

**Zion Evangelical Church
Council Minutes
January 8, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Council members present were President Kurt Pellmann, Sherry Wynn, Barb Scharf, Annette Hund, Betty Ann Keller Timmer, Darren Doerr, Joshua Seidlitz, Andrew Taake, Kurt Tegtmeier, Pastor Darrell Weber, and Office Administrator Amanda Friedrich. Kurt Pellmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Darrell gave an opening prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Amanda had emailed copies of the Treasurer's Report and Missions Report to members prior to the meeting, and copies of both were also available at the meeting. Annette asked a question concerning a check that had been made directly to the Salvation Army by a Zion member; this will be sent directly to the Salvation Army. Pastor Darrell noted that the total of 2023 Missions donations was almost \$5,000 more than in 2022 – an increase of approximately 33%. Amanda also had revised copies of the September 30, October 31 and November 30 reports. After a brief discussion, Barb Scharf made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Sherry Wynn seconded; motion carried. Zion had received a letter from St. James Parish concerning the new rental fees for the Parish Hall. The letter had stated that the rent would be increasing to \$1,000 for activities attended by more than 100 people. Amanda contacted St. James to clarify this. We should have received a second letter, which allows for a lesser fee for smaller organizations. The new rental fee is \$255, plus a \$70 fee for clean-up by St. James after the event. Council authorized Amanda to "make it official" for March 9, 2024. We also received a thank you from the Millstadt Community Choir for the use of our facilities for rehearsals, performances, starting location for the home tour and storage of music, and a \$300 donation.

Mike Germann then joined the meeting with information on a floor scrubber. Mike explained that the Z-Team had tried to clean the floor in the Fellowship Hall, but ran into some problems. He had prices on three machines, and recommended the Timberline S17 Traction Drive Walk Behind Small Floor Scrubber, which costs \$5,999. Discussion followed on some options – possibly hiring a company to steam clean the floor or renting a machine. Barb Scharf made a motion to purchase the recommended machine, using the interest from the In Loving Trust Window Fund; Annette Hund seconded the motion. By a vote of 8 to 1 the motion carried. Council will ask the congregation to approve the purchase and use of the In Loving Trust Window Fund interest at the annual congregation meeting on January 21.

BCE Report: Pastor Darrell reported that the BCE did not meet in December, but will meet in January

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The December 11, 2023 and January 7, 2024 minutes were reviewed by Council. A motion was made by Sherry Wynn and seconded by Andrew Taake to approve the minutes; motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Darrell had sent his Pastor's Report of his activities for the previous month to Council members. December was a very active month with all of the Advent and Christmas activities as well as nursing home and home visits and communion. Pastor thanked Council for hosting ten pastors from the Evangelical Association who were here on December 13 for the Ecclesiastical Council examination of Bill Saverling; five Zion Council members were also in attendance. Bill's ordination is set for January 14th at 3:00 p.m., to be followed by a light luncheon and desserts, which will be served by the Sisters-In-Faith. Pastor Darrell also noted that the Church's General Fund actually finished the year 2023 "in the black" once adjustments were made for expenses paid from other designated accounts, and the average in-person attendance for 2023 was up three people per service. He suggested that by this Fall we should begin working with the Evangelical Association to get a profile written to begin the search process for his replacement. He noted that the Evangelical Association currently has more pastors than churches. A motion was made by Barb Scharf, and seconded by Sherry Wynn, to accept Pastor Darrell's report; motion carried.

RENEWING ZION CHURCH: No report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit & Budget. (Barb Scharf). The committee, consisting of Mike Hund, Linda Hopfinger, and Stacy Woehlke, will be meeting on Wednesday January 10. Betty Keller Timmer and Barb Scharf will also be in attendance, since Barb will now be heading this committee.

Long Range Ministry (Andrew Taake). Andrew will now be leading this committee. Council discussed some potential

fellowship events for the year.

Missions & Outreach. (Betty Keller Timmer). Pastor Darrell will send out a list of members. Betty will now be the Council member on this committee.

Staff/Parish Relations. (Darren Doerr). Darren was contacted by a person who currently is cleaning two other smaller churches. Darren will pursue this further.

Property & Long Range. (Josh Seidlitz). Josh will be the new head of this committee. Kurt T. suggested a possible use of the parsonage, instead of it being vacant. Council would rather keep it available for the new pastor.

Volunteer Ministries. (Sherry Wynn). Sherry will again head this committee.

Worship & Music. (Annette Hund). Kurt P. complimented Annette in recruiting members who performed prior to the Christmas Eve service.

Cemetery Board. (Kurt Tegtmeier). The tax form that Rich Hoffelmeyer had mentioned at the December meeting has been taken care of. Kurt T. will now be the head of this committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Property Sale. The Village of Millstadt is asking for a variance for the Church to sell the one-acre from the Church Park – this is a formality to finish the transaction.

EA Renewal Form. By consensus, the annual renewal form was approved.

Ordination Certificate. Because Zion Evangelical Church is ordaining Bill Savering, Council members signed his ordination certificate.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lenten Meals. Council will prepare the meal for Ash Wednesday, February 14. Annette will make spaghetti sauce, Kurt P. and Sherry will make salad, Darren will bring garlic bread, Andrew will bring the spaghetti, and Barb, Betty and Josh will bring desserts. Several of last year's Lenten meals were potlucks, and the attendance was down at them. We will check with the Sisters-In-Faith and the Z-Team to see if either group would like to serve a Lenten meal or the meal for Maundy Thursday.

Usher Schedule. Barb distributed copies of the 2024 usher schedule, including Council members' phone numbers.

Easter Breakfast. Annette read the 2023 Breakfast Report, and discussion followed for this year's.

Ringing of the Bells. The confirmands are to be ringing the bells prior to the start of worship services.

Organ Problem. Pastor will check with Mary Lou Bretsch concerning the problem with the organ.

Meeting Adjourned: There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Annette Hund, and seconded by Andrew Taake to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried. Everyone joined hands to close with the Lord's Prayer.

Kurt Pellmann – President

Annette Hund – Vice-president

Barb Scharf – Assistant Treasurer

Betty Ann Keller Timmer – Secretary