

## Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Notes March 11, 2025

Call to Order at 7:04 pm by Dave D.

Attending: Pastor Elizabeth, Dave D., Pierre, Robin F., Jeff Q., Debby W., Kelly D., Cheryl L., Elena C., George D., Kalee, and Ted C.

Absent: John P., and Bob S.

Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes – motion to approve was made by Debby and seconded by Pierre. All attending approved.

Treasurer's Report (Ron J):

As of 3/2/25 there is a balance of \$62,247.59 in the operating account and \$35,237.91 in the restricted funds account. The operating account balance also takes into consideration the payroll due on 3/7/25.

The revenue for February was \$20,502.90. The net income was \$5,825.56. In comparison: The revenue for February 2024 was \$22,641.50. The net income for February 2024 was \$5,560.88.

The YTD Revenue is \$38,580.60 and the YTD Net Income is \$9,257.81. The YTD 2024 Revenue was \$35,545.47 and the YTD 2024 Net Income was \$4,937.78.

Notable P&L events for February are as follows:

51710 Pastor's FICA (quarterly payment) \$1,407.46

54409 Website & sec. (annual payment) \$1,008.00

54702 Workers Comp. Ins. (annual) \$851.00

54706 Health Permit – Kitchen (annual) \$282.00

60001 OWCM (quarterly) \$1,287.75

60002 Western Area (quarterly) \$950.00

60008 NY Conf. Per Capita (quarterly) \$300.00

While the revenue numbers appear extremely strong for the first two months, he cautions everyone to remember that some members of the congregation made larger than normal donations for 2024 tax filing purposes. It would be unreasonable to expect monthly revenues to continue at this strong pace.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update

In progress:

- Ongoing work and development in Marks of Ministry-always
- Ongoing work on her portfolio-in progress/always
- UCC Polity- 50 % completed. Will be finished by the end of the month
- Goal to complete ordination paper is May 31<sup>st</sup> to give to Rev. Dale
- Give paper to COM by June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Meet with COM in July
- Turn in Board Certification Application at July meeting
- Ecclesiastical Council: September 2025
- Ordination before October 31<sup>st</sup> so she can receive her Ecclesiastical Endorsement for BCCI (Board Certified Chaplaincy Incorporated)

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Elizabeth's weekly schedule for those who are curious: Mondays: work from home, clergy group meetings, and Committee on Ministry the 2nd Monday of each month (these meetings start at 9:30 and go into the afternoon. She is unreachable except for emergencies during these meetings). Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: in the office during the day. Most evening meetings are scheduled these three days as well. Fridays: day off, youth group in the evening twice a month. Saturdays: Church events or day off, depending on the Saturday. Sunday: Worship.

- She has added another mentee to my list. She is now mentoring Rev. Miranda Hammer, the new Associate Pastor of Ebenezer UCC in West Seneca. She is an ELCA pastor who now has dual standing with the ELCA and the UCC, so Pastor Elizabeth will serve as her mentor for her first 5 years in the UCC. This simply means that she will meet with her occasionally and be present for any support/questions and work with her to join NGLI since she is under the age of 35 (NGLI is the Next Generation Leadership Initiative that Pastor was a part of). She has known Miranda for years since she was the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tonawanda prior to serving Ebenezer.
- Lenten Bible Study: Thursdays at 7pm in the Overflow room: March 13-April 3 (the NRC dinner is scheduled for April 10th, so the series will end a week earlier than normal). Bible Study topic: "Practicing what Jesus Preached" which is based on a devotional book written by my mentor, Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner (the book is not required for the class).
- 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. Pastor 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
- Mission trip hosting: We will be hosting the UCC youth group from Acton, MA in April. They will arrive the evening of Easter Sunday (April 20) and leave on April 26. The youth minister, Ryan Harrison, and Pastor Elizabeth went to seminary together at Boston University. There will be about 20 youth and adults here.
- Confirmation class numbers have grown! This Saturday, March 15 is Confirmation Class with Pastor Elizabeth for 3 hours to cover theological topics and make sure they are ready to be confirmed.
- Pastor Elizabeth would like to have New Member Sundays be on the Children's Sundays in June/December (the last one was on Children's Sunday in December and it went well). That way we have two Sundays a year for new members to join, and it's when we have one service already scheduled. George made a motion that we try this for a year. Pierre seconded. All approved.

