

## **St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting May 9, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 12 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Ann Kuhn, Janice Schroer, Lowell Quellhorst, Ralph Plattner, Mark Dicke, Betty Dietrich, Norm Holcomb, Don Scheer, and Rev. Weir. Meditation was provided by Janice Schroer.

### **Secretary's Report**

Minutes of the April 11, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Norm Holcomb moved to accept the minutes as written. Betty Dietrich seconded; motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Fund Activity Report for April was available for review. The month of April ended with a surplus, partially due to lower utility bills and having five Sundays of contributions (including Easter). Year-to-date, however, there is a deficit of \$6513.66. Tom Braun also noted that the Organ Fund and the Beacon Fund no longer have negative balances, and hopefully will receive regular donations to remain that way. Janice Schroer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ralph Plattner seconded. Motion carried.

Tom Braun also suggested that old offering envelopes in storage be purged. He has already questioned Mark Cisco how long records should be kept and what is required in the event of an audit. Tom Thieman also suggested that Tom Braun check in the safe room to see what other old financial records are no longer necessary.

### **Committee Reports**

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

**Membership Committee** – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Confirmation Reunion was held on Sunday, May 7, and attended by about 90 people. It was an enjoyable occasion, and there were many positive comments about Rev. Egbert.

Tom Thieman will take the idea back to the Membership Committee about putting guest books at each entrance for visitors to sign so that all visitors will be contacted. Also, the issue was raised that we need to make sure that new members are receiving the red comma to put in their yards.

**Mission Report** – Ann Kuhn reported that as a result of Will Stewart's visit, Satellite B is planning to travel to Nu Vision to volunteer for a day of working wherever needed.

The Lenten coin folders brought in contributions of \$900 which is to be given to Nu Vision. The Mission Team has yet to determine where to donate the Easter special offering of approximately \$1200.

**Worship Report** – pending an upcoming meeting.

## **Reports**

**Board of Christian Education** – Janice Schroer gave reminders that May 21 is the Senior Breakfast, May 21 is Promotion Sunday and the last Spirit Safari Club before summer break. Spirit Safari Club will resume the second Sunday in August.

**Deacon Report** – Kathy Topp reported via e-mail to Tom Thieman that the only issue to report is the continuing problem of the interruption of the sound on the Sunday morning video taping. She has asked Gary Wehmeyer to take a look at the problem. Mark Dicke reported that the deacons need more video tapes, but that Dot Koeper was bringing over some that were in the church office that could be used.

**Elder's Report** – Ann Kuhn expressed appreciation to the deacons for their help with communion cups.

**Rev. Tostrick's Report** – (Provided by Rev. Tostrick) The pastoral needs of the congregation continued to be the major focus of my ministry during March and April. During this time I made 33 pastoral visits in homes, 28 visits in nursing homes, 46 hospital visits, and 6 office visits. In addition to these calls, I prepared and helped lead 2 nursing home worship services, preached at 2 Lenten worship services, preached at the Community Good Friday Service, officiated at 4 funerals, officiated at 2 baptisms, lead the congregation in 4 regular worship services and helped organize and host the dinner and communion service for our home-bound and nursing home members on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

With the coming of summer, many of the meetings and activities of the church slow down. But there is no decrease in the need to remember one another in special caring ways. As I visit with various members of the congregation, I receive many comments of appreciation for the cards, letters, phone calls, and visits they have received from you, the members and friends of St. Paul U. C. C. Keep up the good work.

**Rev. Weir's Report** – Rev. Weir reviewed the wedding procedures concerning the use of the Sanctuary by non-members and requests for outside clergy to perform ceremonies.

Rev. Weir also expressed gratitude for the kindness and sympathy received after the birth and passing of his grandson.

**Trustee Report** – Lowell Quellhorst addressed the questions that had been raised concerning the Smoke/Fire Alarm System. The quote from SecurCom prompted the question of why all the sensors would need to be changed every ten years. Lowell checked with both Don Kuck regarding the property insurance and Bob Kuck, the fire chief. Neither knew of a reason that would require a change. The benefit appears to be that all sensors in the Education Building and the Sanctuary would then be same type. After discussion, Lowell Quellhorst made a motion to go with the quote from Heitkamp Electric. Norm Holcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The property insurance policy is coming up for renewal in June, and any additional quotes that can be considered need to come in before then. The UCC insurance is a possibility, but because of all the churches in the South who filed claims, it may not be financially stable.

