

COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 @ 7:30. The meeting was called to order by Council President, Tony Mandik

ATTENDEES:

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

Attendance was affected by the weather conditions.

DEVOTIONS:

Devotions were led by Steve Moore and included a reading and a short prayer.

Following the devotions we discussed current action items

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Annual Congregational Meeting:** Attendance at this year's meeting was about the same as last year although still only a fraction of our congregation. It was generally felt by Council that having the individual committee chairs present their reports or answer questions on their committees and reports was a good move, helping to increase visibility of those members who are involved in leading Zion committees. There seemed to be more questions from members this year and that type of involvement is a good thing. One thing we need to figure out is how to get the congregation more involved in attending this meeting in the future. It is one of the best ways to get information on where we are and where we are going in the coming year.
2. **MAP Strategic Planning Process:** For our purposes we are going to call our process "Plan for Tomorrow". A committee will be put together for this program and a number of names have been suggested by Zion's Executive Committee. These individuals will be contacted in the coming weeks. Once the Zion team is put together they will meet with a "navigator" provided by the Synod to help us decide how the process should work.
3. **Habitat for Humanity:** Pastor attended a meeting in Coatesville regarding Habitat's plans to construct 44 affordable homes in partnership with Thrivent. These homes are built to sell for \$110,000. They are trying to raise \$55,000 from all the Christian congregations in Chester County for this project. George Detwiler and Pastor Paul advanced the thought that this might be an appropriate use of a portion of the outreach funds that we have collected through Zion's Capital Campaign. One idea was to conduct a "matching" campaign with funds from the Capital campaign matching, dollar for dollar, any contributed by the members of the congregation. Jack Florio suggested that there be an upper limit set and all seemed in agreement on that. After further discussion George made a motion that Zion hold a fundraiser for the Habitat for Humanity project in Coatesville during the months of March and April, 2019 that would consist of a dollar for dollar matching donation program up to a total of \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Ron Hoinowski and passed unanimously. The program will be introduced during services in early March. Mindy Swartley will be asked to speak at the first service and Tony Mandik agreed to speak at the second.

4. Committee Membership:

- Mutual Ministry: Zion's Executive Committee met and came up with possible members for this committee with a goal of having a mix of long time members and newer members.
- Finance Committee: Two additional members have been added to the Finance Committee. They are Joy Moyer and Colin Smith.
- Amber Statzell: Submitted a letter of resignation to Council due to changes in her work situation that prevents her from attending on Tuesday evenings. The resignation was accepted with an understanding of her situation but with regret. A motion was made by George Detwiler to accept Amber's resignation and seconded by Brian Mickiewicz. It passed unanimously.

REPORTS

- **Minutes from the previous meeting:** The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. The only changes were the addition of the name of new members' John and Maureen Jacobsen's daughter, Ella, and the addition of the names of Maggie Munz and Paul Condrack as winners of the Richard G. Nelson Award. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Elaine Weinsteiger and seconded by Steve Moore. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul:** Pastor's report is attached.
- **Christian Ed/Youth: Shawn Rogers:** Due to the weather conditions Shawn could not be at the meeting. No report.
- **Finance Committee: Jack Florio:** Two new members have joined the committee. They are Joy Moyer and Colin Smith. Welcome!
- **Property Committee: Steve Moore:**
 - The committee is talking to Jiffy Products about repairing the gutter outside the church entrance that was hit by a truck some time ago. They have repaired the downspout and installed a new heat probe to prevent ice buildup.
 - The wall going into the basement of the parsonage has been repaired and the new Bilco doors installed.
 - The snow plow hit the low wall that goes around the circle and did some damage.
 - New lighting is being looked at for the sign out by Rte. 724.
 - The committee is going to be looking at the trees around the church because some of them need to be taken down.
 - Another project at the house involves seal coating the back wall below ground to stop the water from getting into the basement. Along with this there will be some regrading done to direct water away from the foundation.
- **Social Ministry: George Detwiler**
 - On January 31st Pastor Paul, Carol, Susan Davis and George Detwiler traveled to Good Samaritan Services, a men's shelter, transitional housing and member of Code Blue, for a tour of their facilities. This is an organization that has a second location in Ephrata serving as a shelter for women and children and also has merged with the Chester and Lancaster County "Bridge of Hope" services to provide housing, life skills training and job training among other services and serves over 200 people per day. In the spring we

