

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes April 08, 2025

Call to Order at 7:15 pm by Dave Dombrowski, Consistory President

Attending: Pastor Elizabeth, Dave D., Pierre, Robin F., Jeff Q., Debby W., Kelly D., Cheryl L., Elena C., George D., Bob S, and John P

Attending from Trustees: James C., Brianna G., Marcel R., Jill F., Dave D., Ed M., and Ted C.

The Consistory and Trustees met in a joint meeting to help foster stronger understanding and collaboration between both groups

A reminder of our church's mission: **A Christ-Centered, inclusive community of faith, devoted to following Jesus, sharing the Gospel, and welcoming all.**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer- Pastor Elizabeth
2. Break Bread Together (had pizza, salad and chicken wings) & Introduction of everyone attending
3. Q&A: Consistory vs. Trustee Responsibilities
 - New members: Consistory members were sent PowerPoint slides in advance and asked to come prepared with questions if any. The slides went over what the responsibilities of each group was.
4. Emergency Shelter Recap
 - Reflection on our first time serving as an emergency shelter- Red Cross was very appreciative.
 - Lessons learned and suggestions for future improvements. Discussion took place about who are the contact people and the church protocol. The decision was made to re-advise the Red Cross of contact people and the actual church protocol to follow if needed again
5. Church Growth and Revenue Discussion

- Treasurer's Report (Ron J):

As of 4/3/25 there is a balance of \$72,806.48 in the operating account and \$35,234.65 in the restricted funds account.

The revenue for March was \$26,528.96. The net income was \$5,812.52. In comparison: The revenue for March 2024 was \$17,665.18. The net income for March 2024 was \$-2,984.00. The YTD Revenue is \$54,712.56 and the YTD Net Income is \$15,070.33. The YTD 2024 Revenue was \$53,200.65 and the YTD 2024 Net Income was \$1,953.78.

Notable P&L events for March are as follows:

54701 Property Insurance \$4,053.00

54900 Misc. NRC Dinner \$595.00

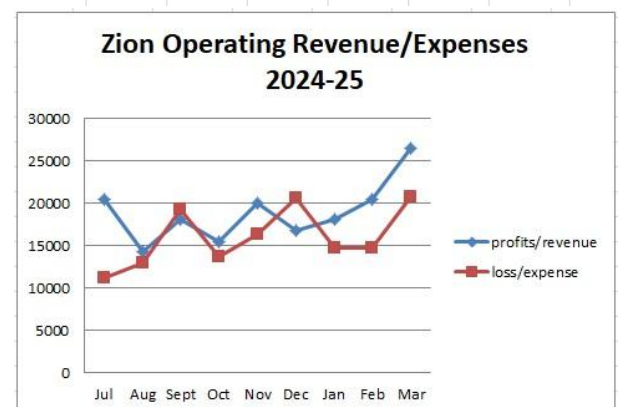
56003 Bldg. Repair – Other – oven calibration & stove repair \$382.60

The revenue numbers are staying strong thus far. A shout out to the fundraising team as they pretty much doubled last year's basket raffle revenue!

The year has started off nicely and should continue to go well with continued competent stewardship.

6. Brainstorming ideas for growth and outreach- Brainstorming on how we need to make a strategic plan to reach the goal about bringing in more people into our church community. Talked about how we can market our church and our mission. Motion was made to have John Pauling chair and organize the committee while bringing in members of our church to help develop a plan this campaign.
7. Side Lot Landscaping Presentation (Jeff Q); Jeff presented two proposals for an outside walking path and a labyrinth for the side lot that he shared with us. This would create an area for church members and the community to come together to enjoy and reflect.

- Review of plans and next steps. Discussion about checking with insurance company – Ted C. will do this and report back. James C. (Trustee President) re-opened their meeting back up (took place before both groups met) and made a motion to accept the bid from J & J landscaping for \$18,180.65. It was approved by all attending



Trustees. Discussion was made about possibly seeing if members would like to purchase benches and other items for a fee in memory of a loved one. This would help offset the cost. This will be brought up after everything is approved and the design is started.

