

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes - August 11, 2026

Call to Order - 7:04PM start, meeting began at 7:17pm

Quorum - Jeff, Dawn, Robin, John, George, Cheryl, Brooke, Pastor, Elena, Angie, Kelly (remote)

Community Building

Devotion and Lord's Prayer

Approval of Prior Month Minutes & Special Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Robin, 2nd by Dawn, all in favor, PASSED

Treasurer's Report (June & July)

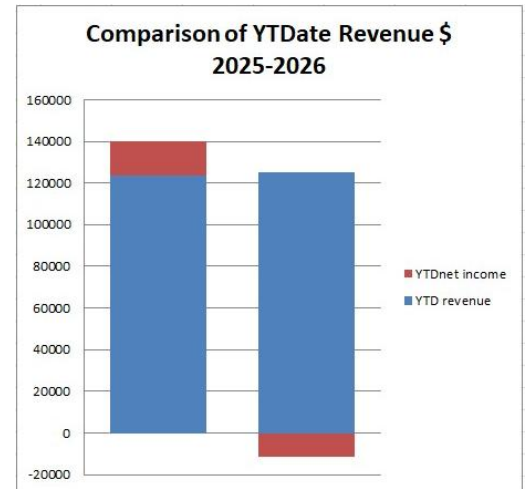
As of 8/1/26 there is a balance of \$75,127.96 in the operating account and \$41,698.34 in the restricted funds account. The operating account balance also accounts for the payroll due 8/7/26.

The revenue for July was \$27,310.17 and the net income was \$10,30.75. In comparison: The revenue for July 2025 was \$16,695.09 The net income for July 2025 was \$3,260.50. The YTD Revenue for 2026 is \$152,714.37 and the Net Income is -\$1,121.20. In comparison, the YTD Revenue for 2025 was \$140,213.45 and the Net Income was \$19,876.37.

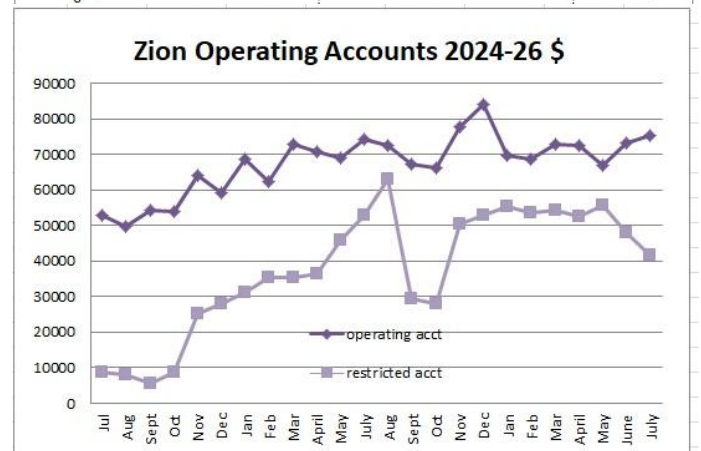
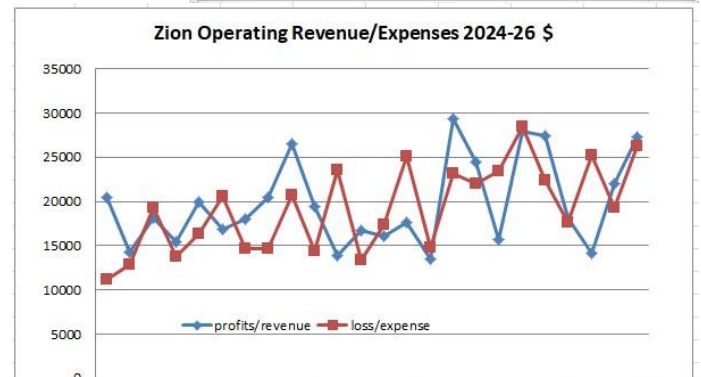
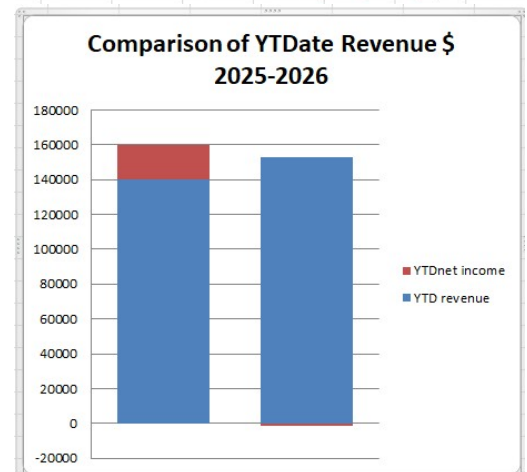
Notable P&L events in July:

