

## COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tuesday, November 13th, 2018 @ 7:30. The meeting was called to order by Council President, Tony Mandik

### ATTENDEES:

Pastor Paul Townsend, Tony Mandik, Steve Moore, Shawn Rogers, Elaine Weinstein, Penny Fatula, Jack Florio, Brian Mickiewicz, Evan Dietrich and George Detwiler. Absent were Paul Condrack, Ron Hoinowski, Diane Sakal, Amber Statzell and Tia Weinstein.

### DEVOTIONS

Devotions were led by Penny Fatula and included a reading and a short prayer.

Following the devotions we discussed current action items

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Stewardship Campaign response: As of October 28, 2018 there has been a commitment of our members to increase their contributions in 2019 by \$26,000 which represents a 16% increase over 2018 projected contributions. This does not include some commitment responses that came in on Sunday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Smoose considers this a great response from the congregation.
2. MAP (Missional Assessment Profile) Survey: 60 members responded to this survey. A meeting was held on Wednesday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> to review the survey responses. Pastor Paul, Tony Mandik, Steve Moore, Brian Miekiewicz and George Detwiler participated in the review which was facilitated by Jeff Kjellberg of The Joshua Group in St Paul, MN. Questions about the church leadership and the need for more effective communication were brought out in the survey and it is felt that the results of the study should be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting in February, 2019. This will allow Council some time to digest the results. There is also help available through the Synod and perhaps we can take advantage of that. Pastor will be attending a conference later this week and hopes to be able to discuss this.
3. Audubon Symphony: Has expressed an interest in again performing a Christmas concert at Zion. It would be on December 12<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Shawn Rogers and seconded by George Detwiler that we extend an invitation to the Audubon Symphony to perform at Zion on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.  
It was also suggested by George Detwiler that we record a few minutes of their performance this year and play it at one of the December services prior to their performing next year to try and improve attendance.
4. Conference meeting for the election of the Dean will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at St. Michael's Church in Unionville. Zion needs to have 2 delegates for this, one male and one female. Council was asked to consider this and be ready with names at our December meeting. Brian Mickiewicz said he would be willing if needed.

### REPORTS

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting**: The minutes from the October Council meeting were reviewed. An addition was made to include the name of the company Zion has contracted with to do the snow plowing for the 2018-19 Winter season (Alderman Contracting) and a typo error

correction to the name of Miss Lori. A motion was made by Steve Moore and seconded by George Detwiler to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul:** The Pastor's report was presented in writing. He mentioned that the first "Lunch and Laughter With Seniors" went very well and we are hoping for increased attendance at the next one on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

- On Oct. 10-11 Pastor did school stories to seven different classrooms each of which has two classes so a total of 14 classes.
- Music Fest was held on Oct. 14 and as a result of that, considering the low attendance, there is a perceived need to discuss how to proceed with this event. Do we change the time? Do we hold it during Sunday morning worship? There are plusses and minuses but it doesn't seem to make sense to invite an outside musician to come and play for 20-25 people.
- Our new piano needed some work. This involved "regulating" (rebalancing the levers, springs and replacement of some felt pads) and resulted in an unexpected cost of \$1,800 which was authorized by Pastor Paul. The repairs have been made.
- We had a great turnout for the Halloween party. (More on that in the Christian Ed report.)
- The Crop Hunger Walk resulted in 20 walkers (the largest group participating) with donations of \$970 toward our goal of \$1000 (the largest contribution).
- Consecration Sunday included Pastor Smoose speaking and two brunch events and had a very successful response from the congregation (see action item #1 above). A future goal is the rebuilding of Zion's Stewardship Committee with an ongoing emphasis on education and feedback.
- Conducted the James Keeley funeral.
- Participated in 4 school Halloween parades.
- Pastor then gave Council a quick update on Ralph Finkbiner, Sean Adams, and Don Donahue. Ralph is critical but stable in the Phoenixville ICU. He has had a setback with the discovery of a blockage. Pastor has visited several times and says that Karen has a lot of family support. Don Donahue is now at "The Landing at Collegeville" and is in the Memory Impairment Ward. Sean Adams has shown great improvement lately. We need to keep all three of these men in our prayers going forward.

3. **Christian Ed/Youth: Shawn Rogers:**

- The Halloween party was again a great success. This year Zion had two tractors for the hayrides through the cemetery and both got a lot of use. Shawn offered her thanks to all who helped out. The leftover food was taken to St. Mary's Shelter and Shawn says that we should all try to visit there and see their new kitchen.
- On October 21<sup>st</sup> Shawn took some of the youth group and they participated in the Crop Hunger Walk.
- On October 28<sup>th</sup> the youth group went to Terror Labs at The Coventry Mall and had a great time. Part of the proceeds from that event will go to Children's Hospital.
- The first Communion class has started. There are 4 children in the class this year. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> they will take their first Communion at the 10:45 service.
- The annual youth group sleepover was held at Zion on the night of November 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Penny, Elaine, and Amy for spending the night and helping out.
- Christmas play practice has gotten off to a good start. The play will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- December 18<sup>th</sup> Kelly and Tim will have their class and Miss Maggie will have "Donuts with Miss Maggie".

