

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Sunday February 18th, 2024 - 10:24 am**

**Attendees:** S. Moore, S. Rogers, E. Weinstein, B. Tyson, A. Mastrangelo, M. Shaw, B. Miller-Seeley, J. Florio, T. Mandik, A. Kirk

**Absent:** M. Randolph

**Call to Order:** S. Moore called the meeting to order at 10:24 am. S. Rogers gave devotions.

#### **Action/Discussion Items:**

- Unfortunately our temporary supply pastor plans and weekly office hours involving Pastor Ric Elliott and Deacon Jane Elliott will no longer be happening. Pastor Ric had a health issue this past Monday and therefore will not be able to assist Zion. Today's supply pastor was Pastor Steve who was highly recommended by Dean Christopher Franz. Pastor Steve is also willing to fill in on March 3rd as well as Easter Sunday, with the assumption we do not have a full time pastor and we have no other supply pastor to help out. Pastor Steve wants to make sure he is coordinating with the Dean as he is a supply pastor for the Dean as well. Pastor Steve is not able to help out on March 10th. We will continue to actively reach out to past supply pastors to carry us through the Lenten season.
- The Community Connection Committee was going to merge with the Social Ministry Committee as it was thought that both committees are on the same platform. However, Social Ministry would not like to merge as they feel the ideals of both committees do not align. Therefore, M. Shaw will keep running the Community Connection Committee with the help of volunteers she recruits when needed. The Community Connection Committee will continue to be involved in community events.
- In the interest to better the relationship between the church and day school, the School Board has been dissolved. The Executive Committee will act as the current School Board until a new Board can be put into place.
- This July five youth and two adults will be going to the ELCA gathering in New Orleans. Recently the ELCA has imposed new regulations to attend the event. S. Rogers asked Council to approve a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on June 1st to defer the additional costs created by these new regulations. Donations from those attending the dinner will go towards the ELCA trip. B. Miller-Seeley made a

motion to allow the youth to hold a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on June 1st. M. Shaw 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

- J. Florio brought up the ELCA Assembly meeting being held on May 3rd and 4th in Harleysville. Last year Zion did not attend. Deadline to sign up is April 2nd. We are looking to register two people at \$175/person. If we sign up after March 4th the cost is \$50 more. S. Roger has a few couples in mind that she will ask if they are interested in attending.
- A discussion was held regarding the survey that was sent out regarding potential pastoral candidates. The survey and the questions contained in it were requested, via the Synod, by actual candidates themselves. Another notice will be sent to the congregation thanking those who have completed the survey and reminding those who did not that the deadline is next Sunday.
- The Joint Next Step Group composed of members from Centennial, Zion and St. Peter's will be putting together activities and fellowship opportunities for the three churches. June 30th they would like to hold a combined church service at St. Peter's followed by a church picnic under the pavilion at St. Peter's. S. Rogers made a motion to have Zion participate in this joint service. M. Shaw 2nd the motion. Motion passed.
- March 3rd at 3:30 pm Zion will host the Joint Next Step Group Lenten movie followed afterwards by soup and salad.
- Motion to approve the January minutes was made by A. Kirk. B. Miller-Seeley 2nd the motion. Motion passed. J. Florio will ask E. Galamba to mention in the Parish Post that all council minutes are posted online on the website. Also a hard copy may be requested by calling the office and speaking to E. Galamba.

### **Reports:**

- Pastor's report:

-Nothing to report.

-Christian Ed/Youth:

-The Sunday School Lenten project this year will be collecting non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations until Easter. The preschool is also invited to contribute to the Lenten project. The food collected will be divided between the Phoenixville and Spring City Food Pantries.

-They are collecting peanut free individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for March 30th at 11:00 am.

-February 26th, March 11th and March 25th from 6:30-7:30 S. Rogers will be holding a Lenten Bible Study for the Sunday School students that will be held in the Council room. The Bible Study will focus on the Life of Jesus. Ashley B. will

be holding an adult Bible Study at the same time in the Muhlenberg room focusing on the Lenten Season and Prayer.

-The Youth Group will be very busy from now until the end of the year. Currently they are working on the Mystery Dinner being held on April 7th at 4:00 pm. Some adult congregants will also be participating in the event. Please come out and enjoy a show, have dinner and support the youth.

-On March 9th seven youth group kids will be going to Advent Lutheran Church in West Chester to participate in Advent's "Rise Up Against Hunger" workshop in which 10,000-40,000 meals will be packaged up. After the workshop the kids will be going ice-skating.

-March 30th the youth will be helping out at the Easter Egg Hunt.

-April 9th the 2nd year confirmation students will come to the Council meeting for final approval in the confirmation process.

-April 21st confirmation project is due.

-April 28th there is an ELCA Youth Gathering meeting that the youth going to the gathering will attend. The meeting is from 5:00-7:00. Place not yet known.

-May 5th is Youth Sunday. L. Hoshaw and S. Rogers will be putting a Sunday School youth choir together to sing on May 5th.

