

St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting  
January 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 18 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Mary Finke, Ann Kuhn, Janice Schroer, Lowell Quellhorst, Roland Dicke, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Mark Dicke, Staci Jones, Betty Dietrich, Ron Hegemier, Norm Holcomb, Virginia Kuenning, Don Scheer, and Rev. Weir. Meditation was provided by Kathy Topp.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Roland Dicke moved to accept the minutes as written. Norm Holcomb seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Braun was present to review the December 2005 reports. For the first time in five years, the General Fund had more receipts than disbursements. The year ended with a surplus of \$1800. Tom Thieman offered congratulations and gratitude to be spread among the congregation for this success. Ralph Plattner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mark Dicke seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

"Catch the Vision" --Tim Burgess will continue his role. This program is planned to continue and grow, with more to be discussed in future meetings.

Membership Committee

The membership committee hasn't met in a while and may be in need of additional members. New brochures are being made; the small brochure is being provided at no charge by the same company printing our directory, and the large brochure is in the final editing stage.

Mission Report

Nothing to report, although the mission team did recently ship the clothing to the Ukraine. Tom Thieman also noted that it is the mission team who determines where to give the money from special offerings (like Easter and Christmas).

Worship Report -Nothing to report.

Board of Christian Education

Nothing to report yet, but Tom noted that they are encouraged to keep up the good work and that council is available if they need help.

Deacon Report

The communion schedule is set through March. There hasn't been the chance yet to evaluate how well five deacons per Sunday is working, but should know by next meeting.

Elder's Report

Gratitude was expressed to the deacons for their help last Sunday, especially with cleaning the communion cups. It was noted that we do have disposable communion cups for special occasions, but the glass cups are normally used in an effort to reduce waste.

Rev. Tostrick's Report

The church is at its busiest, and perhaps its best, during the month of December with special events, programs, and services. It is also a time when we gather as families and friends to celebrate the joy of this special season. During this time, it is easy to overlook those who have no family near with which to celebrate. For them it can become a very lonely and depressing time. We have been faithfully involved in various mission efforts to help others beyond our congregation celebrate Christmas. We have also been

faithfully involved in ministering to those among us, for whom Christmas is not always a joyous time. The Circle of Friends continues to uplift people's lives and spirits by remembering them with cards and special thoughts. The Prayer Chain continues to lift up prayers on behalf of those who have requested to be so remembered. SOCKS continues to be available to anyone in our fellowship who is in need of temporary assistance. And the Called to Care members continue to minister to those with whom they have established a special and close relationship.

The pastors also continue to be involved in the pastoral care of the congregation during this time. During the month of December, I have made 24 home visits, 2 hospital visits, 17 nursing home visits and 2 office visits. I also officiated at one funeral service and preached at one Sunday morning worship service. May God's Spirit move among us in 2006 in new and wonderful ways as we continue to worship and work together in His name.

#### Rev. Weir's Report

Jack Gilberg is still hard at work and is making progress on the website. He would welcome a team forming to finish the site development. Anyone interested should contact Rev. Weir or Jack. Cindy Newman has made a schedule for the leaders of Lessons and Fun time offered to the children during worship. Rev. Weir expressed gratitude to her for that as well as to Roland Dicke for all his efforts to get the program started. Currently rotating Sundays are Roland Dicke, Cindy Newman, Barb Rhinehart, and Theresa and Phil Hemmelgarn, and more volunteers would be appreciated.

The ages and number of children participating each week vary widely. Rev. Weir and Rev. Tostrick have coordinated a schedule of regular visitations of nursing homes and those who are homebound. Rev. Weir expressed the need for a memorial book so that our church would have a permanent reminder of those who have been memorialized by a donation. This should be brought up again at a future meeting to take action.

#### Trustee Report

The furnace in the Education Building that went out on Sunday is not repaired yet. Kogge has been there already, but will be back to finish. Kogge said the new circuit board is in and they are expected to repair the other furnace soon, which has been out of service for two months. The TVNCR is available for the youth or any organization that needs it. The trustees are looking into the emergency lights that should come on when the power goes out. Currently none are operating in either the Sanctuary or the Education Building. Also, the issue of whether a fire inspection is needed and whether the correct keys are in the fire/police access box was discussed. Tom asked the trustees to bring a list of ideas for the Project of the Year to the February meeting.

#### Old Business

General Synod Education -There will be six sessions of the learning study on same gender marriages, including guest speakers, a differing theological viewpoint, and something from the psychological aspect. Currently there are only three people signed up. This study will offer an opportunity for biblical reflection and self discovery.

Wish List -Currently includes a cart for moving keyboard to outdoor services, a refrigerator for the kitchen, a basketball hoop for PYO, new windows for Education Building, new flooring in the auditorium, refinishing pews and woodwork in Sanctuary, a DVD player, air conditioners for the assembly room and chapel, risers for Safari Club for children's programs, and updating all electrical systems in Sanctuary and Education Building. It was noted that a new refrigerator may not be needed; it has been working fine since the coils were cleaned and the seals replaced last year. The Wish List is not prioritized, but it provides a variety of suggestions for anyone wishing to donate

Cable & VCR Gift -Lori Winner had requested cable to be run to the large screen in the Nite Owl Theater. This has been gifted by Helen Warner and has been ordered and will be in place in time for the Super Bowl Sunday party.

Director of Youth Ministries -Another person is still being sought for the other part-time position. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

#### New Business

Board of Controls & Stewardship Committee -New members are needed; the Stewardship Committee needs one more member and the Board of Controls needs one or two additional members.

Goals for 2006 -Council should bring to February's meeting ideas and goals designed to create new interest and excitement for the congregation and organizations within the church.

Council meetings -For continuity, meetings will remain the same day and time.

Ecumenical Sunday -On January 22 worshippers from all the New Bremen churches are invited to St. Paul following their regular Sunday services for a luncheon, guest speaker Rev. Roger Perl, and fellowship. Phyllis Fledderjohann and Sandy Thieman are organizing the luncheon.

#### Announcements

Rev. Weir announced that February 26 from 2:00 -6:00 pm is "Leadership and Empowerment Day" at The Oasis on West Elm St. in Lima. This is formerly the West Elm Street UCC. Council members are encouraged to attend. Rev. Weir contacted John Gilberg as chairman of the membership committee to set the date for the Confirmation Reunion. It has been scheduled for May 7. A thank you note was received from Dick Hudson for the Christmas gift. Ann Kuhn announced that thank you notes with the church's picture on the front are now available in the office for anyone who needs them.

With no other business to discuss, Ralph Plattner made a motion to adjourn. Staci Jones seconded, and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Tom Thieman, President  
Lisa Davidson, Secretary