#### Trustee's Report (Ted)

They are doing a Planning and Process review. Pew cushions have been delivered. They are going over the memorial scholarship and DCC (Dunkirk) funding. They are reviewing the church rental agreement and the process/application. There will be minimal requirements for liability purposes. Ron J (church treasurer) is now able to write checks out of the Trustee's account, so things are done in a timely manner. This decision was based because of the audit review. They are also beginning the planning of some Capital Projects like Kuch Hall renovations. Decision was made to hold a joint meeting of the Trustees and Consistory to discuss church matters together on Tuesday April 8 at 7 pm. There will be a prepared agenda. Trustees will meet at 6. Trustees and Consistory will have a joint meeting at 7. Consistory will continue to meet after the joint meeting.

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John): Basket raffle is Saturday March 15!!

## Committee Reports

- Christian Education & Missions - (Kelly): per Sue Clark, we're going to be starting a mission project soon putting together kits for church world service. Also, we just started our last quarter of study for the Sunday school year. Vacation Bible school materials have been ordered but we have not yet discussed dates.
- Health Ministry - (Debby): We had 20 people attend the Mental Health Advocate presentation. Have had nothing but positive feedback on it. 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. She will be here to teach us on eating healthy and why. Our Health Ministry team will be meeting in June to start planning next year's classes.
- Memorials - (George): No memorials were received this month. Current balance: \$4763.40
- PPRC/Admin - (Cheryl:)Administration Committee has begun to work on writing a safe church policy. No news for PPRC.
- Community Assistance Ministry - (Jeff): no report
- New Member - (Dave): discussion was done about having new members officially become members of Zion two times a year – the same Sunday as the Children's Sundays- June and December. There is one service that day and everybody will be there to celebrate both important activities. Was discussed pros and cons. George made a motion to try it on a trial basis for one year and revisit it after the year to see how it went. Pierre seconded and all attending approved.
- Environmental Ministry - (Jeff): has three new people to help with some new ideas and with the affordability of what can be planted.
- Network of Religious Communities - (Pierre): Dinner form is in the office for those who would like to purchase tickets for the dinner on April 10. The committee is working on organizing archival records. They met Friday Feb 28. They have several food projects and have representatives in each county for information and assistance. The Network provides SNAP (food stamps) in four different counties. Erie 716-882, Genesee County 585-815-5721 (Tina); Wyoming County 585-456-4224 (Suzanne) and Niagara County 716-520-6000. There is also an Emergency Food Assistance with their food pantry at 1272 Delaware Ave Buffalo 716-882-4793. There are no zip code restrictions. Times are Tuesdays 10am-2 pm and Wednesdays 4 pm-6 pm.
- Community Dinners - (Bob): Troy H is making stone soup. Volunteers are needed for the day of the community dinner. Women's Fellowship is hosting the April dinner.
- Food Pantry - (John)- the overstock shelf is now up and organized.
- Coffee Hour - (Ted)- going well but they really need bakers. The group has been purchasing baked goods at the store because there has not been enough. There is a sign-up sheet on the front board for volunteers to bake for Coffee Hour. Please help!!

## Old Business

- Ken Voght has agreed to chair the Constitution/Bylaws task force, and we will set a meeting when he returns from Florida in March.
- Consistory Handbook is tabled until the Constitution/Bylaws have been revised.

## New Business

- Review Dunkirk account: The money is already in the account for improvements. Pastor will check with Dunkirk if they think this needs to be done before camp is in session this year.
- Rick Arnold sent a letter stating that the oven in the kitchen is not working properly. He asked several companies to come and see if it needs to be recalibrated or if it is something else. Only one company got back to him. They asked for a \$350.00 service fee to come out and see what needs to be done. Motion was made to accept this by Cheryl L and seconded by Kelly D. All those attending approved.
- Sue House requested the use of Kuck Hall for a Basket Raffle for a cat rescue. This was denied due to our bylaws, *"Gambling is limited to Raffles and Chinese Auctions. All proceeds must benefit the church or church organizations."*

Motion to adjourn was made by Debby Williams, seconded by Pierre and approved by all. Adjourned at 9:18 pm.

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

Next Meeting: April 8, 7pm