- 51121 – Guest Preacher - \$100.00 – coverage while Pastor on WAY Mission
- 53420 – Church School Supplies – \$417.18 – Children's Program expenses
- 53430 – VBS - \$98.95 – supplies
- 54409 – Website & security – \$516.00 - Tithe.ly & Powered Protection – troubleshoot non-working cameras
- 54502 – Treasurer supplies - \$182.08 – Printer ink & checks for restricted account
- 54503 – Stewardship supplies - \$167.89 – Brochures for Welcome mugs & New member food
- 54000 – Admin expense – other - \$36.00 – Legal retainer fee for UCC
- 55404 – Fire Safety - \$120.00 – Remote access service for entrance door
- 56007 – Cemetery maintenance - \$300.00 – Trustees will reimburse this
- 56000 – Building maintenance – other - \$317.34 – Repairs to Memorial Walkway & paint for outside doors & poles

The negative bottom line significantly improved this month. However, I want to caution everyone that this will be an up and down experience for the entire fiscal year. In August I will once again make quarterly payments, which will have a



Please refer to Treasurer's comment regarding above graph



significant impact on the bottom line. This year remains a total learning experience in navigating the day-to-day expenses.

Kelly and Angie will be working with ongoing effort to reformat the budget outline to make it more user-friendly and allow for better transparency.

Motion to approve financial reports by George, 2nd by Jeff, all in favor, PASSED.

Pastor's Report

- The Mission Trip was a great success! We had a wonderful group of youth and leaders from Zion with us in Greenville, PA. They worked hard and had fun.
- VBS was wonderful! We expected to have a small group this year, but that wasn't the case. We ended up with 25 kids, 3 teenager assistants, and 5 adults. It was a great week that ended with a trip to the Zoo!
- I'll be away August 17-25 to tour around Ireland for Trevor and my 17th wedding anniversary. My mom will be preaching the Sunday I'm away. Pastor Kalee will be on call. Pastor Kalee's number is: 989-213-2870.
- Summer has been busy, including a lot of visits. I'll be in the office more regularly in September.
- Request received from Rev. Dan Schiefeling:
 - I am reaching out to see if you would invite someone from your congregation to attend a Compassion Not Cruelty Zoom Call on Tuesday, August 18th from 6:30 to 7:30pm. CNC has been growing in WNY and now includes at least five denominations plus interested individuals. We are also expanding to other areas in NYS. Our program on Being a Good Neighbor Now drew over 150 people and has also been watched on YouTube. So we are off to a great start! Please remember that CNC will not divide your congregation! We don't criticize or support particular politicians or political parties. We are an interest group for anyone who believes that Jesus lived out God's love and wants his followers to help decrease cruelty and increase compassion.
- The playground is in need of repairs (it was purchased in 2014); Pastor will work on researching costs.
- Received a request from a community member (who does not currently attend our church) for transportation to our church services. Will look into Hearts & Hands or other services offered to help her out.

Trustee's Report (received from James Cousins on 6/15/26)

Trustees met today and discussed:

- Kuck Hall - Well done project and fans much appreciated by all.
- ADA - Courtyard Project - Initial phases transferring to JBC for action.
- Vendor Deposit Pursuit - JBC got the money. All \$4500. JBC doesn't want to do this again please.
- Parking Lot Security Cameras/Lighting & Resealing: JBC contacting Arnie at Sunoco pipeline to avoid further incidents with them.
- Scholarship: Lola Norris won.
- Classroom Lighting: Sue's classroom is done. Lights for the chorus room in our possession as well as confirmation room. Installation with Ed Miller begins next week.
- East side of rear-yard (parallel to line of parking lot) fencing project: First quote (Guardian - 5500, reuses most of our existing materials); second is Sadler (\$4300 all new materials, \$3800 with reuse of some existing); third quote pending; difficult to obtain responses this time of year. We will work to coordinate with the pipeline.
- Tree Project: Trees on Western side seem unnecessary, tree on the NE corner is on pipeline easement and is a no-go. The tree near the kitchen is too close to the building and likely to be in the way of future projects for ADA/entrance/concrete work.
- Sexton Grant: We approved funding the position for the remainder of 2026 (funding ending 12/31/26) not to exceed \$4800 in direct wages (24 weeks, 10 hrs/wk at \$20/hr) total cost including eyr side taxes

not to exceed \$6500. This funding is NOT recurring and it is anticipated that Consistory will budget this position for FY 2027 (if they want to keep it).

- Dunkirk Scholarship Funding: Historically we authorized this on at one-time. Last year we apparently paid it without approval. This year we approved the expense of \$1,313.75. There is already a funded line-item in the operating budget with donations over \$1100 in that account. We recommend future funding be with Consistory and fundraising for this particular expense be marketed and undertaken.

Thanks folks!

