

St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting Minutes July 11, 2006

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

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the June 13, 2006 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb to approve the minutes. Ralph Plattner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The general fund ended the month of June 2006 with a year-to-date deficit of \$13,956 compared with the June 2005 year-to-date deficit of \$6,167. Tom Braun noted that the office copier lease is up soon. Tom and John Koeper will meet with the salesman to discuss renewing the lease or getting a new copier. Betty Dietrich made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Don Scheer seconded. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Catch the Vision

A new facilitator to replace Tim Burgess will be in place soon. The program will be ready by mid-September.

Membership

Concerning potential new members, discussion was held about how to ascertain names of new citizens moving into town. It was noted that neither the village nor the Chamber of Commerce currently provides this information. However, our church brochure is available at the chamber for interested individuals. A thought was also expressed regarding the possibility of creating a list of the past 3 years' new members and having a meeting with them regarding their thoughts about new ideas for our church.

Mission

Rev. Weir reported that the recent mission trip to El Salvador had a significant and positive impact on the youth who went. They will be relating their thoughts about the trip at an upcoming service in August. The annual Wing Ding will be an event of November 11, featuring a German theme with former pastor Jim Egbert providing his culinary skills. Jim will also be bringing along a German music group for entertainment. A mission work day will be held at NuVizion UCC in Toledo on July 18. All who are interested are invited to help with much work that needs to be done at this new UCC church.

Worship

The pew rack contents look cluttered and need to be better organized. After some discussion, it was decided to attach wooden racks with divided spaces to the backs of the podiums at each entrance door to hold some of these contents, especially prayer request cards and visitor offering envelopes. Norm Holcomb will fabricate the racks. Discussion was also held with regard to providing an alternative worship service during Sunday school for parents of the Sunday school children. Rev. Weir stressed that there must be a "core group" of individuals interested in this service before proceeding with it. A letter will be sent and follow-up phone calls made to potential attendees for this type of service.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education

Ann Kuhn reported that after the summer break, Spirit Safari Club will resume on Sunday, August 27. Also, the Sunday school Christmas program has been scheduled.

Deacons Report – nothing to report.

Elders Report -- nothing to report.

Rev. Tostrick's report – (provided by Rev. Tostrick)

During the month of June, I made 17 pastoral visits in homes, 14 visits in nursing homes, 18 hospital visits, and 2 office visits. During these visits I celebrated private communion 12 times. In addition to these calls, I prepared and helped lead one nursing home worship service, officiated at 2 funerals, and led the congregation in 5 regular worship services.

Rev. Weir's report

A new Sunday service (9:00 a.m.) is being considered for parents with kids. Rev. Weir will be contacting these people via letter and follow-up phone calls to determine how many may be interested in this alternative service. Rev. Weir also announced that the Beacon is being reformatted – more categorized, more graphics – to cut down on redundancies.

Trustees

Lowell Quellhorst reported that the village has requested that a tree near the railroad be removed due to power lines running through it. The town will take down the tree and will replace it with two new ones, locations to be determined by the trustees. It was also noted that a supply of batteries will be kept on hand for both the lavalier and handheld microphones. The microphones should be tested regularly and batteries replaced when needed. Thank you to Lowell Quellhorst and Patty Cisco for recently painting the parsonage porch.

OLD BUSINESS

Website – No update as yet.

General Synod Education Committee

Several open meetings concerning the same-gender marriage issue were held earlier this year. A committee was formed to develop our church's consensus response to the resolution for General Synod 25. This committee consisted of Chuck Gamble, Norm Holcomb, Janice Schroer, Tom Thieman, Bill Tostrick, John Voress, and Evelyn Wenning. After council's review of that response, a motion to approve it was made by Norm Holcomb. Mary Finke seconded the motion. Motion carried. A "yes" voice vote followed to present this official response to the congregation. We will also forward our formal response to the United Church of Christ headquarters. The response is as follows:

We, the congregation of St. Paul UCC in New Bremen, Ohio, are accepting of everyone as a child of God, and, as such, welcome everyone for worship and membership.

However, at the present time, it is the consensus of the congregation that we shall not support the resolution of Equal Marriage Rights for All, of General Synod 25 of the United Church of Christ. We also recognize that same gender marriages are prohibited by law in the state of Ohio.

*Respectively submitted,
General Synod Committee*

Property insurance

Tom Thieman reported that our buildings and property are insured by New Bremen Insurance Agency. The new policy will increase coverage to \$4.6 million. The deductible remains the same. The policy does include earthquake insurance.

Parking lines

Lowell Quellhorst reported that new lines will be painted in the parking areas. The village will help with this project.

Pew removal

Pew removal on the north side for increased fellowship area and more accessible bell/chime choir area will proceed soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Church secretary’s salary

Dot Koeper’s salary increase voted at the June council meeting has been postponed, per Dot’s request, until the church is in better financial condition.

Part-time Employee vacation schedule

A committee consisting of Tom Braun, Betty Dietrich, and Don Scheer has met to develop a vacation schedule for part-time employees. They will present a formal schedule at the next council meeting.

Chapel memorial update (Tostrick memorial)

A fabric sample selected by Jill Borkowski of Gilberg’s Furniture was displayed for consideration for the enhanced window treatment of the north window in the Assembly Room. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept the fabric. Mark Dicke seconded. Motion carried. Other enhancements to the chapel area will include a new altar or communion table and a cross.

Lillian Schowe gift

A \$1000 gift has been received from the Lillian Schowe estate. Ann Kuhn will investigate possibilities for its use.

There being no further business to discuss, Ralph Plattner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Scheer seconded. The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Kathy Topp, Secretary pro-tem

Tom Thieman, President