

COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING ON JANUARY 8, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 @ 7:30. The meeting was called to order by Council President, Tony Mandik

ATTENDEES:

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

DEVOTIONS

Devotions were led by Brian Mickiewicz and included a reading and a short prayer.

Following the devotions we discussed current action items

ACTION ITEMS

1. **New Members:** Short discussion on new members – Mary Ahearn and John & Maureen Jacobsen, Grace and Ella. Pastor gave us a short biography of each. Shawn Rogers made a motion to accept all as new members, seconded by Brian Mickiewicz. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Annual Congregational Meeting:** The meeting will be held on Jan. 27. It was suggested that committees have their Chair or another member of the committee there to present their report or answer any questions. This would improve the visibility of our committee people to the congregation and possibly help improve communication with the congregation. A motion to that effect was made by Steve Moore, seconded by George Detwiler. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Richard G. Nelson Award:** A discussion was held to determine the recipient(s) of this year's award. We reviewed the criteria for selection and a number of recommendations were made of people meeting this criteria. Council voted and selected Maggie Munz and Paul Condrack as this year's recipients. A motion was made by Shawn Rogers and seconded by Brian Mickiewicz to accept the vote of Council. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Addition of another individual as check signer:** An additional signer is needed, preferably someone who lives close by and is available to attend Finance Committee meetings. George Detwiler volunteered to do it since he lives in Phoenixville and is a member of the Finance Committee. A motion was made by Ron Hoinowski to accept George Detwiler as an additional check signer, seconded by Elaine Weinsteiger. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Need for additional committee members:** Many of our committees are short staffed and there is a need to find additional members willing to serve. Finance could use more members and there is a desire to reform the Mutual Ministry Committee
6. **Pallets left over from the new walkway:** George Detwiler mentioned that because of the long delay involved in Andrew Fatula being able to complete the new walkway, a delay caused both by weather and our drainage issues, he had lost \$400 which should have been returned to him when he returned the pallets that the bricks are stored on. There was a time limit on the return which has now passed. George made a motion, seconded by Steve Moore, that the \$400 be paid out of the Capital Campaign to reimburse Andrew for the loss. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **The Escape Room – Zion youth activity:** Plans are being made to take the youth group to the "Escape Room" at the Coventry Mall. Shawn made a motion to accept this event for our youth group, seconded by George Detwiler. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

- **Minutes from the previous meeting:** The minutes from the December Council meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. A motion was made by Brian Mickiewicz and seconded by Ron Hoinowski to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul:** The Pastor's report was presented in writing. It is summarized here:
 - Visits and Contacts: 19
 - Meetings: 10
 - Worship: 8 Sunday services, 3 Christmas eve services, 3 confirmation classes
 - December events
 - i. Dec. 2: 1st Communion of 4 students
 - ii. Dec. 5: Lunch and Laughter for Seniors
 - iii. Dec. 8: Christmas play
 - iv. Dec. 12&13: School Stories (10) with Shawn Rogers
 - v. Dec. 12: Hope On the Hill
 - vi. Dec. 12: Audubon Symphony
 - vii. Dec. 16: Christmas caroling with homebound members
 - viii. Dec. 20&21: School Christmas programs
 - ix. Dec. 24: Christmas Eve worship. 3 services: 3PM (147), 8PM (139), 11PM (62)
 - x. Dec. 29: Funeral of Pastor Bill Davis
 - MAP: There was a short discussion on the MAP study. It was decided that Tony would lead discussion on this topic at the congregational meeting. We will be recommending that we move forward with the Synod's assistance through the "Navigator Program" and are waiting to hear back from them.
 - We also discussed the rebuilding of the Mutual Ministry Committee for handling things like salaries and annual reviews.
- **Christian Ed/Youth: Shawn Rogers:**
 - Jan. 6: Sunday School New Year's celebration was held.
 - Jan. 6: Youth group Christmas party
 - Jan. 20: Zion birthday party
 - Jan. 13: Sunday school begins their food collection project. This will continue through Super Bowl Sunday.
 - Jan. 27: Youth will be going ice skating.
 - Feb. 10: Escape Room at the Coventry Mall
 - Feb. 24: Bowling at Jay Lanes
 - June 17-21: Shawn has begun recruiting for Bible School. 22 have volunteered to help so far.
 - July 19: Christmas in July

Discussion item: Shawn made a request that we begin thinking about a support group for divorced parents. She sees several church families in a divorce situation and thought this group could provide a means for parents to network and also to show the children involved that they are not alone. Questions were raised about what type of leadership, if any, would be needed. Also whether there might be a national support group, like AA, for families in this situation and perhaps we could sponsor that group at Zion. Shawn said that she thinks what they are looking for is unstructured and just an opportunity to gather together, talk, and provide emotional support for each other. Pastor offered that if they are just looking for a place to get together periodically that there is no need for Council to approve.

