

Zion Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 13th
Zoom 6:30 pm

Present: Pastor Marsha, Sue Askeland, Ron Berg, Cindy Seyfer, Leslie Veit, Bill Nibbelink, Jean Dobyms, Steve Panther, Kari Clark

Absent: Peggy Nelson, Jan Warren

I. Opening Prayer: Pastor Marsha

II. Consent Agenda (Items pulled will be moved to Other Business on agenda.)

A. June 15th Council Meeting Minutes

B. June 15th Executive Meeting Council Minutes Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Passed

III. Treasurer's Review and Financial Report

-An estate gift from Julie Dowel contributed \$\$39,827 to the general fund and \$4,445 to the choir fund.

-Our envelope and plate giving is 88% of budget and \$41,375 below our collections at the end of 2022.

-Final payments for Pr. Lutz continuing education and accrued vacation will be in the August financials and then personnel expenses will begin to come in line with our projected budget expenses.

-At our current level of giving, it is possible that we will need to use our reserve cash to cover expenses at some point this year.

-Holly Hotchkiss will continue to work with Kari to make corrections on the balance sheets.

Necessary updates to Realm will be made.

Motion: Holly Hotchkiss is to receive \$45/month on an ongoing basis. Passed

Bill has spoken to congregation members about why they have stopped or reduced their contributions to Zion. The reasons given:

1. Contributions will be withheld until the congregation member, who is under the discipline process, is restored to full privileges of church membership.
2. Some members believe separation payments should not have been given to Pastor Susan, Pastor Jennifer, and Mary.
3. Some members, who have contributed to the organ fund, are upset about the long delay in the repairs on the organ.

4. Some members believe Zion is “off the rails” and a “lost cause”.
5. Some members have given up on church attendance completely

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Review and Financial Report: Passed

IV. Pastor Marsha’s report

- A. Pastoral Care Position Update Today, Pastor Marsha interviewed a candidate for the position of Minister of Pastoral Care. This person has chaplaincy experience. References are being checked and a background check done.
- B. Staff Reviews- Staff reviews were completed in February and are being typed to be given the the Personnel Committee.
- C. Mission & Ministry Programs-The Mission & Ministry discussion will be held after the 9:30 am service on the last Sunday of August.

V. Other Business

- A. Sexual harassment training discussion On July 10, sexual harassment training was conducted by Barbara Keller, the Advisor to the ELCA on Sexual Misconduct. Prior to the training, Pastor Marsha discussed with Ms. Keller that the training was to include current information on sexual harassment and how it applied to Zion. However, during the training Ms. Keller shared information that should have been kept confidential. In addition, the content of her presentation was inadequate. The synod office will be informed of our concerns about her presentation.
- B. August 12th, 2023 10-4 Council Planning Meeting Iowa City Public Library: Meeting Room D An agenda for this meeting has been sent to council members.
- C. Pastor Marsha proposes that a covenant be drafted stating how congregation members are to treat each other and the staff.
- D. God’s Work Our Hands Sunday, September 10th (10-year anniversary). This year our congregation will do a community service project to mark the 10-year anniversary of God’s Work Our Hands Sunday.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Personnel Committee Update/Jean The Personnel Committee will meet on August 1.
- B. Mission Endowment Committee/Eldon Snyder Eldon sent a report to the Council. This year, \$25,000 is available for Mission Endowment grants. Applications can be submitted.
- C. Engagement Stewardship/Leslie Results of the Time and Talents survey were posted in the June 16 Enews.
- D. Constitution Committee/Ron and Pastor Marsha There is a rough draft of the updated church constitution. Five church members will be asked to proofread the draft. The updated constitution will be ready for the annual meeting.

E. Pastoral Care Team: Peggy/Pastor Marsha There are 9 volunteers for the Pastoral Care Team. One training session has been done and a second will be scheduled. There are 30 shut-ins, 15 of whom live at Oaknoll. Pastor Jennifer scheduled once every three month visits.

F. Adult Learning Team/ Cindy Adult Bible School will be conducted at Zion August 9 from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and August 10 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Topic: Gifted! The Eco Politics of Gratitude presented by Dr. Jason Mahn.

G. Social Justice Team/ Steve There were no responses to the June 30 Enews invitation for members to join the Social Justice Committee. Steve will not be able to attend the August 12 Council Planning Meeting. He will provide written information related to Zion's social justice efforts and the Black Lives Matter sign.

H. Mutual Ministry Team/ Bill The Mutual Ministry Team is waiting for instructions.

I. Children, Youth, Families Ministry Team/Jan No report made.

J. Worship Volunteers: Ann Birnbaum No report made. Worship Planning: Pastor Marsha, Marlys and Melanie Music has been planned through the holidays. The worship schedule is planned through September 3.

K. Property Committee/ Nick /Dan Both apartments and the small house are rented for one year from August thru July next year. The counseling center is leased for one year August thru July next year. Martinez roofing is replacing the roof on small garage and counseling center. Nick and Linda are repairing the apartments for the new renters

L. Organ Update/Bill Tim Krumm, head of the Organ Committee, has developed a good relationship with Patrick. The committee is confident in Patrick's skill level. He has been advised that if progress on the repairs is too slow, the committee has arranged for an assistant from David Moore.

Motion: The Executive Committee of the Council is authorize to approve invoice payments for organ repair expenses. Passed Motion to move into executive session: Passed Motion to end executive session: Passed Closing Prayer Adjourn / Next meeting August 17, 2023 Respectfully Submitted, Steve Panther, Acting Secretary Parking Lot Items: History Project, Church/Sunday School hours, Congregational Survey