

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes – 3/10/2026

Call to Order - 6:59pm by President Dave Dombrowski

Present: Pastor, Brooke, Angie, Cheryl, John, Jeff, Dave, George, Kelly, Elena, Robin, Dawn, special guest Treasurer Ron J.

Quorum - YES

Devotion and Lord's Prayer

Pastoral Recommendations

- Encourages every Consistory member to fill out a conflict resolution assessment
- Suggests a 2-hour limit on Consistory meetings
- Do we want to continue to do community building at each meeting? It does take up 15-20 minutes of each meeting. Talk about this at the April meeting.
- Pastor recommends not going into executive sessions at Consistory meetings unless absolutely necessary. It goes against the ethos of these meetings.
- Angie requests agenda be sent to President for approval prior to meeting

Restructuring of Consistory Leadership

(For future reference: MMSC = Motion Made, Second, Carried)

- Dave has stepped down from his Presidency role
- Motion to move John from permanent member to alternate; MMSC John/Cheryl/Approved
- Motion to move Elena from alternate to permanent member; MMSC George/Dawn/Approved
- Motion to nominate Kelly for President; Elena/Cheryl
- Motion to nominate Angie for President; George/Robin
- Ballot vote - MMSC; Angie is our new President; Kelly remains VP

Treasurer's Report

As of 3/6/26 there is a balance of \$68,480.99 in the operating account and \$53,665.66 in the restricted funds account.

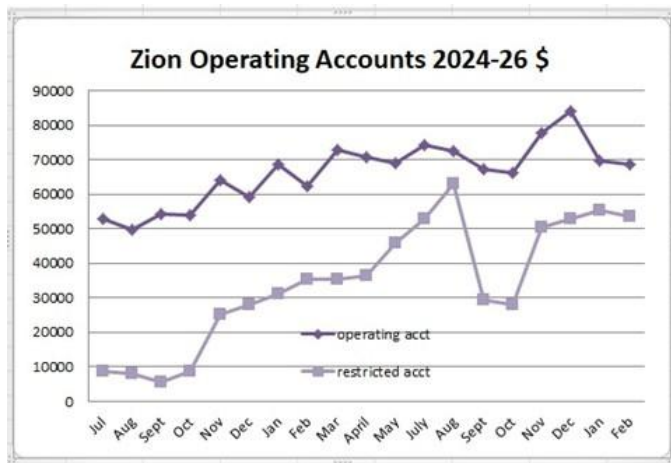
The revenue for February was \$27,906.97 and the net income was -\$540.71. In comparison: The revenue for February 2025 was \$20,502.90 The net income for February 2025 was \$5,825.56. The YTD Revenue for 2026 is \$43,596.17 and the Net Income is -\$8,265.81. In comparison, the YTD Revenue for 2025 was \$38,580.60 and the Net Income was \$9,257.81.

Notable P&L events in February:

- 51710 – Pastor FICA - \$\$1407.40 – 1st quarter payment
- 54500– Supplies, Other - \$1,824.99 – Additional folding tables (Actual cost was \$2,824.99. There was a \$1,000.00 donation to help offset the cost)
- 54702 – Workers Comp Ins. - \$\$857.00 – Annual payment
- 54706 – Health Permit- \$282.00 – Annual payment for kitchen permit
- 56005 – Heating Maintenance - \$4,847.00 – Boiler repairs

- 60001 – OWCM - \$1,375.00 – 1st quarter payment
- 60002 – Western Area - \$900.00 – 1st quarter payment
- 60008 – NY Conf. per capita - \$281.75 – 1st quarter payment

Also, of notable significance in terms of expenses is the huge increase in utility costs. The gas bill in Feb. 2025 was \$624.39 vs \$1072.27 in Feb. 2026. This is \$447.88 higher from year to year or approx. an increase of 72%. Similarly, the electric bill was \$459.36 in Feb. 2025 and increased to \$558.87 in Feb. 2026. This is \$99.51 higher from year to year or an approx. increase of 21%. This year has obviously not started out as planned. There have been some large, unexpected expenses, but we knew there would be challenges and bumps in the road. Consistory is closely monitoring and will adjust if necessary.



Motion to approve treasurer’s report: MMSC George/Dave/Approved

Pastor’s Report

- Lenten Bible Study is going great, and I love hearing from people that they’re following the Gospel of Luke reading plan.
- I’ve been out of the office a lot for pastoral visits lately. This is a mix of visiting those in the hospital and people at home and nursing homes.
- Looking ahead to Holy Week, a new service offered on Good Friday this year:
- Monday, March 30th, Bible Study at 7pm
- Thursday, April 2nd, Maundy Thursday Worship at 7pm ● Friday, April 3rd:
 - Stations of the Cross Open from 9am to 12pm
 - Good Friday Youth Group Led Worship at 7pm
- Saturday, April 4th, Breakfast w/ Easter Bunny youth group fundraiser, 10am
- Sunday, April 5th, Easter Sunday! 9am & 10:45am
- There is also an ecumenical Sunrise service at Elmlawn Cemetery at 7am
- I’ll be away the week after Easter and Angie will be your preacher for 4/12.

