Approved Church Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2026

The monthly meeting of Zion Church Council was held on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the conference room with President Jack Newkirk presiding. The following council members were present: Jack Newkirk, Lois Ahalt, Darin Gordon, Bruce McIntosh, Clinton Appleby, Bob Rockwell, Sandra Bell, Sharon Boyer, Deb Reichelt, Pastor Matt (via Zoom), Pastor Diane, Lori Odell (via Zoom). Absent were Kaylyn Luther, Addison Shupe and Sharon Finley

The agenda was distributed to council members electronically prior to the meeting and hard copies were available before the meeting. The treasurer's report will be discussed under Open Forum. Bruce McIntosh will add a report of the portal system in Servant Keeper under Open Forum. The agenda was approved.

Devotions were offered by Pastor Diane. A final draft of the value statement which was modified after congregational input was presented. Minor changes were made. The council agreed that the following value statement was acceptable : *Zion is a Christian **community,** imperfect, but brought together by God's **love** to be strengthened through worship and study of the Bible in order to be sent out to **serve** with **integrity**.* A motion was proposed to accept the statement and a voice vote was taken which accepted the motion unanimously.

Voted
2026-10-01 To accept the value statement: *Zion is a Christian **community,** imperfect, but brought together by God's **love** to be strengthened through worship and study of the Bible in order to be sent out to **serve** with **integrity.***

Minutes of the September 14 Council meeting were presented. Minor typographical errors, and clarification phrases were identified and amended. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Voted
2026-10-02 To accept the amended September 2026 Minutes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Jack Newkirk gave an update of the Food Bank building. The building is complete except for shelving. A Certificate of Occupancy is the final requirement which has not been acquired yet. Since the Food Bank will no longer be housed in a Town Facility, there will be expenses to their operation such as utilities etc. Bruce

McIntosh will look into current bylaws to determine if Zion needs to be involved in their budget processes.

The Finance committee has recommended that the Huffer Estate allocation be added to the future needs account. A voice vote was taken and it was accepted unanimously to accept this recommendation.

Voted
2026-10-03 The monies received from the Lorene Huffer Estate will be put in future needs and used accordingly.

Bruce McIntosh gave an update on the Nominating Committee. Committee members are still in the process of contacting and obtaining an answer from the proposed list of candidates.

Pastor Diane provided a synopsis of the recent combined Stewardship and Finance Meeting on 9/30/2026. The fall Stewardship campaign was discussed. There will be a change in that the annual Stewardship financial pledging will occur in the fall and time/talent requests will be in the new year. There have been concerns from the Financial Committee that the 2027 tentative budget has been trimmed as much as possible, but there has been a significant deficit this year which is worrisome for next year. Several options were discussed to bring more income into Zion. The combined group will meet next on Oct 28. Council members are encouraged to attend. It was emphasized that the Council will need a proposed budget by the November meeting from the Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

In the 2026 Budget, there is a line item for local benevolence for $10,000.00. The treasurer asks that the council look at options on managing that benevolent line item. Zion has already raised benevolent funds through noisy offerings and other giving-should this be subtracted from the line item since Zion is trying to be conservative with money flow? Discussion followed and it was voted unanimously to utilize the funds already collected and count it towards the local benevolent line item in the 2026 Budget.

Voted
2026-10-04 Utilize the funds already collected for nonprofits (including what is collected in October, November and December noisy offering) and count it towards the local benevolent line item in the 2026 Budget.

It has come to the attention of the Treasurer that a Maryland Law requires employers to provide retirement options for employees The current payroll company has requested that they be paid a fee for registering Zion for this Retirement requirement. After further investigation, it appears that the Payroll company request may be out of line. Further consulting with experts needs to be done to verify that Zion's actions are correct.

The Council reviewed the proposal by Adams Pro Services for Snow Removal. Overall the services during the past winter were very good. A voice vote was taken, and the proposal was accepted unanimously

Voted
2026-10-05 Approved the proposal submitted by Adams Pro Services for Snow Removal for the 2026-2027 winter.

OPEN FORUM

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Bruce McIntosh reports that he is now utilizing Servant Keeper's Portal system with a few members as a pilot. It will provide each member access to their family profile. He has plans to add the council members to this pilot group.

Heritage Day and Zion's many activities were successful. The Food Committee had collected $4,266 for their concessions. The Food Committee has requested that their donation of $4,000 be designated to the Steeple Fund. A small portion will be held back for operational expenses. A voice vote was taken and this was accepted unanimously.

Voted
2026-10-06 Approved that the $4,000.00 proceeds from the Heritage Day Concessions be added to the Steeple Fund

Upcoming Dates:
Town Hall meetings will be held January 23 and January 24, 2027.
Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Jan 31, 2027.
Council Retreat is scheduled for Feb 20,2027

It is with great joy that it was announced that Pastor Diane has completed chemotherapy and biological treatment for breast cancer treatment initiated about a year ago with great results.

Take 5 elements were reviewed:

- The council reviewed the feedback from our Value Gathering meetings. Our Values statement has been updated to: Zion is a Christian community, imperfect, but brought together by God's love to be strengthened through worship and study of the Bible in order to be sent out to serve with integrity. Thank you to everyone who participated in our meetings to assist with developing our updated values statement.
- The food bank building is close to being ready for use. Thank you to the Food Bank Advisory Board for all of their work on this project. Once a building occupancy permit is received, the Board will be working to install shelving and will announce an opening day for the new building soon.
- The finance and stewardship committees have been working hard on developing a recommended 2027 church budget. We continue to be concerned about our 2026 budget deficit. The committees are brainstorming for additional revenue sources for the church. You will be hearing about our stewardship campaign in the next few weeks.
- Thanks to everyone who participated with the Heritage Days event again this year. We raised $4,000 from this year's food sales. These funds were deposited in the Steeple fund.
- We will be holding our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31st.

5 p.m. Sharon Boyer

9:00 a.m. Darin Gordon

11:00 a.m. Bruce McIntosh

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Lois Ahalt

Church Council Secretary