

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting  
August 8, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 14 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Mary Finke, Ann Kuhn, Janice Schroer, Lowell Quellhorst, Kathy Topp, Mark Dicke, Staci Jones, Betty Dietrich, Virginia Kuenning, Don Scheer, and Rev. Weir. Meditation was provided by Virginia Kuenning.

**Secretary's Report**

Minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Betty Dietrich moved to accept the minutes as written. Don Scheer seconded; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Fund Activity Report for July was available for review. There were five Sundays in the month of July, which resulted in a surplus of \$2937.71. That brings the year-to-date deficit down to \$11,018.90. This compares unfavorably to last year, when the deficit was only \$1969 at this time. The following issues were raised and will be examined: Dumpster rental vs. trash bag purchase, local and long distance phone company rates, and the NKTelco cable bill. Tom Braun and John Koeper will look into the entire phone system for the church and see if there may be some better programs available to us. Virginia Kuenning made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mark Dicke seconded. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**"Catch the Vision"** – Tom Thieman reported that Patty Cisco will be the new facilitator for the upcoming year. The committee is looking to add members in a wide range of ages and interests. They will then review what has been accomplished and what still needs done.

**Membership Committee** – No report.

**Mission Report** – Ann Kuhn reported that 12 members from St. Paul and one from Holy Redeemer made a trip to NuVision to paint bathrooms, weed and trim, build birdhouses, etc. All those attending reported it was an uplifting experience and that they got back much more than they gave. Ann reported that NuVision is in need of donations for a very worthwhile children's program that found the need to begin feeding the children lunch in addition to their craft program.

The Mission Team is also working towards the Crop Walk, scheduled to be October 8, 2006.

**Worship Report** – Will meet September 11.

**Offer of Updated Video Technology** – Lori Winner and Terri Goodwin presented their ideas for utilizing updated technology, such as a PowerPoint presentation for the El Salvador trip to show at a Sunday service. Lori and Terri suggested that the contemporary technology would primarily appeal to young people, but that older people would also appreciate what it can do. Because we do not currently have the technology necessary to accomplish this, Lori, Terri, Staci Jones and Don Scheer will explore our needs and present new ideas to council. Currently, we have several people from our congregation interested in supporting a project like this.

Terri and Lori also submitted a three-month calendar of the youth activities, as well as a wish list, including: a Foosball Table, 2-3 bean bag games, a Play Station 2, a Dance Dance Revolution game for PS2, and a Karaoke Machine.

Terri Goodwin also announced that the summer camps are in financial trouble and may not exist in 3 – 5 years without a lot of help. Terri is passionate about the camps and stressed that camp can be a tremendously positive experience for so many youth. Donations are critically needed.

## **Reports**

**Board of Christian Education** – Janice Schroer reported that Spirit Safari will resume August 27, the themes are set, and they are looking for new teachers. On October 17 the Safe Church program will be presented to the teachers. Cradle roll supplies have been purchased. A mission project has been discussed, but not determined.

**Deacon Report** – Norm Holcomb has completed one of the racks to contain the pew rack contents. He is looking into how to attach to the different podium configurations.

**Elder's Report** – Nothing to report.

**Rev. Tostrick's Report** – (Provided by Rev. Tostrick)

*During the month of July, I made 12 pastoral visits in homes, 10 visits in nursing homes, 17 hospital visits, and 4 office visits. In addition to these calls, I led the congregation in 2 Saturday evening worship services, 1 Sunday morning worship service. I also conducted 1 Saturday evening worship service at Otterbein, prepared and helped lead one worship service at Heritage Manor Nursing Home, officiated at the baptisms of 5 infants, youth and adults, and officiated at 2 funerals.*

**Rev. Weir's Report** – Thank you to all the deacons for a wonderful job, especially for everything that goes into preparing the outdoor services.

The Beacon will be changing format beginning with the October issue to be more easily read, to alleviate redundancy, and to better utilize graphics.

There have been several positive replies to the letter about the parents' worship service during Spirit Safari Club.

October 1 will be a "Blessing of the Backpacks" which will be for the children of St. Paul and also for the backpacks and supplies collected for NuVision.