Tom Thieman suggested scheduling a work day to paint lines in the parking lot and on the street. Lowell will check with Dave Goodwin to see about borrowing paint equipment and also check about fixing the really large pothole. The bushes by the parking lot also need cleaned out.

In other matters, the furnace was running continuously, but that has been repaired. The tree in the parking lot that has dead branches from the ice storm needs removed; the trustees will call Denny Sudman. The parsonage porch steps need painted; Rev. Weir will do it. The sidewalk in front of the church is in poor condition; Lowell will call to get a quote. Ann Kuhn suggested the phone line that runs across the brick façade of the church be re-routed to a less conspicuous location; the trustees will look into it the matter.

**Stewardship Report** – The Stewardship Committee met to determine what to do with the 90 boxes of offering envelopes that have not been picked up. Since bulk mailing wasn't an option, a sampling of envelopes will be mailed with a letter that if anyone wants to be removed from the membership roster, they should notify the church office.

In future years, the Stewardship Committee will investigate the possibility of reducing the box size to make it possible to bulk mail the offering envelopes to the entire congregation.

The decision was made to see how the May contributions are before determining whether to write a letter to the congregation about the need to reduce the deficit.

#### **Old Business**

**General Synod Education** – A discussion occurred about whether a third meeting was necessary to summarize the two prior General Synod Education informational meetings. Norm Holcomb made a motion to not have a third meeting and to create a committee to draft a resolution to present to the congregation regarding the issue of same gender marriage. Don Scheer seconded the motion. A ballot vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Goals for 2006** – One goal is to have a full church, such as the high attendance numbers on Easter and Confirmation Reunion Sundays. More goals will be set and discussed at a future meeting.

**Website Update** – John Voress talked with Jack Gilberg who is taking care of getting the registration for the new website address and switching over to NKTelco. A progress update will be given at next meeting.

**Request from Cancer Association of Auglaize County** – Norm Holcomb will put a notice in the Beacon about the planned donation including information about the association. An announcement will be made on Sundays, May 28 and June 4 that there will be a second offering collected on June 11 for this donation.

**Establish Capital Improvement Fund** – Envelopes are being created to collect for this fund.

**NWO Association Meeting Report, April 29** – Rev. Dan Busch was installed as our new association minister. Other members from St. Paul's serving in elected positions

with the NWOA are Rev. Weir, John and Joyce Gilberg and Beverly Plattner. St. Paul UCC was awarded with a certificate for exceeding the OCWM goals set by the association.

**Director of Youth Ministries** – There has been a nomination from the Youth Ministries committee for Terri Goodwin to fill the second part time position. After a discussion, Ann Kuhn made a motion to accept the recommendation of the youth committee to employ Terri Goodwin and Lori Winner as the Youth Ministry Team. Starting June 1 each is to work 20 hours per week at a rate of pay of \$1000 per month. Mark Dicke seconded the motion. A ballot vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

**Gospel Tent at Fair** – A request was received from the Auglaize County Agricultural Society for a donation for the Gospel Tent at the Auglaize County Fair. Janice Schroer made a motion to donate \$50 and Ralph Plattner seconded. The motion passed.

**Terri Goodwin's Graduation** – Norm Holcomb made a motion to give a graduation gift to Terri from the congregation. Don Scheer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Lima Pipe Organ** – The service and maintenance agreement is \$730.00 per year, to be paid in two installments of \$365.00 each. Lima Pipe Organ will come twice a year for service, once in the fall/winter with heating on and once in the late spring with the heating off. Lowell Quellhorst made a motion to accept the service and maintenance agreement. Ann Kuhn seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**Ohio Conference** – The Ohio Conference is scheduled for June 15, 16, 17. Rev. Weir is attending and is looking for delegates to attend.

### **Announcements**

A gift of \$300 was received from Crescent Players in appreciation for using our auditorium for rehearsals.

May 20 Terri Goodwin's Graduation and Dinner

May 21 Senior Breakfast

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

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Lisa Davidson, Secretary

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Tom Thieman, President