

St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting December 12, 2006

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

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mark Dicke seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Fund Activity Report for November was available for review. Receipts are about \$400 less than last year at this time. Expenses are \$6,000 – 7,000 less than budgeted. The year-to-date deficit is now \$12,267.70; last year at this time, the deficit was \$5,983. Ralph Plattner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Mark Dicke seconded. Motion carried.

The St. Paul Memorial Fund has continued receiving generous gifts this year; most recently, a donation was made from the estate of Freda Voress. It was noted that the Organ Fund still has a negative balance; it is currently a deficit of \$240. Contributions to the Organ Fund would be greatly appreciated.

The Wing Ding brought in over \$6,000. Over \$5,200 was from the silent auction; half will go to Nu Vision in Toledo and the other half will go to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. The remaining \$800 goes to the Project of the Year.

Committee Reports

“Catch the Vision” – The team met in November and reviewed the prior month's meeting with the new members. January looks promising as an exciting start to the new year. Meetings are set for the first Monday of each month.

Membership Committee – Tom Braun reported that there hasn't been a meeting, but that they are working on getting addresses for invitations to the Confirmation Reunion in 2007.

Mission Report – Ann Kuhn reported that the Mission Team has been exploring opportunities to send a team of our own on a mission trip instead of going along with another group's planned trip.

Rev. Weir noted that the mission team had suggested Back Bay in Biloxi, Nu Vision, and New Orleans as choices for the 2007 Project of the Year. They will get more info and present at the January council meeting.

Worship Report – Nothing to report at this time.

Reports

Board of Christian Education – Janice Schroer reported that it has been difficult searching for a candidate for superintendent. The problem they have been encountering is the four-year commitment. After a discussion, the consensus from council was to give the Board of Christian Education the opportunity to proceed with finding a candidate who would agree to a two-year commitment. This candidate would need to be brought before council for council's approval. The Board of Christian Education would need to amend their constitution to reflect the two-year position.

Janice also reported that there have been discussions regarding the Child Sexual Safety policy and training. The policy states that everyone working with children must have the Safe Child training within the first year. After that it needs to be taken a minimum of once every three years. A list is kept of all participants at each training session. Safe Child training will be offered as least annually, or more often as needed. After much discussion in council, Norm Holcomb made a motion that February 1 will be set as an anniversary date to identify all volunteers and anyone working with youth to verify compliance with the policy. Don Scheer seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The next training class will be offered in January, 2007.

Deacon Report – Kathy Topp thanked everyone for a good year as she completes her term. Kathy noted that a schedule of five deacons per Sunday and having the deacons take over dubbing the video taping are some of the changes that occurred in 2006. The speakers are working under the balcony now that they've been re-wired.

Tom Thieman thanked Kathy for her service, as well as all the other deacons who have now completed their terms. Don Scheer will be the Head Deacon.

Elder's Report – Ann Kuhn enjoyed her time as Senior Elder and has completed her term. She especially thanked Lowell Quellhorst for his patience and help and she and Larry took on the project of renovating the bathrooms.

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

During the month of November I made 12 hospital calls, 14 nursing home visits, 23 home visits and 2 office visits. I also officiated at one funeral service, planned and preached 2 Saturday evening worship services and 1 Sunday morning worship service. I assisted in the Community Thanksgiving Worship Service at

St. Peter's Church, and conducted one Bible Study. Also during the month of November a Called to Care Meeting was held.

Ann Kuhn also reported that she and Rev. Tostrick are going to meet with Heritage Manor regarding making the worship services more beneficial to the residents.

Rev. Weir's Report – The Christmas services are planned. Along with the traditional late night Christmas Eve service, there will be a 5:00 p.m. service for Children and Those Who Love Children; Reverend Weir thanked Sandy Thieman and Cindy Newman for their assistance with its planning.

The clergy of New Bremen met to plan Ecumenical Sunday; a fellowship will take place at Holy Redeemer after worship services on January 21, 2007.

Rev. Weir expressed his gratitude to Ralph and Beverly Plattner along with all the others who helped with the outdoor "Search for Christmas Treasure".

Trustee Report – Lowell Quellhorst reported that the Smoke/Heat Project is complete and has been checked out by the State and the Fire Marshall.

Ralph Plattner presented a quote from Western Ohio Hardware for \$734 for the double bagger leaf collection system to mount onto the lawnmower. This system would be purchased, not leased, and would need to be moved over each time the tractor and deck were traded in on their leases. Ralph still has a couple more quotes to gather, and then he will present it again by the February meeting so a decision can be made before the lease is up in the spring.

Tom Thieman thanked Lowell Quellhorst as his term is completed, for tremendous amount of work he and the other trustees have put into our church. All the work they have done themselves has saved the church a great deal of money.

Old Business

Flooring in the Youth Room – Terri Goodwin and her husband are looking into the matter.

Update on Visual Technology – Rev. Weir is going to arrange a meeting for everyone on the committee to determine the technology needs and determine what will be requested.

Nominating Committee Report – Kathy Topp reported that we are still in need of two deacons and a trustee. There was a discussion with some suggestions, and more calls will be made.

Youth Ministry – As Terri Goodwin announced in church, Lori Winner has requested a two-month leave of absence. Betty Dietrich made a motion of accept Lori's request for a two-month unpaid leave of absence (effective December 1). Mary Finke seconded; motion passed. Our prayers are with Lori and her family.

We are fortunate that Audrey Michael has volunteered to help with the youth, mainly the Wednesday afternoon JYFs, during this time. Rev. Weir noted that he has met with Audrey and Terri, that Audrey will be working about 25 – 30 hours per month, and that they are working out the schedule. He said that Audrey is enthusiastic about the opportunity, is already very organized, and is full of energy. After a discussion, Roland Dicke made a motion to pay Audrey \$250/month from the endowment for her time. Mark Dicke seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

New Business

Reverse Motion of Pew Removal – Kathy Topp made a motion to withdraw the motion that was made at the June, 2006 council meeting to remove several pews in the Sanctuary for the purpose of opening up space for fellowship time after worship. At the present time, the consensus is that the Sanctuary is too beautiful to alter. Betty Dietrich seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Kathy Topp also commended the Lamplighters and anyone else who was involved in the Hanging of the Greens. Tom Thieman reiterated how beautiful the church looks, and mentioned how nice it is that we have a memorial fund in place that allows us to do this.

Rev. Weir's Vacation – Rev. Weir's contract states that he is eligible for a three-month sabbatical for further education. However, since a sabbatical takes quite some time to both plan and put into use after returning, Rev. Weir suggested that it might not be worthwhile for the church to use this. Instead, he proposes taking an additional week of vacation. He has 37 years of ministry service with five weeks of vacation at the present time. Discussion followed, but no decision was made.

Thank You to All Members of Council – Tom Thieman expressed many thanks to all members of council, especially those who are completing their terms of service. He reminded them to remember the symbolism of the comma and Gracie Allen's quote to "never place a period where God has placed a comma."

Thank You Notes Received – Thank you notes were received from both Rev. Weir and Rev. Tostrick for the Staff Appreciation Dinner and Christmas gifts.

Announcements

Dec. 17 – Spirit Safari Club Christmas Program and Desserts

Dec. 23 – Young Adult Reception

Dec. 24 – Those Who Love Children worship service 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Special Christmas Music 10:30 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p.m.

Dec. 31 – Bring Nativity Scene in for stories of grace

Jan. 7 – Installation of new council members

Jan. 9 – First council meeting

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

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

Tom Thieman, President