

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting
January 9, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 19 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Joyce Holdren, Greg Maurer, Roland Dicke, Ralph Plattner, Robert Rump, Betty Dietrich, Ron Hegemier, Norm Holcomb, Virginia Kuenning, Don Scheer, Cheryl Barlage, Keith Dicke, Shirley Henegar, Brice Schmitmeyer, Kurt Stuhlemmer, and Rev. Rick Weir.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Roland Dicke made a motion to accept them as written. Norm Holcomb seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Fund Activity Report for December was available for review. Contributions for December were a record \$46,082.68. Income for 2006 was a total of \$236,579.44, which is up from 2005's income of \$217,089. Expenses for the year came in at \$224,043.20 which came in under the budgeted \$228,592. The month of December ended with a surplus of \$24,803.94. The year ended with a surplus of \$12,536.24, which is up from last year's surplus of \$1800.

The Organ Fund continued to have a deficit, which was written off to Miscellaneous Expense at the end of the year. If contributions aren't given to this fund, it will need to be added into the budget as a line item. The Organ Fund requires approximately \$1000 per year.

The total 2006 Funds Report was made available for review. The Memorial Fund received contributions of \$33,166.11 for the year; disbursements were \$1,181 which included payment for new bells and a curtain for the Saturday evening worship. The Building and Property Fund received contributions of \$19,831.39, which included \$2,670 for the Project of the Year; disbursements were \$15,158 of which \$10,480 paid for the Smoke/Heat System.

Don Scheer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Betty Dietrich seconded and the motion was approved.

Committee Reports

"Catch the Vision" –Tom Thieman reported that they have re-worked the Catch the Vision symbol somewhat. "Leadership" has been added to "Focus on God," "Warmth," and "Spirit." A letter is being mailed to the congregation, youth, and staff to start working on the areas of concern that are raised.

Membership Committee – No report.

Mission Report – This year the Project of the Year is a Mission Project. Ann Kuhn was present to report that they would like Nu Vision in Toledo to be the Project of the Year. The Mission Team feels that Nu Vision is so deserving because they do such a tremendous amount of good with very little money. They provide meals, including serving meals to children after school, but have no kitchen. They currently have no sink or stove and need new shelving, cabinets and a new refrigerator. The new kitchen will need to be somewhat portable in case Nu Vision moves to another facility. Nu Vision will learn at the end of the month what they are allowed to have done (e.g. if a handyman can do plumbing or if it must be a union worker). Norm Holcomb made a motion that council should support Nu Vision, primarily with their kitchen needs, as Project of the Year. Kurt Stuhlemmer seconded; motion carried.

Ann Kuhn also noted that January 21 is Blanket Sunday. For \$5 a blanket can be purchased and stored by Church World Mission to be shipped within 24 hours wherever needed in the event of an emergency.

Ann also requested 15 – 20 people to sew 10 book bags each. The materials and instructions are already purchased and ready to provide for anyone willing to sew. Also, they are looking for slightly used children's books to fill the bags. There is a literacy program in New Orleans looking for quality reading materials.

Worship Report – No report.

Reports

Board of Christian Education – Greg Maurer will be the council representative. Shelly Dicke will be the new assistant superintendent. The term is now one year as assistant and one year as superintendent. The Board is currently working on changing their constitution to reflect the change. January 16 is the next Child Sexual Safety training session.

Deacon Report – Don Scheer is the new Head Deacon. Don reported that several of the new deacons have already learned their new duties and that the others will soon. The schedule of 5 deacons works well and will continue. The speakers appear to be working well.

Elder's Report – No report (Janice Schroer not present).

Rev. Tostrick's Report – Not provided.

Rev. Weir's Report – Judy Feinstein sent a thank you letter for the \$50 St. Paul donated to her Temple in appreciation for her help every year in explaining the fundamentals of the Jewish religion to the Confirmation Class.

Christmas and Advent season are over, and Rev. Weir noted that next year there will be no New Year's Eve service next year because of lack of attendance.

