

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 03.12.2024

Consistory Call to Order at 7:00 pm by Edie Bauer

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Dave Dombrowski, Elena Camp, Debby Williams, Edie Bauer, Robin Fuller, John Pauling, Bob Sedota and Trustee, Ted Camp. Guests: Mary & Marcel Ross

Absent: Rev. Pierre Albrecht-Carrie, W. George Darrall, and Kalee Mielke

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

Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes - motioned for approval by Dave and seconded by Robin. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report (Ron Janiszewski)

As of 3/2/2024 there is a balance of \$44,234.66 in the operating account and \$18,754.42 in the restricted funds account. The operating account balance takes into consideration the payroll for 3/8/24.

The revenue for February was \$22,641.5. The net income was \$5,560.88. In comparison: The revenue for February 2023 was \$12,149.77. The net income for February 2023 was \$-3907.98. The YTD income for 2024 is \$35,545.47 and the net income is \$4937.78. In comparison, the 2023 YTD income was \$33,033.40 and the net income was \$553.07.

Notable P&L events In February:

51720 Pastor's Pension \$1,374.98

52900 Miscellaneous \$346.25 Easter Flowers from Lavocat's

54702 Annual Workers Comp Premium \$777.00

54706 Annual Health Dept. Permit \$282.00

56001 Cleaning associated with clogged grease traps \$250.00.

Motioned for approval by Elena and seconded by Debby. All attending members approved.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID)

Role of our Consistory as Kalee's discernment committee:

-Meet with Kalee at least twice a year (we meet with her much more than that).

-Create opportunities for Kalee to plan and participate in worship (we do this).

-Provide financial support (we do this).

-Provide 1/3 of the cost of the psychological evaluation (we will do this when the time comes).

-Support Kalee in attending Association and annual meetings for the Conference (we do this).

Pastor's Report

1. Holy Week Schedule:

a. Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm

b. Good Friday: Church opens for Labyrinth and the Stations of the Cross: 8:30am-12pm

c. Holy Saturday: Youth Group Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at 10am. Free Community Dinner (led by Robin & Jill) at 5pm.

- d. Easter Sunday: Regular Worship Times: 9 & 10:45. Easter Egg Hunt at 10am
2. Pastor Elizabeth will leave on Easter Sunday after worship for vacation. She will return the following Sunday. Kalee will lead in her absence. She will also officiate communion (Pastor Elizabeth found out that Kalee is permitted to officiate communion here at Zion while she's a member in discernment).
3. Pastor Elizabeth is teaching a class about traveling in Israel/Palestine (not about the conflict) in Lockport on Wednesday, March 13. She will be out of the office for a while because of that.
4. She will be attending the Buffalo Peacemakers breakfast on Wednesday, March 20 at 8am at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. They did tell she could bring one member of the church with her.
5. We have had a lot of new people in church lately, so keep your eye out for people you don't recognize or those sitting alone, and practice hospitality: Introduce yourself, offer for them to sit with you, link them to someone else in the congregation who you think would have a connection with them. We never want people to feel alone, so help in any way you can to make them feel welcome.
6. We have 3 Baptisms coming up:
 - a. Charlotte Glaspy, May 26
 - b. Luke Miller, June 2
 - c. Frankie Pike (date TBD)
7. Youth Updates:
 - a. Another JR. WAY event is scheduled for May 11 at Amherst Community Church. The registration is on our website. We had 4 kids attend the March JR. WAY event, and a total of 32 kids attend from around the Association.
 - b. Members of the Youth Group are attending the play at NTS to support some of our youth who are in the play this Friday. Our youth are also going to the Bandits game on Saturday and then having an overnight at Nativity.
 - c. Mission Trip registrations for the WAY summer mission trip are due on May 1st. The Mission Trip will be in Michigan this summer (staying in Livonia, working in Detroit)
7. Lenten Bible Study will be on Thursdays starting Feb 22 at 6pm in the Overflow Room. We'll walk through the life and the ministry of Jesus.

Trustee's Report: Ted Camp

1. Re-Organizing, Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach: We moved John Pauling from Trustees to Consistory since John is the chair of our PBJs Fundraising team. We would like the Consistory to lead the initiative for the church on Stewardship, Outreach, and Fundraising.
2. In this place in the meeting, we discussed upcoming Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach ideas.
3. Parking lot: Scheduled after April (length of reconstruction could be 30 -60 days). Need to plan on street parking or watch online. Suggestion of a shuttle to church from Green Acres school (school is located a few blocks from church on Fries Rd). Pastor Duffy will check to see if parking there is okay.
4. Scholarship is set up and applications are pending.
5. Pew cushions- have bids out for them.
6. Trustees voted and committed to pay half of the insurance bill this year. Another half will be paid for by Consistory.

Committee Reports

Plan: remaining Committee Reports - reorganize liaisons as necessary.

- Christian Education & Missions (Edie)- Missions are doing the Heifer Project. June 9 will be the children's service and Campfire Light is the Vacation Bible School theme this Summer.

- Cemetery (Debby)- once ground hardens, she will be taking a visit out to the cemetery and will continue documenting the names and dates on the stones there.
- Health Ministry (Debby)- The Zion UCC Tonawanda Health Ministry is hosting a representative who specializes in Elder Law on Saturday April 27 from 10 am- noon. It is free for everyone. They are specially trained attorneys who can help you protect your assets in the event of illness and dispose of your assets upon your demise, with a minimum of taxes and problems. Elder Law attorneys address long-term care and estate planning needs of everyone based on his or her unique situation. They can answer tax questions, and plan strategies for obtaining disability, Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare payments. Their services are useful for health and long-term care planning, as well as end-of-life planning decisions and instances of elder abuse. Thank you to Lynn Alexander for organizing this. Please plan on attending. Park out in the street due to the parking lot reconstruction project.
- Altar Guild (Robin)- no report
- Memorials (George)- Edie stated there is \$5,913.40 in account.
- PPRC/Admin (George)- no report
- Community Assistance Ministry (Dave)- no report
- New Member (Dave)- no report
- Environmental Ministry (Pierre)- no report
- Network of Religious Communities (Pierre)- no report
- Community Dinners (Bob)- April's dinner is hosted by women's Fellowship. Sign up on Breeze online to help.
- Food Pantry (John)- it is well stocked at this time but will continue to need monetary and item donations for support.
- Coffee Hour (Ted)- need more bakers. If you can spare even one day a month would help to bake items for this time (but can do every week if you want ☺)
- Fundraising Stewardship, Outreach, and Fundraising (John)- would like several days where people can set up and teach parishioners on how to set up their account for online giving and be able to see calendar of events and information through Breeze. Breeze Sunday will be March 24 between and after services. Announcement will be made about this.

Anything Else?

1. Trustees- need one more person to fill John's move to Consistory. Suggestions were made.
2. Consistory positions- Bob Sedota accepted the vacant Consistory position. Congratulations and welcome!
3. Discussion about audit for the church. A proposal was made to have Ken Voght do an internal audit due to his experience with the IRS and more. A motion to accept was made by Edie, seconded by Debby, and all attending members agreed.
4. Pastor Elizabeth brought up that the www.zionucc.com domain is available and discussion about purchasing the rights to it were made. She will investigate it more.

The motion to close the meeting was made by Robin, seconded by Elena and all attending members agreed.

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

Closing: At 8:46 pm Next Meeting: April 9 at 7 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
 Debby Williams
 Consistory Secretary