

# Church Council Meeting Minutes- March 2026

The monthly meeting of the Zion Church Council was held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room with President Jack Newkirk presiding. The following Council members were present, Jack Newkirk, Darin Gordon, Lois Ahalt, Bruce McIntosh, Bob Rockwell, Sandy Bell, Kaylyn Luther (via Zoom), Addison Shupe (via Zoom), Sharon Boyer, Sharon Finley, Pastor Matt Day and Deb Reichelt (treasurer). Absent were Lori O'dell and Pastor Diane Day.

Devotions were presented by Pastor Matt which was an extension of the discussion from the Council Retreat which was exploring the best core values that describe Zion

The adoption of the agenda was moved and seconded. A voice vote was taken and was unanimous.

## **Voted**

**2026-3-1** To adopt the agenda

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 2026 Council Meeting. A voice vote was taken and was unanimous

## **Voted**

**2026-3-2** To accept the February 2026 minutes as written

The committee reports from Finance, MVFB, Mutual Ministry, Design Team, Personnel Committee and Executive Committee were grouped along with the Staff Reports by Pastor Matt, Pastor Diane and Treasurer Deb Reichelt in the Consent Agenda. It was moved that the Treasurer's Report be added under New Business.

## Report of Special Committees and Ministry Teams

The Design Team progress was discussed. The chapel chairs have arrived and are in use. The new chapel chairs will be dedicated on March 21 at the 5pm service. There have been many positive comments about them. Pastor Matt will be contacting a prospective buyer for the older chairs. A replacement conference room table is being sought. Updating the furniture in Garden's Edge is also part of the committee's action plan.

## Unfinished Business

The Mutual Ministry Committee is updating the Mutual Ministry Manual. A third member of the Mutual Ministry, Chelsea Greco, was recommended and approved by Council by unanimous vote

**Voted**

**20226-3-3** To approve the appointment of Chelsea Greco as the third new member of the Mutual Ministry Committee

The Finance committee plans to bring recommendations to the council after their review of insurance options in April

New Business

A proposal of a roster of liaisons with standing committees was presented by the president on recommendation from the executive committee. An amendment was made to switch one of the proposed individuals. The following roster assignment was voted on and the vote was unanimous. Middletown Valley Food Bank- Bob Rockwell, Property- Jack Newkirk, Finance- Darin Gordon, Mutual Ministry- Kaylyn Luther, Cemetery- Sharon Finley, Personnel- Bruce McIntosh

**Voted**

**2026-3-4** Voted to accept the proposed roster of Council Liaisons

It is written policy that the council review standing committee goals annually, so they are in alignment with the council's goals. This is problematic since the council has not finalized their goals. Amended proposal was voted upon to defer this discussion until council goals are updated per continuation of activities begun at church council retreat.

**Voted**

**2026-3-5** Voted for delay of developing standing committee goals until council has determined their goals.

The Middletown Valley Food Bank has maintained the same Board's officers. It was voted unanimously that the following individuals continue to serve on the Food Bank Board: President- Ann Pond, Secretary- Marcie Gordon, Treasurer-Deb Reichelt, Members-at-Large- Jim Hoover and Gary Shafer.

**Voted**

**2026-3-6** Voted to approve the MVFB board as above

The church council appoints a nominating committee. A nominating committee will be appointed in April.

In the fall, a letter was sent to council from Jeff Derr requesting that the council develop guidelines for a policy that determines family members on the council at the same time. A subcommittee was identified after a call for volunteers. Chairman- Bob Rockwell, Sharon Boyer, Sandy Bell, A Pastor, Jack Newkirk. This was passed with an unanimous vote.

### **Voted**

**2026-3-7** Voted to appoint a subcommittee to come up with a plan to address concerns of family members on council at the same time.

Bruce Albright wrote his concerns about funding and other issues at Zion. Jack Newkirk will speak with him about these concerns and determine if further action needs to be made.

The Personnel committee requires a chairperson. Linda Kinna-Engel has volunteered for this position. It was voted unanimously to accept Linda Kinna- Engel as new Personnel Committee chair.

### **Voted**

**2026-3-8** Voted to appoint Linda Kinna- Engel as the new chair of the Personnel Committee

### Open Forum

- A discussion of the Suspense File and its requirements followed. Several SOP's will need updating by different entities.
- The treasurer's report was discussed. Some members felt that the way the reports are presented to council does not provide a clear summary of Zion's financial picture. The overwhelming issue appears that Zion is able to meet the proposed budget but there does not appear to be enough money stream coming in to meet the budget. Perhaps the Finance committee could come up with more plans so address this.

Take 5 The items to be shared on 3/14 & 15/2026 will be finalized by president, Jack Newkirk and include:

1. Update on the furniture arrival
2. Approving Chelsea Greco to the Mutual Ministry Committee
3. Approving Middletown Valley Food Bank appointed board and officers
4. Approving Linda Kinna-Engel as the chairperson of the Personnel Committee

The council representative for presentation includes: 5 pm -Addison Shupe, 9 am- Lois Ahalt, 11am- Bruce McIntosh

- Senate Assembly will meet June 4-6, 2026 at Ellicott City and council members were encouraged to contemplate attending.
- Lent meals and services have been well attended. Council members need to be supportive of our upcoming church holiday
- The church council secretary is using a new church email for correspondence so it will be portable with the next secretary. Address is [councilsecretary@zionmiddletown.org](mailto:councilsecretary@zionmiddletown.org)

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm by president Jack Newkirk.

Lois Ahalt, Church Council Secretary