

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 01.10.2023

Consistory Call to Order at 7:05 pm by Barbara Miller

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Barbara Miller, Robin Fowler, Edie Bauer, Jeff Quinton, W. George Darrall, Debby Williams, Elena Camp (on Zoom), Sarah Handley-Cousins (on Zoom) and Trustee, Ted Camp.

Absent: Peter Korte, Mark Burr, Troy Hengst

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

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update: on break for another two weeks. She is taking three classes this semester and spoke about her calling by God to join him in his work.

Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes – Debby made correction of Edie's name being omitted from the notes as she had attended the November 2022 meeting. Consistory meeting motioned for approval by Edie B. and seconded by Robin F. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report (Ron Janiszewski)

- Start planning budget based on annual Profit & Losses report that was provided.
- Discussion about several lines. Ted suggested putting Dunkirk on a separate line for Dunkirk Scholarships to make the camp available to some of the children that may want to go but may not be able to due to financial constraints.
- Budget will be discussed in the next 2 meetings, so it will be transparent for the Congregation.
- The report was motioned for approval by Jeff Q. and seconded by Debby W. All attending members approved.

Trustee's Report: (Ted Camp)

Trustees did not meet in December. Procedural update on some things

1. Security system is in and installed
2. Parking lot- pending contractual contact with the architect.
3. Cemetery- fallen tree was removed. Getting estimates for fallen headstones.
4. A new lawnmower upgrade was approved and purchased.
5. John submitted the results of the Rummage Sale.
6. Trustees have a new goal to have a 1st and 2nd contact for every project they take on

Pastor's Report - Pastor Duffy

1. We survived a Christmas Blizzard. Pastor Duffy thought given the way everything happened, she was thankful we were able to do all that we did moving Christmas Eve service to New Year's Day. She was truly thankful for God waking her up Friday morning telling her to "go

record"! Next time there's an approaching Blizzard, she won't be so resistant to recording early "just in case".

2. Thankfully we were ahead financially before December, so we finished the year strong - thank you to everyone who gives so faithfully allowing us to weather the December storm.

3. Thank you to our volunteers for helping her deliver poinsettias! She was so glad we did this before the storm hit!

4. Upcoming Holy Days:

a. Ash Wednesday (starts the Season of Lent): February 22, 7pm

b. Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7pm

c. Good Friday, April 7th, church open for Stations of the Cross

d. Holy Saturday, April 8th: Youth will host fundraiser (Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt)

e. Easter Sunday: April 9th

5. We will plan a Lenten evening Bible Study beginning the week after Ash Wednesday. Stay posted for dates/info.

6. Rev. Dan Schiefeling is organizing an inter-racial discussion group that Pastor Duffy will be a part of along with 1-3 members of our church. Four churches are involved. If anyone is interested in joining her in this, please let Pastor Duffy know. Sarah and Jeff did express interest. This group will help "build bridges".

7. We do need to take down the Christmas decorations – day/time? The decision was made to do this in between Sunday church services but Edie was going to call somebody who helped put the trees up as the trees coming down have to be coated somehow so they go in to their proper placed in the tree. It was mentioned we may want to investigate getting a new tree that is easier to put up and bring down.

Old Business:

1. Constitution/Bylaw changes.

2. 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 recommended 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"

iii. The following can be added after the existing paragraph in section C.

iv. "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."

3. 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."
4. 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." These changes can go to the Congregation for the March Congregational meeting for approval.
5. The utility cart was purchased by Ted Camp (approved at the last meeting).
6. Plan another Committee Night for Spring- May 9 7 pm for congregational members who are interested in helping with different committees within our church (committees listed below). Will be advertised to the congregation beforehand. All are welcome!
7. Continue to look at pictures for the Overflow Room. George came up with several possibilities to investigate.

New Business: none

Committee Reports - please make sure all committees email annual reports by February 5th.

- Administration – no report but Debbie G. is scheduling a future meeting
- PPRC- no report
- Christian Education & Mission- Sue C said kids are doing well, numbers still down/ Sue H reported about our holiday giving for ARC. 18 children had their needs met through our wonderful congregation members who took the tags. We have requested more tags for next year as some people wanted to help but we ran out of tags. Plymouth Crossroads received many gift cards for the boys for Christmas as well.
- Church Life + Community Dinners-no report
- Memorials- have \$1,608.40 in account
- Community Assistance Ministry- no report
 - ii. ● Health Ministry looking into getting Buffalo Hospice come to talk about Palliative Care and all the programs that people could be taking advantage of if they knew about them. Ted asked about the babysitting course, and it was mentioned (in Novembers minutes) that it was \$90.00 for each girl and would be a 7-hour course through the Red Cross. The decision had been

made to wait on this. Sarah mentioned a different organization that does a 5-hour babysitting course for a lower fee for kids 11 years old and older. Debby will investigate.

- Environmental Ministry-milkweed is going to be planted behind the back fence which will bring butterflies! Spoke about putting in a pollinator garden this year as well. They want to do something with the children to celebrate Earth Day. They will be holding a meeting in between church services soon.
- Pastoral Care Ministry Team- Pastor Duffy needs to see who is interested. Discussed, "Adopt A Senior".
- Food Pantry- doing well again thanks to congregational support
- Altar Guild- Robin and Jill took over the vacant months. Sue H has asked if they could get a new cabinet for the altar cloths as the cabinet now is sharp and catches the cloth. Discussed with Jeff about possibly finding a wooden piece from an estate sale. He will look at the cabinet this Sunday.
- New Member- small group joined this time.
 - Troy has stepped down from his second term from the Consistory and being President due to other obligations. Barb and Jeff have finished their second terms
 - Elena and Sarah want to remain alternates
 - We are looking for 3 members who would like to be on the Consistory. Please let Pastor Duffy know if you would like to be or if you have somebody in mind that may be interested.

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

Next Meeting: Scheduled for February 14th (Valentine's Day). Should we switch to Monday, February 13th instead? A decision was made to have the February meeting that Monday the 13th at 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debby Williams
Consistory Secretary