

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 11.08.2022

Consistory Call to Order at 7:05 pm by Troy Hengst

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Mark Burr (on Zoom), Peter Korte, Jeff Quinton, Troy Hengst, W. George Darrall, Debby Williams, Elena Camp, and Trustee, Ted Camp.

Absent: Barbara Miller

Devotion and Lord's Prayer: Pastor Elizabeth led us in the devotion and the Lord's Prayer.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update- Kalee joined us virtually. She has spoken on the phone to her mentor, Rev Stanley and they are meeting in person next week. She is taking three classes in Seminary right now; she has been doing a lot of funerals through Hospice and she is waiting to hear back from the movie theater about having a group seating for people who want to join her to see the new season of The Chosen on the big screen. Note: Thank you to Kailee for the Spiritual Retreat she planned and hosted in October. It was well received by those that attended and many are looking forward to the next one!

Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes - motioned for approval by Elena C. and seconded by Jeff Q. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report (Ron Janiszewski)

- As of 11/3/2022 there is a balance of \$53,534.97 in the operating account and \$10,535.97 in the restricted funds account. The balance for the operating account does reflect the subtraction of the payroll to be paid on 11/4/22.
- The revenue for October was \$25,812.66 and the net income was \$13,449.71. The YTD revenue is \$153,785.41 and the YTD net income is \$7,056.66. In comparison: The revenue for October 2021 was \$16,499.16. The net income was \$5,143.20. YTD revenue for 2021 was \$142,667.15. YTD net income was \$15,146.26.
- There were no notable P&L events in October. Ron wanted to point out that the Food Pantry account is quite low. There is \$30.86 reflected on the balance sheet. There will be another \$125.00 deposited into the account on 11/4 which will give us a total of \$155.86. We are entering the Holiday Season so he expects there will be an increased demand for food assistance.

The report was motioned for approval by Peter K. and seconded by Edie C. All attending members approved.

Trustee's Report: Ted Camp

1. Electric door is on backorder
2. Locks are coming this Friday (they are already paid for)
3. They started working on the parking lot timeline. They will be engaging an architect who will also be the project manager. They are not doing the extension currently.
4. Report from cemetery- a tree had fallen and had to be removed. They will be getting quotes from the person who does the lawn service there for headstone removal/repair.
5. The exterior light project is completed and all are very happy with the well-lit parking lot. It was paid for by a very generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous. A HUGE THANK YOU to the donor for this. It is much appreciated.
6. The snow removal contracts have been signed.
7. New Business for Trustees- working on a bank management issue and looking at upgrading the lawn mower. They are currently getting quotes. The company will buy back the old lawn mower.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Duffy

1. Israel was wonderful and extremely grateful for the experience both educationally and spiritually. Thank you to Zak Zientek for running the streaming and slides and Kalee for preaching and leading a retreat.
2. Pastor is away next week from Friday (11th) evening until Saturday (19th) evening. Please call either Kalee or Rev. Pierre with pastoral emergencies.
3. The sermon on the 13th will be a video sermon recorded from Israel. It's only 8 minutes long so for once you get a short sermon from her. The welcome, scripture, and prayer are all recorded in Nazareth. Kalee will be leading the services aside from those pieces.
4. Advent is nearly here! Sue and Pastor Duffy will work on a virtual pageant for the kids again this year, since that seems to be the best way to put together a Christmas Pageant without adding too much stress for the kids.
5. Discussion: What times should we have Christmas Eve services? 5pm and 7pm? Was discussed and a decision was made to have it at 5pm and at 7 pm.
6. Christmas this year is on a Sunday. Do we hold a worship service on Christmas? A discussion occurred and it was decided that there will be no in-person service on Christmas Day BUT there will be a virtual broadcast taped for Sunday to go live at 10 am.
7. Pastor Duffy has reached out to Pastor Josh Bower in Arcade about collaborating again for another virtual Blue Christmas service. A decision was made that it should be virtual and not in person. More details will be forthcoming.
8. Community dinner in November will be a Thanksgiving meal. Ted C. is willing to roast turkeys but needs more roasters. He will announce it in church on 11/13.
9. Youth Group is doing Breakfast with Santa this year on December 17th. Publicity will go out soon. Thank you to Santa, Mike Thorp!

Old Business:

1. Constitution/Bylaw changes.
 - a. Here is the verbiage Pastor Duffy came up with that should fix our bylaws in case of pastoral misconduct. (This was in the Zionite also.) She recommends that this change be made to “Article V. The Pastor” of our bylaws.
 - i. Under Article V. The Pastor, C. Termination of Service
 - ii. first, change that to read: “C. Suspension or Termination of Service”
 2. The following can be added after the existing paragraph in section C.
 - a. “If a minister is suspended by the Church and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry), they are immediately suspended without pay from the church. If a minister’s ordination standing is terminated by the Church and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry), the pastor is immediately terminated by the church.”
 - b. Tim Schlegel also brought up that now that marijuana is legal in NY state, we should amend “Article XI. Functions” of our Bylaws.
 - i. It currently reads: “Alcohol or any illegal behaviors are not permitted on church property. Smoking is not permitted within twenty-five (25) feet of any church entrance.”
 - ii. We can change this to: “Alcohol, marijuana, or any illegal behaviors are not permitted on church property. Smoking is not permitted within twenty-five (25) feet of any church entrance.”
 - c. These changes can go to the Congregation for the March Congregational meeting for approval.

New Business:

- Jeff Q. proposed purchasing a utility cart that is heavy duty and folds up for storage. It can be used to carry heavier items from the parking lot into the building. Troy made a motion to authorize \$200.00 for purchase of the utility cart. Peter K. seconded and all attending approved.
- Plan to have another committee night in the Spring so other people can become involved in our various church committees.
- Question was raised about searching for some new more colorful Christian pictures for the Overflow Room. Pastor would welcome feedback on this. George D. will help her with this project.

Committee Reports:

- Administration- (George)- no report
- PPRC -no report
- Christian Education & Missions- (Edie)- Sue C. said attendance is still not back to pre-COVID numbers. Maria is doing wonderful things with the preschoolers. Sue and Pastor are working on the Christmas pageant which will be virtually done. More details forthcoming.
- Coffee hour & Community Dinners- (Peter)- Thank you to Women's Fellowship for hosting the community dinner in October. 140 dinners were given out.
- Memorials-(Mark) - has \$1,608.40 presently in their budget.
- Community Assistance Ministry- (Jeff)- no requests were made this month.
- Health Ministry- (Debby)- Red Cross was contacted about their Babysitting course. The course is 7 hours long and is \$90.00 per girl. The decision was made to put this on hold and investigate other groups that may teach this (4H).
- Environmental Ministry (Barb)- no report
- Pastoral Care Ministry Team- (Troy)- no report
- Food Pantry- (Mark)- there has been a noticeable increase in people utilizing our pantry and the pantry is now low on funds. Pastor mentioned maybe we should start to budget the Food Pantry starting next year. She has found a program called the Goodness Project which is in Buffalo where food can be purchased at a lower amount. Troy made a motion to authorize \$500.00 out of the general account fund to fund the Food Pantry until other options can be made. Edie seconded and all others attending approved.
- Altar Guild- (Robin) –no report
- New Member- (Pastor)- next class/dinner is November 22 at 6 pm.

Closing: At 8:34 pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 13 at 7 pm. Decision was made to continue to meet in person and switch to virtual if needed due to weather conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debby Williams
Consistory Secretary