Trustee's Report (received from James Cousins on 2/16/26)

We met tonight and hashed out details on Kuck Hall and are pushing on the concrete/ADA project. We met with Kelly and Angie to discuss the MOU and answer questions and it was agreed by all to table the MOU and revisit in June if Consistory has a specific need for additional funds, but that Consistory emphasis on stewardship and church growth would be good reasons to ask for funding. We also discussed term limits - we don't care, we've reviewed the law, it does allow for leeway and we also don't have any special interest. Only concern is that term limits should consider that trustees need long terms given the nature of the work and need for institutional memory (even with our excellent record-keeping). We discussed the classroom lighting request for \$1575. The request was approved. We want the work to wait until Bob Sedota returns (March 31) so Dave can be spelled. *We got nothing on overflow chairs so we'll wait to hear about that. Or chairs from Sue Clark. We need something in writing and with specificity on items to purchase, though this is an expense that should be covered by Consistory.* Discussed college scholarship - applications will go out this month. Discussed camp scholarships - same as last year.

Next meeting date March 16. 5:30PM start time to accommodate Lenten bible study.

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach: John

- Upcoming outreach initiatives
 - Easter Postcard Campaign - SENT
 - We Miss You Postcard Campaign - ~75 individuals/families SENT
 - Animal Blessing (Sun. July 19, 11-1 / Rain Date: Sun. July 26) - we have a confirmed vendor, Pet Supplies Plus who will setup; We also learned of another vendor in the southtowns who might join us; Considering selling hot dogs and light snacks Suggestion to make a flyer for this event to promote during Strawberry Festival
 - Facebook & Instagram "Why Zion" Campaign – ongoing
- Next Fundraiser: Basket Raffle, Sat. 3/21, 12-3pm:
 - 3/8: Last day to drop off baskets/basket contents
 - 3/14, 1-2pm: Basket Assembly
 - 3/20, 6-9pm: Drop off Baked Goods / Basket Raffle Setup
 - 3/21, 11:30: Drop-off Crock Pot Entries / Volunteers arrive
 - 3/21, 12-3pm: Basket Raffle
 - 3/21, 4-5pm: Cleanup

Committee Reports

- **Christian Education:** Elena (Christian Ed Missions, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School) - Spoke w/ Sue, everything is going well; gearing up for another year with the mission Heifer Project
- **Church Life:** John (Coffee Hour, New Members, Prayer Chain, Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Young Adult Fellowship, Youth Group)
 - Coffee Hour: We still need more volunteers
 - Men's Fellowship: Breakfast Sat. 3/28 at 9am, Family Tree Restaurant
 - Women's Fellowship: Lunch Sat. 3/14 at 11am, Olympic Restaurant; Basket Raffle Assembly 1-2pm
 - Busy Moms Fellowship: Spring Fling Tea Party Sat. 3/28 from 10:30 - 12:30; please RSVP to Sara H.
 - Youth: Several upcoming events
 - Basket Raffle - Youth Concessions Sat. 3/21 from 12-3
 - 2026 Memorial Scholarship - Submit applications by 3/2
 - Easter Bunny Breakfast Sat. 4/4 at 10am
 - WAY 2026 Mission Trip July 6-12

- Dunkirk Summer Camp sign ups
- **Finance:** Angie/Kelly (Budget, Fundraising, Memorials) - Will be meeting with Ron and Ken about finances and endowment fund
- **Health Ministry:** Dawn
 - Health Ministry: Food Addiction 911 Class Sat. 3/14 at 10am; \$15 per person or couple; Pre-registration is required
- **Human Relations:** Cheryl (Personnel, Pastoral Parish Relations (PPRC))
 - Personnel: All staff and Sunday school teachers received an email to complete annual training, and to record it on the website
- **Missions:** Jeff (ARC, Community Assistance Ministry (CAM), Community Dinners, Crop Walk, Environmental, Food Pantry)
 - Food Pantry: Brooke has sent an email to Tops corporate office to request donation of brown paper bags for use in the food pantry - further updates to come.
 - Environmental: Ray plans to add flower beds surrounding the benches in the Memorial Park
- **Worship:** Robin (Altar Guild, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Ushers) - Nothing

Old Business

- All: Consistory Handbook Feedback John made several edit suggestions:
 - Removing redundant language for conciseness, exclude items pertaining to bylaws & prior constitution (replacing with a link to our new bylaws on church website - <https://www.zionucc.com/ministries/congregational-meetings>)
 - Remove trustee processes
 - Remove rental policy, Document retention policy, admin job description, and safe church policy (replacing with link to this policy)
 - He will make edits and share a new revised copy
- Brooke: Annual Congregation Survey task force - Annual Survey Task Force met on 2/26/26 to review all the survey comments, questions, and concerns that were turned in. We dissected it all and are working on reports for each committee chair to review with their sub-committees. Lots of very positive feedback, suggestions for improvements, and ideas were presented (Brooke Benn, George Darrall, Lynn Alexander)
- Jeff: Additional tables - **purchased and received**
- Jeff: Additional storage - A storage space has been found, near the playground making room for tables and cleaning out junk this week
- George: Creation of high-yield checking account for Community Dinners - need an account holder to inquire about our best options: Ron will visit the bank to discuss options.
- Dawn/John: Rug shampooing - **scheduled for Fri. 3/13, 6pm**
- John: LED Lighting in Classrooms 1,2,3 - purchased; Classroom 2 finished; remaining Installation in Progress
- Pastor Recommendation to move Lenten Folders funds to Bldg Needs account
Ron will move those funds \$666 to the Building Funds
- Angie: Truing Up of Terms - tabled to our April agenda; Angie & Kelly will present a few different options to us for our next meeting

New Business

- John will email a link to a podcast he'd like everyone to listen to and discuss at the April meeting.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen. Adjourned at 9:10pm

Next Meeting: April 14th