation.
- Jeff will connect with John Wagner (who monitors our pantry) to see if he is aware of any individual(s) who tend to be taking more than their family share.
- New shelf purchased for food pantry overflow stock; Dave Dubbert and Andrew will assemble this; Pastor will make a sign noting that it's for food pantry use.

Coffee Hour (Ted)

- We need more bakers.
- Suggestion was to create a sign-up genie; Pastor will laminate a document with the QR code so individuals can quickly sign up at the table, while enjoying coffee hour

Old Business

- Ken Voght has agreed to chair the Constitution/Bylaws task force and he will set a meeting when he returns from Florida in March.
- Consistory Handbook is tabled until the Constitution/Bylaws have been revised.

New Business

- We received a \$5,000 check from "Peacock Charitable Foundation" (earmarked to be used for youth, VBS, etc.)
 - Pastor spoke with Sue Clark to get her thoughts
 - We will split the funds between VBS (\$1,000) and Youth Group Fund (\$4,000)
 - Motioned for approval by Elena and seconded by Dave. All attending members approved.
- Babysitter class at Zion:
 - Lynn Nash-Fulmore, CEO at EPIC Trainings would like to facilitate a Babysitters class at Zion. It has been 2 years since our last class. Class is recommended for students ages 11-15 at a rate of \$40 per participant
 - Recommended Date: Sat. May 3, 10am – 2:30pm and they would use one of our classrooms
 - We will provide them pizza for lunch.
 - Suggestion to share this with our Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.
- Offering Envelopes
 - These are in Kuck Hall and reflect the few individuals who still wish to receive offering envelopes
 - There are still a few that haven't yet been picked up.
 - Most individuals use online giving in Breeze, eliminating the need for envelopes.
- Church Name Pins
 - Dave would love to alphabetize these in hopes that more people might wear them.
 - Some additional conversation took place around the possibility of either lanyards or magnetic pins.
- Joint Meeting with Trustees
 - There was discussion around a joint meeting between Consistory & Trustees on March 11th.
 - Since this meeting ran quite long, Consistory is suggesting that this be deferred until April 8th. This would allow both committees time to consider topics for the agenda.

Closing Prayer

- In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.

Next Meeting

- March 11 at 7pm

Closing: 9:36pm

Respectfully Submitted,
John Pauling, Consistory Vice President
(filling in for Debby Williams, Consistory Secretary)
