

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes December 10, 2024

Call to Order at 7:05 pm by Edie B.

Attending: Pastor Elizabeth, Edie B., Pierre, John P., Dave D., George D., Robin F., Elena C., Debby W., and Ted C as Trustee representative. Absent: Bob S. and Kalee.

Devotion and Lord's Prayer

Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes -edit: AA does not pay rent but makes donations to the church instead. Motion to accept the report was made by Dave, seconded by Debby and all attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report (Ron J.)

- As of 12/1/2024 there is a balance of \$63,904.76 in the operating account and \$25,064.23 in the restricted funds account.
- The revenue for November was \$19,947.00 (thanks in part to the success of the rummage sale). The net income was \$3,650.47. In comparison: The revenue for November 2023 was \$23,478.88 (this included over \$8,000.00 in income from the meat raffle). The net income for November 2023 was \$6,599.44. The YTD income for 2024 is \$190,795.01 and the net income is \$15,996.27. The 2023 YTD was \$175,837.65 and the net income was \$2,426.98.
- There were three payrolls in November and there are five Sundays in December.
- Notable P&L events in November:
- 51710 Pastor FICA - \$1,407.46 Last Quarterly Payment for 2024
- Fourth Quarter payments to the UCC for OWCM, Western Area and Per Capita totaling \$2,486.00.
- All quarterly payments due for this year have been paid in full. Barring a major catastrophe, we will end the year on a positive note.

Motion to accept the report was made by Debby, seconded by Elena and all attending members approved.

Annual Meeting Planning and Discussion

- January 5, 10am worship, 11am meeting. There is a luncheon at noon after the annual meeting. There will be a genie sign up for volunteers to help with the luncheon afterwards and cleanup.
- Reports for the annual meeting are due by Christmas day.
- We can create a narrative budget to accompany the budget.
- Budget went out in the newsletter. Thank you, Ron, for working on this.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update: Sent her report to Pastor Duffy

- She is working on Board Certification for chaplaincy. The last steps are writing essays. All her paperwork is due at the end of February. If she is approved, there is a panel interview in June or July.
- Our new church has enjoyed the Advent season. Everyone is coming over to their house on Saturday for a meal and fellowship.
- We are pursuing some ideas to begin live-streaming in mid-January.
- She hopes everyone at Zion is doing well.

Pastor's Report

- See Newsletter and bulletin for latest December updates. We only have one service on Christmas Eve at 5pm. We will need to set up extra chairs in the overflow room and have extra available if needed.
- Commercial is live on Facebook and Instagram. Share to invite friends to Christmas Eve worship.
- The New Member meeting /dinner on 12/9 was wonderful. On Sunday 12/15, we will have 15 adults, 2 teens, and 9 kids joining on Sunday. One of our new members will also be baptized on that Sunday.

- Pastor will be in Massachusetts visiting family the week of New Years. She will not miss a Sunday, and she will still be available, but she will be spending time with my family that week.
- Jr. WAY, WAY, and Sr. WAY all have events that can be found in the bulletin.
- With the help of some volunteers, she will be visiting home-bound and nursing home-bound members and bringing them poinsettias. Thank you to those who have offered to help deliver poinsettias.
- Breakfast with Santa signup is going slow. Hopefully we will have a lot more signed up by Saturday.
- Pastor did get approved for insurance through the UCC and thank God because it's much cheaper than any other option. The cost is \$14,995 for Plan C plus \$1,000 for an FSA, totaling \$15,995. Since her family doesn't have large health requirements, she thinks this is better than choosing plan B or A.
- We need to select a new copier. Our options are:
 - BXI (current company). The annual price should be \$2,690. The copier is a Xerox C-8145
 - Eagle Systems (new option to us). They matched the \$2690 annual price (assuming current copy rate). The copier is a Sharp BP50c31.
 - Copies of the specs were handed out and discussion was done at the end of our meeting.

Trustee's Report

- Contracted for snowplowing for the church. Our contractor, Nick Lund, did have an increase this year due to the price of gas and insurance, but was still the lowest bid at \$5,200 a year. This includes plowing the entire parking lot and all the sidewalk around the church as well.
- Other forthcoming projects will be discussed at the annual meeting on January 5, 2025.

