

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting  
February 20, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 16 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Joyce Holdren, Janice Schroer, Roland Dicke, Ralph Plattner, Robert Rump, Betty Dietrich, Norm Holcomb, Virginia Kuenning, Don Scheer, Cheryl Barlage, Shirley Henegar, Brice Schmitmeyer, and Rev. Rick Weir.

**Secretary's Report**

Minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept them as written. Roland Dicke seconded; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Fund Activity Report for January was available for review. January ended with a deficit of \$1090.67. Expenses for the month were \$18,434.17 which is under the budgeted \$19,322. Total income for January was \$17,343.50. Real estate taxes for January were paid, which includes the taxes for the parsonage and some land, not for the church. Ralph Plattner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Don Scheer seconded. The motion was approved.

**Committee Reports**

**"Catch the Vision"** –Tom Thieman reported that attendance for the meetings with the congregation has improved. The ideas resulting from these focus groups are beneficial; some are for immediate use, others are for the future.

**Membership Committee** – No report.

**Mission Report** – The Mission Team continues to look to the future and focus on the Project of the Year. It was confirmed that Nu Vision needs to have any of the kitchen facilities that we will provide for them to be portable/moveable. Norm Holcomb reminded that we still need to learn what their existing facility offers in the way of electrical, water, and drain lines so that we know what they are able to accommodate for a portable dishwasher, steam table, etc. Rev. Weir remarked that on March 25 the pastor of Nu Vision will be preaching at St. Paul, so maybe we can ask him then. It was also noted that our youth will be traveling to Toledo to participate in their worship service.

**Worship Report** – No report.

**Board of Controls** – The Board of Controls, who is in charge of Memorial Funds, met and found everything to be in order. The Board of Controls agreed with the recommendation that the Lillian Schowe gift should be used in the

nursery, but they would like to know how it would be used. Also, a letter was sent to her niece.

## **Reports**

**Board of Christian Education** – Meeting postponed.

**Deacon Report** – Don Scheer reported that they are preparing for Lent. The deacons are scheduled for the Saturday evening services as well; some of the services will take place in the Sanctuary and others in the Assembly Room.

Also, Rev. Weir informed the deacons that on March 28 the confirmands will be recognized as they make known to the congregation their desire to join the church. The deacons always sponsor a reception for the confirmands, their parents, and sponsors.

It was also noted that the deacons should make sure that the cards, which are placed at the three Sanctuary entrance doors, should also be available at the Saturday services to be signed.

**Elder's Report** – No report.

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

*The shorter days and the colder temperatures of January seem to make it one of the busier months for pastoral care. This certainly seems to be true for 2007. During January, I made 20 hospital visits, 10 nursing home visits, 26 home visits, and 3 office conferences. I lead 1 Saturday night worship service and preached on 1 Sunday morning. I also planned and helped lead 1 nursing home worship and conducted 4 funerals.*

**Rev. Weir's Report** – Rev. Weir remarked that all of his notes were already covered when discussing the other committees, because he is involved in so many of them.

**Trustee Report** – Roland Dicke reported that the blowers on the heaters had all been turned off (probably during the summer), but now they are all on and working in conjunction with the thermostat. The development of a reminder system was suggested for the trustees to turn the blowers back on each winter.

Ralph Plattner reported that he had received bids from Michael's Mowers in Houston and Western Ohio Hardware for the twin catcher for the lawn tractor. Both quoted \$780 for the bagger, turbo, and turbo kit required for mounting it onto the lawn tractor. The lease from WOH for our tractor, and mower would be \$620. The question was raised whether the bagger, which we would own, would be compatible in two years with the new tractor and mower. However, it was generally agreed that there was no way of knowing what changes could occur in

future mower design. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept the lease of \$620 for the tractor and mower. Virginia Kuenning seconded, and the motion was approved. Roland Dicke made the second motion to purchase the bagger, turbo, and turbo kit from WOH for \$780. Janice Schroer seconded, and the motion was approved.