Trustees left and the Consistory Meeting was called to order by Dave Dombrowski at 8:47 pm

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update continues to work on completion of everything required

Pastor's Report

- After sharing the statistics of her 15 years of ministry at Zion, one thing was most notable: we have brought in significantly more members (270) in 15 years than we have buried (120 members out of the 164 officiated). She counted on Sunday morning (April 6) to see how many of our 206 people (not counting children) in attendance members of the church were there 15 years ago. And the total was 30-35 of the 206 people in attendance were members prior to 2010. Also, our annual giving (not including fundraising, just weekly giving) has increased by \$100k annually, from approximately \$85k in 2010 to over \$184k in 2024. Which means that we should focus on continued church growth and hospitality and given that Jesus tells all his disciples to "go out and make disciples of all the nations" it is also with our mission. Two ideas: 1. (online) video series of why people love the church community of Zion UCC, and 2. (snail mail) mailings to new homeowners in the neighborhood. Other ideas? (And if people are reading this in the minutes, your ideas are always welcome too!). Note: this was discussed in the joint meeting(see #6)
 - Baptized 105 people (106 later this month)
 - Confirmed 50 teens (61 in June)
 - Welcomed 270 new church members
 - Officiated 47 weddings
 - Officiated 164 funerals (120 were members, 44 were non-members)
 - Preached approximately 1,320 sermons (not counting funerals/weddings, including 2 on a Sunday with 2 services)
 - Took 328 people on mission trips
- She will be out on visits for Holy Week - if anyone needs her, it will be best to reach her via cell phone or email.
- Spring/Summer worship schedule:
 - Every Sunday now through June 1: 9 & 10:45
 - Maundy Thursday (April 17): 7pm
 - Good Friday (April 18): Stations of the cross (church open 8am-12pm)
 - Easter Sunday (April 20), standard service times: 9 & 10:45 (Sunrise service at Elmlawn Cemetery at 7am, led by KenTon Clergy. She was part of the planning, but she will not be participating because she is letting the pastors who only have one Sunday service lead this.)
 - June 8: Pentecost & Confirmation. Once Service at 10am followed by a church luncheon (burgers/hotdogs?)
 - June 15: Children's Promotional Sunday & Father's Day: One service at 10am followed with cake & ice cream at coffee hour.
 - June 22-August 31: Summer Worship at 9:30am
 - June 22: Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein preaching.
 - July 13: (last day of the mission trip, so she will still be away) Larry Benn preaching
 - August 3: (She will be camping with her family; communion will be postponed a week) Angie Staniszewski preaching.
 - Rally Day Sunday will be September 7th

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John): John spoke with woman who we get the strawberries from. She suggested we have this year's Strawberry Festival on Saturday June 21 or 28. It was decided it would be June 21st. The meat raffle date is Friday November 7. More details will be coming on both fundraisers.

Committee Reports

- Christian Education & Missions - (Kelly): Sue C. said the kids are working on their mission project of filling school bags and they will be starting to work on Promotion Sunday soon. Laurie Dombrowski has very graciously offered to sew all the bags for the school supplies! We are so lucky!

- Health Ministry - (Debby): Our next presentation is Saturday April 12 from 10-11:30 am. It is Living your Healthiest Life. Wendy McCarthy, a member here at Zion has worked in nutrition management as a director for over 25 years, mostly with seniors. Last presentation for year is Saturday May 10 by the Town of Tonawanda Police. They will be presenting An Active Shooters Workshop specifically for our church. Please plan on attending.
- Memorials - (George): no report
- PPRC/Admin - (Cheryl:)Administration Committee -no reports
- Community Assistance Ministry - (Jeff): no report
- New Member - (Dave): no report
- Environmental Ministry - (Jeff): two proposals for an outside walking path and a labyrinth for the side lot that he shared with us
- Network of Religious Communities - (Pierre): Hosting the award dinner this Thursday April 10 at 6 pm.
- Community Dinners - (Bob). Women's Fellowship is hosting the April dinner.
- Food Pantry - (John)- no report
- Coffee Hour - (Ted)- There is a sign-up sheet on the front board for volunteers to bake for Coffee Hour. Please help!!

Old Business

- Constitution/Bylaws:Ken Voght led the first meeting for Constitution/Bylaws revision task force
- Consistory Handbook is tabled until the Constitution/Bylaws have been revised.
 - Some items will be left out of the Bylaws specifically because they're more appropriate for the Handbook.

New Business

- Missions: Rev. Dan Schifeling has requested that Zion join Nativity in sponsoring the Buffalo Peacemakers (information sheet attached). A donation of \$500 would match Nativity, and we have funds in our Missions account. George made a motion to donate the \$500 to match Nativity. Cheryl L. seconded it and all attending members approved it.
- Discuss stove repair. A company came out and said the stoves needed to be recalibrated. Since this has been done, the stoves are both not working properly. Rick did get the one oven working again but the other oven which is like 18 years old, needs a piece replaced and the same company said it would cost almost \$1,400.00 for the part. Discussion took place about replacing the 18-year-old oven with a new more efficient one. Note: we have a youth group coming to stay at our church soon that will be needing the ovens. Kelly L. volunteered to call the repair company and discuss their findings and will look in to see if we can obtain a new oven for a lower cost.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dave and was approved by all attending members. Adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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

Next Meeting: May 13, 7pm

Respectively submitted,

Debby Williams

Consistory Secretary