Trustee Report – Ralph Plattner reported that Chuck Gamble, with Lear Fire Equipment Co., suggested that fire extinguishers be added to the Assembly Room and the altar area in the Sanctuary. He suggested adding two 10 lb. extinguishers in the Assembly Room, which would cost about \$210. The additional extinguisher for the altar area would be about \$140 - \$150. This is a suggestion only, as we are still within compliance the way things are.

There was some discussion regarding the leaf bagger for the lawn tractor. It was decided that another bid or two is still required to use as comparison before a determination can be made.

Tom Thieman has contacted New Bremen Insurance to inquire about further premium discounts now that the Smoke/Heat System is operable.

Old Business

Update on Visual Technology – No update.

Nominating Committee Report – Tom Thieman thanked Kathy Topp, Ralph and Bev Plattner for making the final phone calls necessary to fill the open positions. Tom also thanked everyone who accepted the positions

Missing Candelabras – The two candelabras that have been missing since the Wing Ding have not been located. We have not reimbursed Jim Egbert yet, and we must do so.

New Business

Terri Goodwin's Resignation as Co-Director of Youth Ministries – Terri has submitted a resignation effective immediately. Tom Thieman suggested that we continue to pay her through January and then re-assess the situation in February after further discussions with her. Ralph Plattner made a motion to table the resignation until the February Council meeting. Virginia seconded; motion carried.

Lori Winner, who had previously requested a two-month leave of absence which will end in January, has resigned as Co-Director of Youth Ministries.

Audrey Michaels had asked for help with the JYFs program and three people have responded. Audrey has agreed to continue running the JYFs program though the second week of May. After some discussion, Roland Dicke made a motion to change Audrey's pay to \$500/month effective January 1 through May

15 and make her an employee for this time. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded; motion carried.

Thoughts on the Youth Program – Much discussion took place regarding the Youth Program. Tom Thieman suggested implementing a Focus Team to gather information from different churches with successful youth programs. The Focus Team would travel to these churches as necessary. A new Youth Program would then be put together from the information received from the Focus Team. Leslie Hirschfeld and Sandy Thieman have already agreed to be members of the team. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept the Focus Team concept and to move forward with information gathered to form a successful Youth Program. Roland Dicke seconded; motion carried.

After more discussion, Norm Holcomb made a motion that council look into the hiring of a full-time Youth Minister. The suggestion was made that Rev. Weir go to the association and get information about other churches our size, such as salary rates, backgrounds, job descriptions, etc. Cheryl Barlage seconded; motion carried.

Bart and Michelle Suchland have currently taken over as advisors of the Senior High Youth.

Announcements

Janet Eilerman and Dick Hudson sent thank you notes for their Christmas gifts. Tender Loving Care OCCL sent thanks and a \$50 donation for the use of St. Paul facilities last year.

Jan 14 – Dick Hudson’s 25th Anniversary; Worship Service and Lunch

Jan 21 – Ecumenical Sunday; Lunch and Speaker at Holy Redeemer

Feb 25 – Annual Meeting

Feb 25 – Church Leadership Day at Spencerville

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

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

Tom Thieman, President

**St. Paul UCC Church Council
Special Meeting
January 7, 2007**

Eleven members were present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Bill Blumhorst, Staci Jones, Betty Dietrich, Ron Hegemier, Norm Holcomb, and Don Scheer.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Thieman for the purpose of approving the appointment of Robert "Red" Rump for Trustee, Keith Dicke for Deacon, and Kurt Stuhlemmer for Deacon. This would complete the positions that were as yet unfilled when the Congregation met December 10, 2006 and approved the nominations for council. Ralph Plattner made a motion to approve the appointment of these new members of council. Norm Holcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried. The new members are to be installed with all the other new council members at the worship service today.

With no other business to discuss, Betty Dietrich made a motion to adjourn. Don Scheer seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

Tom Thieman, President