### **Old Business**

**Update on Visual Technology** – Rev. Weir announced that although there had been no meeting yet, there would be one scheduled soon. He also informed council that if anyone else wanted to join the committee, they would be welcomed.

**Youth Focus Groups** – They have met twice and begun gathering information from local churches, such as Spencerville. They have another meeting scheduled again soon, and will begin organizing and distributing the information to the youth leaders and volunteers.

**Missing Candelabras** – This matter is considered closed; Rev. Egbert has already replaced the candelabras and doesn't wish to be reimbursed.

**Terri Goodwin Withdraws Resignation** – Terri has re-considered and withdrawn her resignation; she would like to remain youth director with the focus groups providing new ideas to try. Terri is mainly with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders; Michelle and Bartt Suchland are with the high schoolers, and Audrey Michael is leading the JYFs program. JYFs attendance has increased and more drivers and volunteers are still needed.

### **New Business**

**Youth Minister Proceedings** – Rev. Weir updated council on the information he has learned by calling the Association, New Knoxville, Sandusky, Sylvania, and visiting the UCC website. He has requested a job description from each, and discovered salary information ranging from hourly for part-time to full-time with benefits starting at \$30,000. Tom Thieman asked Rev. Weir to continue gathering information.

Council discussed how to fund the Youth Minister's salary. Much discussion took place about how to keep this salary out of the budget's general fund expenses to avoid a time where there could be pressure to eliminate the job to reduce expenses. One idea is to use interest from the Youth Endowment fund. The fund is currently around \$169,000 (of which \$139,000 is principal). An idea was discussed similar to how the school's football field was funded, by having people pledge money over time, which would go to the Endowment and build the principal to a level where its interest could sustain the salary (or a portion of it).

After additional discussions regarding the Youth Minister position, Norm Holcomb made a motion to proceed toward hiring a youth minister, with the Youth Focus Group working on compiling information and bringing to the Youth Committee to determine a job description and a funding plan. Robert Rump seconded, and the motion carried.

**Janet Eilerman Wishes to Keep the Same Size Offering Envelopes and Continue to Mail All** – Janet Eilerman reported that mailing the 2007 envelopes was a much smoother plan than in other years, and she prefers to continue in the same manner. Additionally, it was noted that the layout and design charges involved with changing the envelope box size might cost more than the savings in postage. It was determined that trying to raise the money required to mail all the envelopes was the best option for now.

Also, Janet Eilerman reported that four of the volunteers counting offering have withdrawn. Our thanks go out to Mark Cisco, Lois Dicke, Marvin Topp, and John Wierwille for their service to St. Paul UCC over the past year. It has gone very smoothly, with the system keeping everything anonymous. Janet already has four to six other volunteers lined up to fill these vacancies.

**Letters Received from Rev. Bush and Philip Hart** – After the Special Congregational Meeting in September, 2006 St. Paul's response to the General Synod's Resolution on Same Gender Marriages had been forwarded to The Northwest Ohio Association, the Ohio Conference, and the United Church of Christ National Office in Cleveland. Tom Thieman has received very nice letters in response from the Association and Ohio Conference recognizing our position. These letters are available for anyone who would like to read them.

**Delegate to General Synod** – Tom Quellhorst has again been elected to serve as a delegate to the General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut. In the past the Northwest Ohio Association has reimbursed the delegate \$300; estimates are that it will cost about \$1,000 total. Norm Holcomb made a motion to reimburse Tom Quellhorst for expenses for the trip up to \$700. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved. It was also noted that visitors are able to go as well, and that many festivities, speakers, and different venues are planned for this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### **Announcements**

**A thank you note was received from Dick Hudson for the celebration of his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**Feb. 25 – Annual Meeting**

**Feb. 25 – Church Leadership Day at Spencerville**

**Mar. 4 – El Salvador program and meal at 4:00 pm**

**Mar. 4 – Bible Study 5-week program begins at 7:00 pm**

**March 13 – Council Meeting; collection will be taken for a memorial for Annie Tontrup**

With no other business to discuss, Ralph Plattner made a motion to adjourn. Shirley Henegar 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