

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting  
March 21, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 16 members present including: Tom Thieman, Lisa Davidson, Mary Finke, Ann Kuhn, Janice Schroer, Lowell Quellhorst, Roland Dicke, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Mark Dicke, Betty Dietrich, Ron Hegemier, Norm Holcomb, Virginia Kuenning, Don Scheer, and Rev. Weir. Meditation was provided by Ann Kuhn.

**Secretary's Report**

Minutes of the February 14, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Don Scheer moved to accept the minutes as written. Norm Holcomb seconded; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Fund Activity Report for January was available for review. Tom Braun noted that the year-to-date deficit is \$6546.30 which is much higher than last year at the same time. Tom Braun also noted that the Organ Fund is in the negative and the Beacon Fund is virtually depleted. Both are in need of donations. Ralph Plattner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kathy Topp seconded. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**"Catch the Vision"** – The committee is working at setting a meeting date.

**Membership Committee** – John Gilberg presented a proposal from the Membership Committee to print large, four-color brochures for the purpose of giving to visitors attending church and also to present to new people moving into New Bremen. This brochure has been designed very professionally by Kelli Muether, and John brought price quotes from three possible printers. A discussion took place about pricing, then Tom Thieman stepped down from his position as president to make a motion to get 1000 brochures printed, with John to attempt to get it printed gratis, but if not, to get it from the lowest bidder. Mary Finke seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

The Membership Committee also recommended that St. Paul Church join the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$80 per year and one of the benefits is that the church will be notified of all new persons moving into the area. The new brochure would also be part of the Welcome Bag given to all new residents. Virginia Kuenning made a motion that St. Paul join the Chamber of Commerce. Norm seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Lisa Davidson will take care of going to the Chamber Office to join.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Confirmation Reunion will be held on Sunday, May 7. Rev. James Egbert will preach the sermon that day. The expected cost of the day is \$400 - \$500 which is usually offset by the extra offerings received on that day.

**Mission Report** – Ann Kuhn reported that the Mission Team is looking for representatives for Crop Walk. Joyce Gilberg is looking for volunteers for the New Vision inner-city church project. Buckets are again being filled. The capsule has already filled 16 buckets, and hopefully the rest of the church will fill another 50 for donation.

**Worship Report** – No report.

### **Reports**

**Board of Christian Education** – Janice Schroer reported that the Board of Christian Education met on March 21. The Spirit Safari Club will have Promotion Sunday on May 28, then will have summer break until it resumes on the second Sunday in August, which will accommodate the county fair.

Flowers are ordered for the children to receive on Easter Sunday.

John and Joyce Gilberg are going to be teaching the Junior High Class and new materials are being considered to provide more content and more structure.

**Deacon Report** – Kathy Topp reported that Ralph fixed the buzzing sound and the sound no longer cuts in and out. Last Sunday they were able to record a good quality tape of the service.

The deacons are helping the acolytes, and taking over the job if an acolyte is not present. Cindy Newman and Sally Dicke are working on scheduling acolytes.

The rack maintenance project has been discussed with Reverend Weir. The schedule of using five deacons instead of six is still being reviewed.

**Director of Youth Ministries** – We are still in need of a second part-time person, and need to be aware that some of the usual youth activities are being missed until the position is filled. The expanded youth committee will continue to try to find someone for the position.

**Elder's Report** – Ann Kuhn reported that everything is set for the communion schedule for Easter. Plastic cups will be used since the kitchen will be in use for the breakfast and it would be difficult to get the glass ones washed in time for the second service.

**Rev. Tostrick's Report** – I would like to thank the church council for the consideration and support given to my family and me during the time surrounding the death of my mother. It was a difficult and busy time, which was made easier by the concern, help and understanding I received during that time.

During the months of January and February there were some constraints upon me, preventing me from making as many pastoral calls as I would have liked. They included covering for Rev. Weir during the time surrounding the death of his mother, a number of funerals all coming at about the same time, plus some time to mourn the death of my mother. In spite of that, I was able to make 39 pastoral visits in homes, 25 visits in nursing homes, 32 hospital visits, and 4 office visits. In addition to these calls I conducted 6 worship services, and officiated at 5 funerals.