hope to have representatives from Good Samaritan visit Zion for a “Good Sam” visit which involves speaking at our services about their mission.

- On February 6th we held Lunch and Laughter for Seniors and had 13 of our senior members. We hope more members will start attending. Everyone had a very good time. We enjoyed a light lunch of soup and sandwiches followed by several games.
 - Hope on the Hill, scheduled for February 13th had to be cancelled because another organization had taken that date. We will reschedule.
 - During the month of February we are holding a sock collection for “In Ian’s Boots”. Ian Miller, at age 12, was killed in a sledding accident and this annual collection is done in his name.
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- **Stewardship Committee:** No report
 - **Worship and Music:** Ron Hoinowski
 - A reminder that we will be holding Wednesday evening Lenten services again this year. We urge members to come out even if they can only make one of the services.
 - **Capital Campaign:** George Detwiler
 - Contributions for the month of January totaled \$11,036. Expenses were \$1,352.50 bringing total contributions for the campaign to \$235,145.20 with expenses of \$190,778.96 leaving a net balance of \$44,366.24. Of that total, \$23,515 is earmarked for outreach leaving a total of \$20,851.24 for further capital improvements at Zion.
 - **Zion School:** Pastor Paul
 - We had “School Sunday” this past Sunday. Quite a few families attended during Sunday School and a few during church services. Several staff members attended the church services as well. The school is doing extremely well and continues to grow.
 - **Zion Cemetery:** Steve Moore:
 - A meeting was held to discuss the rates charged by the cemetery along with a discussion of all finances. At this time we have about 100 sites left unsold in the cemetery. Our sites are not sold to the public but are reserved for Zion Church members or direct family members of individuals already buried in our cemetery.
 - Efforts are being made to get as much information on our cemetery onto the “Find-A-Grave” website as we can.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Jack Florio: Financial reports are attached

- Notes:
 - a. Total envelope contributions are where we expect them to be.
 - b. Capital Campaign contributions are still strong at over \$11,000
 - c. We experienced an unusually large current fund deficit for January (\$6,169.89) that can be attributed to several things. First, the school gave us their January contribution in December so that does not show up as income this month. We had a water pump repair at the former parsonage. Annual property taxes were paid in January and First Responder Sunday catering costs were all unusual expenses. More details can be found in the footnotes on the Statement of Income and Expenses which is attached.

- d. We started the year with a large deficit in the Improvement fund which is a rollover from 2018. A lot of work needed to be done on the former parsonage in 2018. These are one time expenses and as we move through the year the future rent payments should lesson that deficit in Improvement.
 - e. There is a new page in the report – “2019 Budget vs. Actuals – Miscellaneous and Admin. Breakdowns”. This has been added to help explain the totals shown that are listed as “miscellaneous” in the 2019 Budget vs. Actual – excl. Capital Campaign report.
- Following the Financial Report there was a discussion regarding the way we handle income and expenses attributed to the old parsonage. We seem to have been hit with many repairs in the past year that have contributed to most of the Improvement Fund deficit. On the other hand we have gone for years without spending much at all to maintain the house. The possible creation of a special reserve fund for house repairs was discussed. For now Council decided to leave things as they are. We do have a reserve fund already that could be used if needed.
 - At the completion of the report and discussion a motion was made by George Detwiler and seconded by Ron Hoinowski to accept the report. It passed unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION & CALENDAR

The next meeting of Council will be on March 12th.

There was no further discussion

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