

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting
February 14, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 17 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Mary Finke, 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 John Voress.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the January 10, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Norm Holcomb moved to accept the minutes as written. Roland Dicke seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Fund Activity Report for January was available for review. It was noted that the month ended with a deficit of \$1101.08. Ralph Plattner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Janice Schroer seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

"Catch the Vision" – Nothing to report; the committee hasn't met recently.

Membership Committee – No report.

Mission Report – No report given, but Tom Thieman noted that their main project continues to be the trip to El Salvador with the youth this summer.

Worship Report – No report.

Reports

Board of Christian Education – Janice Schroer reported that the Board of Christian Education met on January 17. At that meeting the question was raised of how often the Child Sexual Safety program must be renewed. Council believed it to be every year, which would make the next program due in the fall of 2006.

The Board determined that there will be no Sunday School during the months of June and July. Spirit Safari Club will begin again in August. The suggestion was made to consider starting back up the second Sunday in August instead of the first Sunday in August because the county fair is always the first weekend in August. Janice Schroer will take that suggestion to the next meeting of the Board of Christian Education. Promotion Sunday will be May 28 which is the last Sunday before the summer break.

The Senior Breakfast is scheduled for May 21 which is one week before Graduation. It was moved to an earlier Sunday to lighten the schedule for the Seniors and their families.

Teacher Recognition Sunday will take place in the fall.

Deacon Report – Kathy Topp reported that Brian Tostrick is unable to continue the video dubbing anymore because of his heavy work schedule. Kathy is learning how to do it and will have several other deacons train to do it also.

Rev. Weir had asked the deacons to maintain the pew racks, replenishing and changing contents as needed. It was suggested that a group, such as the youth, could make this a service project to collate all the materials, then the deacons could replenish the racks more easily and quickly.

There still is occasionally a problem finding an acolyte. Council will look into the matter.

There has been a buzzing sound that is audible on the video tapes of the past two services. The deacons are going to try a few different options with the sound system and then listen to the tapes afterwards to see if they can resolve it.

Elder's Report – No report.

Rev. Tostrick's Report – No report. Tom reported, however, that during the difficult time that both Rev. Weir and Rev. Tostrick had with the passing of their mothers, that they worked very well together and came up with a schedule that they were both comfortable with. Each offered to handle services or change plans to accommodate the other, and both were pleased with the resulting decisions.

Rev. Weir's Report – Rev. Weir expressed thanks to the entire congregation for the expressions of sympathy and support when his mother passed away. Kathy read a letter from Rev. Weir thanking council for the stone cross remembrance. Rev. Weir also repeated that he appreciated Rev. Tostrick's consideration and insistence that he continue with a long-planned family event, even though he offered to cancel when Rev. Tostrick's mother passed away. Rev. Weir also reiterated that he and Rev. Tostrick had worked together very well together to make sure that all services would be covered and that each felt comfortable with the plans that were made.

Rev. Weir also repeated his thought from the January meeting that our church needs to keep a memorial book so that our church would have a permanent reminder of those who have been memorialized by a donation. He suggested that if anyone wanted to get this started, they should meet with him.

Trustee Report – It had been questioned at the January meeting whether the fire/police access box has the proper keys. Lowell Quellhorst reported that it has been resolved. The correct keys are in place for the fire/police to have access to all doors both inside and out.

The baby changers are in and will be installed soon.

Chuck Gamble came in to check the fire extinguishers. He recommended changing the extinguishers in the sanctuary because they are the foam type that would ruin fabric on pews, woodwork, carpeting, etc. The suggested replacements would cost a total of \$300 for both. After a discussion, Ralph Plattner made a motion to buy two new fire extinguishers for the sanctuary; Mark Dicke seconded and the motion was approved by council. The two units that will be removed from the sanctuary are still in good working order and can be used in another area of the education building.

Tom asked the trustees to take care of the lawnmower before spring. Every two years we either get a new tractor or deck in a trade-in program with Western Ohio Hardware. The trustees and John Voress agreed to work together and get with the hardware store.

Ecumenical Sunday – Tom reported that on January 22 there were 55 people at St. Paul to participate in the luncheon and enjoy Rev. Perl's program. Most of the attendees were from St. Paul and it was suggested that next year possibly another church could host the program.

Old Business

General Synod Education – There still has been very little interest expressed in the program exploring same gender marriage. Tom and John will meet with Rev. Weir to discuss whether the program format needs to be altered. Tom made the point that our church has an agreed upon procedure that anyone who wishes to address an issue must follow, which includes signing any letters submitted to council.

Wish List – The wish list remains as it was listed in January's notes.

Director of Youth Ministries – There still have been no candidates expressing interest in the position. An extended discussion revealed the consensus that this is a very important position and that our youth need and deserve extra efforts to ensure that the youth program position remains intact for them. The question was raised whether a seminary student might be the solution. Rev. Weir will check into that as well as continuing to check with his contacts with other churches.

Project of the Year – The trustees had suggestions for projects with varying budgets and degrees of urgency. Much discussion followed regarding setting goals, timelines, and budgets. Suggested projects included: overhauling the entire electrical system for the church and education building, repairing sidewalks in front of

the church on the east side, resealing/waterproofing the bricks on the sanctuary, resealing the parking lot including repairing holes and replacing some parking blocks, and getting fire protection in the sanctuary similar to the education building that will alert the fire/police departments even if the building is empty.

Additional discussion took place exploring which projects may require the services of an architect or checking with the city's plans for street repairs. It was suggested that the fire system in the sanctuary needs to be done now, and to make it a Project of the Year. More discussion followed, and then Norm Holcomb made a motion that we go ahead and get two bids for a fire system for the sanctuary. Mary Finke seconded, and the motion was approved. Other ideas will be considered and discussed at a later meeting.

Goals for 2006 – Due to time constraints, this discussion will be postponed until the next meeting.

Website Update – John Voress talked with Jack Gilberg. The church website has been up and running since January. Jack just needs to get technical help to get a template in place so that each group will have the ability to update their own web pages as needed. John and Jack also discussed whether everything should be switched to NKTelco for simplicity. John will check into this and bring the information to the next meeting.

New Business

Board of Controls – New members are still needed.

Stewardship – The open positions have been filled; Bev Plattner and Kathy Nedderman will serve on the committee.

Feb. 26 Church Annual Meeting – Tom asked everyone to attend.

Request from the Cancer Assoc. of Auglaize Co. – Council members were given a copy of a letter requesting of our church a \$200 gift to fund one month's rent and utilities. Further information is needed before a decision can be made, so it will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Building and Property Insurance – Our insurance is up in May. Tom will work with the trustees to plan and prepare to investigate a new policy. It was suggested that the proposed new fire system in the sanctuary could mean a possible discount on the policy.

Announcements

Council members were given an information sheet about the "Leadership and Empowerment Day" at The Oasis on West Elm St. in Lima on February 26. Council members are encouraged to attend.

March 1 is Ash Wednesday.

March 11 and 12 the Covenant Players will be at the Worship Services. This was so entertaining last year that everyone is really encouraged to attend.

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

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

Tom Thieman, President