- **Finance Committee: Jack Florio:** No meeting this month. No report.
- **Property Committee: Steve Moore:** There was no meeting in December but Steve Moore provided an update on several items:

- Bill Marsala (electrician) came out again and worked on the circuit that includes the front lights and those to the sign along Rte. 724. He has determined that there is an issue with the underground line going to the sign. The line was installed without being placed in conduit which might be where the problem started.
 - The last windows were replaced in the preschool. A small amount of painting remains around the windows.
 - Installation of the Bilco doors in the former parsonage are on hold until the water problem is taken care of. Where to go from here will be a point of discussion at the next Property Committee meeting.
 - Last weekend the well pump at the former parsonage burned out and that has been replaced.
- **Social Ministry: George Detwiler:** No meeting in December but George Detwiler had the following report:
 - Dec. 5 Held the second Lunch and Laughter for Seniors. 19 people attended vs. 11 for the first get together so that is very encouraging.
 - Dec. 12 Sponsored Hope on the Hill at First UCC in Spring City and served close to 60 people.
 - Dec. 16 Christmas caroling to homebound members of the congregation. 13 Zion members participated.
 - December The "Giving Tree" resulted in over \$1000 in gift cards for the Martin Luther Silver Springs School.
- **Stewardship Committee:** No report
- **Worship and Music: Ron Hoinowski**
 - Christmas Eve Services: 11:00 service continues to see lower attendance but overall attendance figures for the three services remains fairly steady at around 350.
 - Thought should be given to making some new ornaments for the new Christmas tree and Ron recommended possibly tying this project in with "Christmas In July" activities.
 - The Bell Choir did not perform this year due to lack of people. Please try to encourage people to come out and join this.
 - The choir has added a couple more voices.
 - Looking ahead to the Lenten season we want to encourage attendance for the Wednesday evening services.
 - Currently evaluating sanctuary improvements tied in with the Capital Campaign contributions.
- **Capital Campaign: George Detwiler:**
 - Contributions for the month totaled \$3,968.50. Expenses were \$1,720.00 (preschool windows) bringing total contributions in the campaign to \$224,109.20 and total expenses to \$189,426.46.
- **Zion School: Pastor Paul:** No report
 - **Zion Cemetery: Steve Moore:**
 - The first "First Responder's" Sunday was well received. We had about 12 first responders come out. If we do this in the future planning will begin earlier.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Jack Florio

Jack reviewed the financial reports.

Contributions increased in December and those figures are spelled out in the December "Statement of Income and Expenses". There were 5 Sundays plus the Christmas Eve services which usually help to increase the December totals. These totals are not enough to make much of a dent in our 2018 deficit. It was reduced by only \$2,000 and still stands at over \$40,000 for the year.

The school paid in advance for its December contribution (\$2,750.00) so there will be none shown in the reports for January 2019.

\$525.50 was raised for the Adopt A Family program.

\$3,968.50 was contributed to the Capital Campaign. \$1,720 from the Campaign was expended for four windows in the preschool area.

\$Back taxes of \$4,686.00 are included in December expenses for October and November.

A review of the "Budget vs. Actual" report shows that plate offering is 40% below the budget number and envelope giving is 10% below.

A motion was made by George Detwiler and seconded by Steve Moore to accept the financial reports. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was then held to determine how to zero out the deficit. It was decided that the funds necessary to do this should be taken from Bequests. A motion to do that was made by Brian Mickiewicz and seconded by George Detwiler. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION & CALENDAR

We had a discussion about the upcoming congregational meeting. This year will be a difficult discussion and it's important that all Council members are fully informed. It was suggested that one question likely to be asked is why we are so much over the budgeted deficit this year. We had expected, and budgeted, a \$31,000 deficit and we came in at \$41,000, 33% higher than budgeted. There has been a long list of needed, and unexpected, repairs over the past year which had to be completed.

What we need to emphasize is that we are doing everything we can to make sure this isn't repeated. Consecration Sunday was a good start. The commitments that came in were very encouraging and if the congregation meets those commitments the reports will look very much different next year.

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

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