-Pentecost Sunday is May 19th. On this Sunday the four 2nd year confirmation students will be confirmed. This is also the last day of Sunday School.

-Vacation Bible School is June 17th-20th from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. S. Rogers will be putting the program together and it will focus on the Life of Jesus.

-Zion was just assigned their Hotel from the ELCA for the youth gathering in New Orleans. The hotel does have a continental breakfast and a pool. There are 5 kids and 2 adults going. The amount due is \$2,336.76. The money is in the account. No one at Council had any objection to the check being written. S. Rogers will also be booking the car rental sometime in March or early April. The Director of Children's, Youth and Family Ministry from St. John's, Molly Oladunjoye, has never been to an ELCA event. There is a possibility that she may join Zion on this trip.

-Sunday July 28th is when S. Rogers would like to have the Youth White Water Rafting trip. S. Moore made a motion for the Youth White Water Rafting trip to be held on July 28th. M. Shaw 2nd the motion. Motion passed. S. Rogers will share the information regarding the white water rafting trip with Centennial, St. John, and St. Peter's and let them know that it is not just for youth.

-Finance Committee/Monthly reports:

-Ended January with a deficit of \$4,259. There were two property insurance payments made this month (Jan and Feb). 50% of the circulator pump repair was due as well as payment for the repair of the front gutter. Also, the Current

Fund envelopes/eGiving offerings were significantly less than forecasted at 5% for the month versus an expected average of 8% per month. It will be concerning if giving trends this way into February and March. Last year giving was around 7% per month. Otherwise the Financials are pretty normal for January. B. Miller-Seeley made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. B. Tyson 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

-A discussion was held on the Ash Wednesday joint service collection. If the offering was not in an envelope, the offering will be put aside to be used by the three/four churches for collaborative events. Any member contributions in envelopes will go to that church. \$335 was contributed in plate money.

-Worship and Music:

-There will be one service on Easter morning at 9:00 am followed by an Easter Brunch. A. Kirk and P. Mandik has graciously volunteered to organize the brunch. They will put a sign up sheet in the Narthex for people to sign up to bring a food item to share.

-Zion School Board:

-The state of the School Board was discussed under Action/Discussion items. Only thing to add is that the Executive Committee will meet with D. Platchek the 1st Thursday of every month until a School Board has been put into place.

-Social Ministry:

-They did not meet last month but the preparation of Zion's participation in the April 27th "Rise Up Against Hunger" workshop being organized again by Grace Lutheran Church is continuing. In March the committee will begin advertising to the congregation about the event and asking for volunteers and contributions to help defray the costs of the meals being packaged. Thank you to Council for once again agreeing to match contributions up to \$500. Zion's participation in last April's event was well attended and helped in the packaging of 20,000 meals for this organization's distribution efforts. A similar goal is planned for this year.

-Rise Up Against Hunger is an international humanitarian organization whose goal is to end hunger. It maintains locations across the U.S. and five international offices, providing food for those facing hunger. To date, it has packaged more than 540 million meals to be distributed to countries around the world.

-Property:

-The circulator pump was replaced by Scott Martin when the day school was not in session. All went well.

- The septic system was pumped out at the end of the year.
- The fire alarm system was inspected. The smoke detector in the kitchen is working properly now.
- The gutter out front that was destroyed has been replaced.
- The parsonage gutters have been cleaned out.
- The boiler was inspected and passed.
- April 13th is Spring Cleanup day from 9:00-12:00
- Brian has done a good job taking care of Zion when snow events occur.

-Technology:

- T. Mandik asked that E. Galamba be notified to put in the Parish Post that there is no longer a live stream of the Sunday Service. Nobody was watching the live stream.
- J. Florio wanted to let the Technology Committee know that he is starting to use Zion's Zoom account for the Finance and Executive Committee meetings.

-Zion Cemetery:

- Columbarium has been installed. B. Miller-Seeley will send A. Kirk a picture of it so she can put it on the Facebook page.
- Burial plots can now only be purchased by church members and family of church members. They should call the office and leave a message with E. Galamba who will forward the message to D. Bauman.
- B. Miller-Seeley and D. Bauman has been clearing away all the dead branches and dead flowers on the grounds. The tractor was started up and is ready for mowing.

-Community Connections:

- M. Shaw will ask E. Galamba to start advertising to the congregation that the CC Committee is now accepting donations for the 2024 Basket Raffle.

-Call Committee:

- T. Mandik met with a prospective pastoral candidate. The meeting went very well. The candidate lives in Chicago and would like to visit Zion. T. Mandik and J. Florio will work on that. If all goes well with that visit, Council would be next in line to meet the candidate, most likely over a Zoom meeting. The candidate is looking to start after Easter.

-March 12th at 7:30 is the next Council meeting. S. Moore has devotions.

-E. Weinsteiner made a motion to adjourn. J. Florio 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

-S. Rogers gave a closing prayer.