JBC

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach: John

- Upcoming outreach initiatives:
 - Animal Blessing was on 7/19; 39 pets were blessed - committee would love to see this become an annual event and grow in the future
 - Facebook & Instagram “Why Zion” Campaign – ongoing
- Upcoming Fundraisers:
 - Meat Raffle - Fri. 10/9
 - Rummage Sale - Sat. 11/14 - we will start actively asking for donations beginning in September timeframe since storage is at a premium

Committee Reports

- Christian Education: Elena (Christian Ed Missions, Sunday School, VBS)
 - Christian Ed: “We had a great week of VBS! The leaders & kids were awesome. Everyone had a super time at the zoo and several of the animals put on great performances. Taylor will become Miss Taylor as she will be replacing Ainsley as the Pre-K teacher in September. Emma will replace Lola when she heads to college. Everyone else will remain with their classes. Rally Day will be September 13 with two services resuming on Sep. 20”. John will speak with Chef Rick to coordinate a Rally Day menu and volunteer signups via SignUp Genius.
- Church Life: John (Coffee Hour, New Members, Prayer Chain, Men’s Fellowship, Women’s Fellowship, Young Adult Fellowship, Youth Group)
 - Coffee Hour: always in need of bakers to make/buy things to bring in to share!
 - Men’s Fellowship: will continue meeting for breakfast; George is taking an informal role in helping to guide this fellowship group
- Finance: Angie/Kelly (Budget, Fundraising, Memorials)
 - Memorials: Donations received on behalf of Olga. Memorial is \$2,493.41.
- Health Ministry: Dawn
 - Flu vaccine clinic is 9/27/26 from 10-12. Bring your insurance card. Dawn will look into age requirements & what type of flu shot will be given.
- Human Relations: Cheryl (Personnel, Pastoral Parish Relations (PPRC))
 - Personnel: Our PT paid sexton, Bob Sedota, has been hired and began work in mid-July
 - Personnel: Motion to add John Pauling to the personnel committee by George, 2nd by Cheryl, all in favor, John did not vote, Jeff abstained, PASSED. * It is important to note that in cases of a conflict of interest, any of the personnel members would recuse themselves as necessary.
 - PPRC: still needs 2 more members. Currently, Laurie M, Larry and Deb are the members, as Ray is looking to step back. We will prayerfully consider other candidates for this position.
- Missions: Jeff (ARC, Community Assistance Ministry (CAM), Community Dinners, Crop Walk, Environmental, Food Pantry)
 - Environmental: One of our Memorial Park trees is dead; discussing with Stonish’s who is working with Russel’s

- CAM: received a request from Plymouth Crossroads for \$750.00 to purchase a large freezer to store up food for when they find good deals. The committee approved.
- Worship: Robin (Altar Guild, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Ushers)

Old Business

- Angie: Trustee Terms - current terms allow 3 terms of 5 years each. Angie spoke to Charlaime Apsel, who has worked with many New York churches to update their by-laws, at the New York Conference Annual Meeting. The New York State law regarding Trustees is a bone of contention for many lawyers. She suggests congregations do not use the term "Trustees," and instead use a term that is descriptive of their function. While Charlaime is not a fan of the way we are doing it - five-year terms, three consecutive terms allowed, with no scheduled rotation of the terms, she does not feel this will get us into legal trouble, because we are following the by-laws. Concern has still been expressed by Consistory. It is too late to amend the bylaws to make any changes now. This topic is tabled until 2027, while people continue to think about it.
- Angie: Contractor for PM on Boilers - presented us with 3 proposals. Motion to approve JP Heating and Cooling, who will provide boiler maintenance twice a year and provide discounts on labor rates, was made by Jeff, 2nd by Cheryl, all in favor, PASSED
- All: Completion of Conflict Assessment - tabled one more month til Sept
- Angie: Sexton - Angie has heard of a few concerns, mainly about Bob being gone in Nov & Dec. We will be revisiting the contract at Oct meeting
- John: Consistory Handbook Revisions – tabled
- All: Church Maintenance Schedule – tabled
- Committee Chairs: Annual Congregation Survey – tabled
- Angie: Monitors in Sanctuary – tabled
- Angie: Lighting in Sanctuary - tabled

New Business

- Brooke: Girl Scout Project - Paige is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award and is building a period product pantry in the City of Tonawanda. She will be bringing in a tote to put in the Narthex to collect period products or cash donations.
- Kelly: 2026/27 Snow Removal RFP - L'undscaping is no longer in business; we have 2 potential bidders - will vote on this in Sept
- Pastor: Network of Religious Communities Appreciation Dinner on October 29th; selection of award recipient - Chose Marilyn, Jill, Robin as recipients
- John: Per Ray/Dave, two water spigots need replacement - Angie will get with the Trustees on this one.
- John: Welcome Mugs Needed (216 mugs - \$595.12; last ordered Jan 2025) - motion by Cheryl, 2nd by Jeff, all in favor, PASSED to spend up to \$600.00
- Angie: Talent Show - tabled, but she is gonna make it happen!

Motion to adjourn: Brooke, 2nd by Dawn, all in favor. Adjourned at 9:27pm.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.

Next Meeting: September 8th, 7pm