4. **Finance Committee: Jack Florio:** A meeting of the committee was held on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. We discussed the annual audit. A plan is now in place for the audits of the Church, school and cemetery.
5. **Property Committee: Steve Moore:**
  - Steve reminded us about “clean-up” day on November 17<sup>th</sup>. There is some concern with the saturation of the ground right now and how that might affect our ability to get as much done as we’d like.
  - We’re still working on the church signage and plan to talk with Dawn Platchek about possibly combining the school sign with the church sign.
  - The paving project is moving ahead. The quote from A&H has been accepted and work may begin by the end of this week, weather permitting. It may possibly even start tomorrow (Wednesday).
  - The roof work on the former parsonage has been completed. Additional window and Bilco door work is still planned.
6. **Social Ministry: George Detwiler:**
  - The Crop Hunger Walk was very successful. (See Pastor’s report above)
  - The sleeping bag collection is going well. So far seven bags have been donated. The collection will continue until Thanksgiving weekend. We are now looking for a place to donate them along with the remaining food packets.
  - The Christmas “Giving Tree” has been set up and almost all stars have already been removed. When gift cards are returned and placed with the star back on the tree the cards will be removed so the star can be used again.
  - The Community Thanksgiving dinner will be held Thursday, Nov. 22nd. Volunteers are needed.
  - Lunch and Laughter for Seniors will again be held on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. We plan to play “Holiday Bingo” at this one.
  - Zion will be providing the “Meals For St. Mary’s” the week of Dec. 3-7
  - On December 12<sup>th</sup> Zion will host the “Hope on the Hill” at First United Church of Christ.
  - The Veteran’s Center has assigned a new friend to Zion as part of their Friend of a Veteran program. He is Ismael Rivera. Fred Richard, our first friend in this program, passed away recently.
  - We will again be holding a “Christmas Caroling for the Homebound” this year on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to take part. A list of potential people to visit has been put together.
  - We are in the early stages of forming a relationship with Good Samaritan Services in Phoenixville. Good Samaritan runs a men’s shelter and we are planning a tour of their facility and also having a representative come out to talk to the congregation and explain how they serve the community. This will happen after the Holidays.
7. **Stewardship Committee:** Consecration Sunday – See Pastor’s report.
8. **Worship and Music:** No meeting was held this month so there is no report. Reminders of upcoming events are:
  - Deck the Halls Sunday will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Decorating of the church for Christmas will be after the second service.
  - Christmas Eve services will once again be held at 3:00, 8:00, and 11:00.
  - Removing of the greens and decorations will be on January 6th.

9. **Capital Campaign: George Detwiler:** George reported that contributions are still coming in quite regularly. Contributions in October totaled \$4,525. The overall contribution total now stands at \$193,787.70 against expenses of \$181,086.46 leaving a balance of \$12,701.24. Roughly \$1,600 that was originally counted in expenses for the Improvement Fund to cover 50% of the cost of replacement of 4 windows in the school will be moved to the Capital Campaign leaving a net of \$11,101.40 in the account. One potential future expense for the fund may be the replacement of the sliding doors at the church entrance.

10. **Zion School:** No report

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Jack Florio presented the financial reports for the month of October. Totals for the Current Fund were unusually low and represented a total 25% below what is needed to break even and resulted in an increase in our 2018 deficit of \$10,000. The numbers are skewed a bit because the school's contribution of \$2,750 was actually received in late September and was included in that month's report. And the prepayment for plowing and salting (\$4,900.00) is in this month's expenses. Even with that taken into account envelope giving was unusually low. Benevolence and Improvement income was about where it always is. Music Fest resulted in \$120 in contributions and this will be placed in the Old Organ Fund. Capital Campaign was covered (see above). Improvement expenses were also high this month and included the repairs at the former parsonage (roof - \$4,950 and Bilco door and basement wall - \$2,225). Please refer to the financial reports for further details.

Pastor offered that in his 10 years at Zion he has never seen a drop off like what we saw in October so it bears watching.

A motion was then made by Elaine Weinsteiniger and seconded by Shawn Rogers to accept the Financial Reports. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION & CALENDAR**

Tony Mandik asked us to remember that the cleanup day is November 17<sup>th</sup>, Hanging of the Greens is December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Christmas play is on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Caroling for the Homebound is on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Shawn mentioned that this is the time of year that we again write the \$380.00 check for the "Adopt-A-Family" program. This year there is money left over from last year so she only needed \$17.17 to hit the total amount. Pastor graciously made up the difference.

On a very sad note Shawn informed us that she had received a call earlier this evening that her Mom, Pat Buzzard, was not expected to live longer than a few days. I am sure that Pat, along with Shawn and the entire family, will be in our thoughts and prayers.

A motion was then made by George Detwiler to close the meeting. It was seconded by Steve Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Our next Meeting will be on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Devotions will be by Elaine Weinsteiniger

The meeting closed with a prayer by Pastor Paul and Council praying The Lord's Prayer.