

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 2026

The monthly meeting of the Zion Church Council was held on Monday, April 13, 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, Lori Odell, Addison Shupe (via Zoom), Sharon Boyer, Pastor Matt Day, Pastor Diane and Deb Reichelt (treasurer). Absent were Sharon Finley and Kaylyn Luther.

Devotions were presented by Pastor Diane.

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

Voted

2026-4-1 To adopt the agenda

Minutes of the March 2026 Council Meeting were presented. One amendment was made concerning the treasurer's report under open forum. An ambiguous comment was stricken from the minutes. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted by unanimous voice vote.

Voted

2026-4-2 To accept the March 2026 minutes with amendment

The consent agenda was presented. A question was raised about the treasurer's report. The Treasurers Report will be discussed under Open Forum. The rest of the Consent agenda was accepted.

Reports of Special Committees and Ministry Teams

Unfinished Business

Pastor Matt and Deb will be meeting with an insurance broker to review Zion's insurance policies to determine if better values can be obtained on April 20th. This will be a detailed project and there will be a need to bring in property and finance committee's later in the process.

By next month there will be an updated manual from the Mutual Ministry Committee

A Sub Committee has not met about Jeff Derr's recommendation about a policy concerning family members serving on Council simultaneously. A Zoom meeting will be set up soon.

The council was given the written documentation of the president's response to Bruce Albright. No comments were elicited.

New Business

Zion has sought a Youth and Family Director for over a year without success. After consulting with a personnel expert, it was felt that the position needs to be made a full-time position with benefits. A Youth Trust Fund exist at Zion and use of this fund in addition to what is already in the budget would allow a competitive salary with benefits. This position exists as a shared position with Good Sheperd Church, Frederick. (However, Zion has the larger portion of the cost and director presence). A motion was made and accepted unanimously

Voted

2026-4-3 Authorize the use of \$20,000 over 2 years (to pay for benefits) from the Youth Trust Fund to help finance the joint Youth Director Position

Lent and Easter at Zion was reviewed. Attendance this year was higher than 2025 at the Wednesday night meal and service. A discussion followed about the presence of a donation box at the Lenten meal.

Lentil reconstruction has been completed

The freestanding brick sign found at the right of the church front is in bad condition due to its age. Deb will meet with Mitchell Boyer to get recommendations

Open Forum

- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and Deb Reichelt clarified items
- A nominating committee was appointed with Rosella Wilson as chair, and the following council members that will be retiring in 2027: Addison Shupe, Darin Gordon, Bob Rockwell and Clinton Appleby
- Take 5 was identified. Members who agreed to present were 5:00pm- Addison Shupe, 9:00 am- Darin Gordon and 11:00 am- Bob Rockwell

- We are working with the Finance and Property Committees to entertain bids for updating our insurance policy for the upcoming year.
- We are working on hiring a Youth and Family Ministry Director. This is a position that we have been working on for more than a year and we are very excited that we may soon have someone for this position. The position is part of our approved budget, and we are also using funds from the youth and family trust to assist with the funding for this position.
- Thank you to the Food Bank and specifically Ann Pond for all of their hard work on getting all the approvals in place for our new Food Bank building. We are hopeful for construction to begin soon.
- There will be an all-committee meeting on April 29th at 6:30 p.m.
- Five people are needed to represent Zion at the Del-Md Annual Synod Assembly June 5 & 6, 2026 in Ellicott City, MD
- Council mentors for the first year members include:
 - Bruce McIntosh- Lois Ahalt
 - Sharon Finley- Sharon Boyer
 - Darin Gordon- Kaylyn Luther
 - Clinton Appleby- Sandy Bell

Joys and Concerns

- Pastor Matt and Deb will be looking at new phone systems
- An All-Committee Chair meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. The newly assembled list of member talents/skills obtained from pledge cards will be distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm

Lois Ahalt
Council Secretary