As part of our continuing pastoral care, in addition to our continuing pastoral visits, a special dinner and communion service for our home-bound members is being planned on Saturday, April 1, 2006 at 12:00 noon. Transportation will be arranged for those who need it. Those who are unable to attend will be visited individually and invited to share in private communion. Members of the committee formed to create and plan the event are Rev. Tostrick (chairman), Rev. Weir, Sandy Thieman, and Lori Likens.

**Rev. Weir's Report** – Rev. Weir met with Bev Fark, who handles the Cradle Roll to discuss making a more personal contact within the first week with moms of new babies.

Rev. Weir reported that on March 27 Jack Gilberg is meeting with one member of each group from St. Paul to instruct them how to put information about their group on the church website. Then each group can update and change information as needed.

Rev. Weir has planned the Good Friday service and needs several people for candle extinguishing.

**Trustee Report** – Lowell Quellhorst presented two quotes for a new smoke/heat detection system for the Sanctuary for the Project of the Year. Both SecurCom and Heitkamp Electric quoted systems that will use laser beams and identify the location of the fire/smoke. Both quotes include the basement and attic as well. SecurCom provided two quotes, identifying one as more user-friendly, and also included State of Ohio permits. Tom Thieman suggested that the trustees cross-reference the SecurCom quote with Dale Heitkamp to make sure the quotes are comparing equivalent systems. Also the trustees will check with the insurance agent about how it will affect the policy and check on the necessity of a state permit. The discussion was tabled pending the outcome.

The trustees looked into the lawnmower leasing program at Western Ohio Hardware. It costs \$570 per year to participate and every other year we would either get a new tractor or mower. They discovered that last year was skipped, so this year it would cost \$1138 and both the tractor and mower would be replaced. After a discussion, Lowell Quellhorst made a motion to continue with the leasing program and Roland Dicke seconded. The council approved the motion and the money will be taken from the landscaping fund.

The trustees also noted that they have repaired rusty hinges on the clock above the Sanctuary, fixed the gutter on Rev. Weir's house, and that they will take care of lawn fertilizing and weed killing themselves rather than hiring a service.

### **Old Business**

**General Synod Education** – Tom reported that the first of the two meetings provided good discussion and was attended by about 25 people. A third meeting may be suggested for more open discussion.

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

**Website Update** – Tom reported that John Voress had learned that bright.net has not been charging St. Paul. John Voress and Jack Gilberg are going to look into the matter further to determine what services are being provided by bright.net and NKTelco and at what price and report back.

### **New Business**

**Board of Controls** – A meeting will be scheduled for April.

**Request from the Cancer Assoc. of Auglaize Co.** – It was learned that this association raises money that stays in Auglaize County. It was suggested that a special offering be collected to raise the money to make the \$200 donation to cover one month's rent and utilities. Norm Holcomb made a motion to present it as a Moment for Mission during a church service and to proceed with making a donation of at least \$200 regardless of the amount collected. Ann Kuhn seconded the motion and the motion carried. Norm will head the endeavor.

**Resignation of Kay May as Spirit Safari Treasurer** – Tom Thieman presented a letter of resignation from Kay May. Roland Dicke made a motion to accept the resignation. Don Scheer seconded and the motion carried. Tom had been told that Leslie Hirschfeld had volunteered to take over the duties. Ann Kuhn made a motion to invite Leslie to be Treasurer of Spirit Safari Club. Roland Dicke seconded and the motion was approved.

**Establish Capital Improvement Fund** – Postponed until next meeting.

**Auglaize Industries Evacuation Contract** – Auglaize Industries submitted a letter requesting that St. Paul continue to serve as a temporary shelter for Auglaize Industries in the event of evacuation due to a natural or man-made disaster. Ann Kuhn made a motion to continue our relationship in this way. Ralph Plattner seconded and the motion carried.

**Child Safety Program** – A request was made for an annual contribution to the Child Safety Program including Drug Safety and Internet Protection from Chief Harrod. After a discussion, Norm Holcomb made a motion to pay the \$131.40 to once again be a sponsor for the program. Kathy Topp seconded and the motion was approved.

**Agape** – Agape requested a \$10 membership fee with the invitation that one of our members could serve as a trustee. Tom Thieman suggested that Tom Braun request a financial statement from them. Ron Hegemier made a motion to donate the \$10 and Don Scheer seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Announcements**

Thank you notes were received from Rev. Tostrick for the expressions of kindness and sympathy on the passing of his mother, and from United Church Homes for the donation.

An invitation was received for Eden Convocation for April 18 – 19.

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

---

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

---

Tom Thieman, President