The Ohio Conference will continue to have a minister, but the job will change. Before the conference, a national lawyer spoke and suggested a clause to be added in the Child Sexual Safety Policy that no one can have a position dealing with children until he/she has been with the church for a certain amount of time. Additionally, all insurance policies should be kept for 30 years because the statute of limitations is 12 years beyond reaching the age of majority.

**Trustee Report** – Lowell Quellhorst reported Dale Heitkamp has been contacted regarding the installation of the smoke/heat system. Garman and Miller are currently preparing specifications for state approval. The sidewalks are still a pending issue. Painting the parking lines is pending the village schedule. Lowell has sprayed the wasps and will spray again before the next outside service; wasps have also been spotted at the volleyball courts.

### **Old Business**

**Website Update** – No update at this time.

**Establish Capital Improvement Fund** – No update at this time.

**Recommendation on where to place Lillian Schowe's gift** – Ann Kuhn has looked into the matter and spoken to several people. As Lillian was a faithful bible reader, possibly the gift should go towards purchasing bibles for the children. Ann will continue to look into it and report back.

**Property Insurance Report** – Tom Thieman has the particulars of the insurance policy and is currently reading it. The new policy has raised the value of our building to \$4.6 million plus being adequately covered on our liability insurance. Tom will continue reading the policy and will report anything else at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

**St. Paul UCC Child Sexual Safety Policy** – Janice Schroer reported that a special committee has been formed regarding the policy on Integrating Former

Offenders into the Congregation. The committee is managing the situation and guidelines have been put in place in the meantime.

**Review of Vacation Time** – Don Scheer reported that the team has completed the Vacation Policy for employees who don't have a vacation stipulation in their contracts. Kathy Topp made a motion to approve the Vacation Policy as it was presented. Lowell Quellhorst seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with thanks to Don, Betty Dietrich, and Tom Braun. Vacation Policy follows:

*Employees scheduled less than 20 hours per week are not eligible for vacation benefits.*

*Contract employees are not eligible for vacation benefits.*

*Employees scheduled for 20 hours or more per week are entitled to vacation benefits as defined in this policy unless there is a vacation schedule defined in their employment contract that overrides this policy.*

*A week is defined as the normal scheduled hours that an employee is expected to work in a 7 day period. Pay for the vacation period is based on the normal scheduled pay for a normal scheduled work week.*

*To be eligible for vacation the employee must have one or more years of continuous service. Vacation will be received according to the following schedule. Service credit is based on the employee's original date of hire for continuous service.*

<i>Service Credit</i>	<i>Earned Vacation</i>
<i>Less than one year</i>	<i>no vacation benefit</i>
<i>1 year but less than 2 years</i>	<i>1 week</i>
<i>2 years but less than 10 years</i>	<i>2 weeks</i>
<i>10 years but less than 20 years</i>	<i>3 weeks</i>
<i>20 years and more</i>	<i>4 weeks</i>

*There is no accumulation of the vacation benefits. Vacation time must be taken in the 12 month period after the year in which it was earned.*

**Review Memorial to Update Chapel Area** – Tom Thieman spoke with Jill Borkowski of Gilberg Furniture regarding the fire retardancy of the fabric that was chosen. Wally Hirschfeld will make the cross and lectern.

**Update on Church Picnic** – To be discussed at next meeting.

**Budget Meeting** – Date is set for August 21 at 7:00 pm, to be attended by Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Mary Finke, Tom Braun, Ann Kuhn, Lowell Quellhorst, and Bev Plattner.

**Appoint Nominating Committee for 2007 Council** – The Head Deacon is the chair of the Nominating Committee. The positions that will need filled are five deacons, a junior elder, one trustee, and a treasurer.

**New Copier** – Tom Braun presented an analysis of the cost of keeping the current copier versus leasing a new copier. The three year lease runs out in September. Based on the comparison, Tom Braun recommends keeping the current copier; it will be a savings of \$6380.03 over the course of two years. Lowell Quellhorst made a motion to accept the recommendation and purchase the current copier. Mary Finke seconded the motion, and council approved it.

### **Announcements**

Stewardship Meeting at Tiffin on Saturday, August 12.

Council's Memorial for John Voress's Mother.

With no other business to discuss, Virginia Kuenning made a motion to adjourn. Mark Dicke 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