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach

- Stewardship pie charts were available in the bulletin. The areas that are not listed did not have enough volunteers.
- John reported they have decided to move the basket raffle back to March instead of February because statistics have shown we do better in the spring months for this event. This upcoming year, they will be doing the basket raffle, the meat raffle and the Strawberry Festival to raise funding for the church. They made \$13,215.94 in 2024 alone! Since they started recording the totals earned in 2018, they have made \$72,270.90 for our church. Great job to the fundraising committee and all who help make the events successful!

Committee Reports

- Christian Education & Missions - (Edie) – Sue H reported that we had 20 bags of gifts that Pastor and her delivered 12/10. The congregation was extremely generous in this mission! Many thanks to everyone! Calendars are still coming in and Sue made another trip to the VA to turn them in.
- Christmas pageant is Sunday. Thank you to Sue Clark for helping to make another pageant successful by getting our kids into their costumes and helping us run things smoothly
- Health Ministry - (Debby)- Emergency Preparedness Class - 24 people attended and it was extremely interesting. He said our church is very prepared for various emergencies and applauded how it is set up. Our next class is Medicare ABCs- on Saturday January 25 from 10 till noon. It is free for everyone so invite friends and family if they may be interested. You do not have to be turning 65 years old to learn about this topic as it changes every year, so it is important to understand the basics!
- Altar Guild - (Robin)- no report
- Memorials - (George) Memorials were received for Sally Browning and in memory of the Ciatello family. The current balance is \$4,638.20.
- PPRC/Admin - (George)- Debbie G. reported there have been no issues this month. Poinsettias have been ordered for the altar.
- Community Assistance Ministry - (Dave) - no report
- New Member - (Dave)- The New Member meeting 12/09 was wonderful. On Sunday 12/15, we have 15 adults, 2 teens, and 9 kids joining our church. One of our new members will also be baptized on Sunday.

Dave D., Elena and Ted Camp, Edie B. and Debby W. were there to assist Pastor. Ted noted that many of the new people expressed how welcoming the congregation is and felt like they had found a home. Great job congregation as we show Christian love and kindness to others!

- Environmental Ministry - (Pierre)-no report
- Network of Religious Communities - (Pierre)- the members include denominations/faith coordinating bodies, religious organizations and congregations serving Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Southern Ontario, Canada. Individuals supportive of the mission and purpose of the Network may become auxiliary members. The Network is a forum providing opportunities for cooperative ventures, the strengthening of our religious communities and the betterment of the community. Religious communities are encouraged to develop links with similar faith communities for cooperative programming, the sharing of resources and mutual support. (See Mission and Purpose) The core belief and integrity of all religious communities are respected in all policy statements issued and actions taken in the name of the Network. Participants in the Network are never expected to compromise their belief; rather to dialogue with people from other faith communities from a perspective of humility and mutual respect.
- Community Dinners - (Bob)- Thank you to Ted and Rick, George D., Melissa and Jake Korte and all the other volunteers who helped make the Thanksgiving community dinner a success. And thank you to the volunteers who came in and decorated the church to make it so festive during this holiday season. Planning next dinner- thinking of soup, chili or goulash. Ted and Elene will assist in the final decision.
- Food Pantry - (John)-There was a very successful food drive that helped to provide much needed supplies to the Food Pantry. Two anonymous donors gave a total of \$220 to the Food Pantry as well! Thank you to the congregation for all their support. Thank you to John Wagner for monitoring the food pantry every week. The families that come for assistance do appreciate the church's mission in this.
- Coffee Hour - (Ted)- They really need more bakers. Kathy has had to run to the store for baked goods recently. Charles, Kathy H. and Ted do a wonderful job providing the congregation with coffee, drinks and baked goods.

Old Business

- Continue working on Consistory Manual/Handbook Debby began. -- bylaws revisions have begun . Discussion and questions were made about the by-laws so Consistory members could understand some of the terminology better. These discussions will continue between Consistory and the Trustees as we continue to work together and help benefit the church now and in the future.
- Printing professional hobby registry soon <https://www.zionuccton.com/professional-directory/>- still accepting people's forms on this if interested.

New Business

- Anything? Discussion about ceiling tiles- they will be examined more closely after the holiday season- possibly just need to be glued down. The feeling is that nobody is in danger and can wait for repair.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm

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

Next Meeting: January 14, 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Debby Williams
Consistory Secretary