

St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting
April 10, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 13 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Joyce Holdren, Janice Schroer, Greg Maurer, Roland Dicke, Ralph Plattner, Betty Dietrich, Keith Dicke, Shirley Henegar, Brice Schmitmeyer, and Rev. Rick Weir.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Roland Dicke made a motion to accept them as written. Betty Dietrich seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Fund Activity Report for March was available for review. Total income for March was \$17,486. Expenses for the month were \$19,925.85, leaving a deficit for the month of \$2,439.85. The Year-to-Date deficit is \$9,841.45. The big expenses for the month were natural gas and camperships. Janice Schroer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Keith Dicke seconded. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports

"Catch the Vision" – On Sunday, April 15, there will be a gathering of the team and other volunteers to address the first of the issues chosen from the focus groups.

Membership Committee – The Confirmation Reunion is set for May 6 and invitations were mailed out recently. The Interim Minister for the Ohio Conference will be preaching that day.

Mission Report – Rev. Weir reported that the Mission Team has worked on a letter of advocacy for a nationwide campaign in support of government intervention in Darfur.

The Mission Team also continues to focus on Nu Vision and the Project of the Year.

Worship Report – Janice Schroer is working on setting a meeting for that committee.

Reports

Board of Christian Education – Greg Maurer reported that he and Rev. Weir will be meeting to discuss the safety program.

Deacon Report – Betty Dietrich reported that the video camera is being repaired. It is expected to cost about \$200. It is only two years old, and the cost of a new video camera would be about \$600.

Elder's Report – No report, other than Janice Schroer thanking the deacons for all their help cleaning up after communion services.

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

The month of March includes the Lenten Season, which makes it an especially busy month. It is also a time when people seem to reflect more about their faith, than at other times. Even though it is a busy time, it is also a very rewarding time. This month I made 25 hospital visits, 11 nursing home visits, 19 home visits, and had 3 office conferences. Also I conducted 2 Wednesday Night Lenten Services, 1 Saturday Night worship service, and 1 Sunday Morning worship service. I also officiated at 3 funeral services and 1 wedding.

Rev. Weir's Report – Rev. Weir reported that Sunday, April 15 there will be a recognition of the Spirit Safari teachers and the Board of Christian Education.

The United Church of Christ has a 50 year anniversary this year. There is a celebration on the national level, and Rev. Weir suggests that we should celebrate it within our own congregation, as well. No plans were made, however.

Trustee Report – Roland Dicke reported that the trustees are looking into repairing the sidewalks at the southeast corner, from the south door to the east door. They will have to cut out two sections and replace them. This will be done within the next month.

The trustees have also gotten quotes for replacing the lawnmower shed door. The door is an uninsulated, standard-sized, white, roll-up aluminum door with a latch/lock for the outside, and would cost \$295. Roland Dicke made a motion to purchase the new door. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion. Motion carried, and the door will be purchased out of the Property Care fund.

The trustees are still looking into the problem of providing the kitchen with more hot water. They are currently investigating all the different options and prices.

Old Business

Update on Visual Technology – Rev. Weir reported that only one other committee member was able to attend the recent meeting. However, they did go ahead and decide to call in a company to come in and show examples of the different technology that are available; Rev. Weir will make the arrangements.

Youth Focus Group – No report.

Job Description for Youth Ministries – Tom Thieman and John Voress met with Jan Fiser, Diane Gilberg, Cindy Newman, and Dan Voress to develop the Youth Minister Job Description. The committee developed the job description with the goal and responsibilities defined. It was presented to council, and included much discussion. Brice Schmitmeyer made a motion to accept the Job Description as the team has written it. Joyce Holdren seconded, and the council approved it. Many thanks go out to the team for their hard work, care, and dedication in developing this important job description.

New Business

Financial Package for Director of Youth Ministries – The starting salary will be based on the education and experience that the new director will bring to the position. It is suggested that if the candidate has a college degree, the starting salary would be similar to that of a first-year teacher, which is reportedly \$27,500. Other benefits to be included are health/dental/life insurance, UCC retirement program or 401k, vacation and days off, paid mileage, continuing education allowance. It is not expected to include moving expenses or a housing allowance. The total value of the employment package would be approximately \$40,000/year.

Advertise for Director of Youth Ministries – Tom Thieman proposed to council that he would like to begin contacting area colleges/seminaries to interview graduates. Rev. Weir has learned that Bluffton has a program especially for Directors of Youth Ministry. Council suggested also getting the word out locally by means of the Beacon and local newspapers. Shirley Henegar made a motion to proceed and start the search. Greg Maurer seconded, and the motion was approved.

Ann Kuhn's contract – The new contract for Ann Kuhn's facility rental for Serendipity Pre-School was proposed. The contract would run from September, 2007 through May, 2008 and would include a 3% rate increase, which would be \$236.36/month for eight months. Roland Dicke made a motion to accept this contract. Betty Dietrich seconded, and the motion carried.

Rick's Vacation Request – Rev. Weir has a wedding to attend in New York for a close family friend on May 26 and put in a vacation request for at least a week for that time. This will mean that he will be out of town during graduation weekend; however, he was not scheduled to preach at this year's graduation.

Announcements

Thank You Note received for use of Spirit Safari Assembly Room for the OCCL Spring Conference.

Thank You Note and \$350 donation received from Crescent Players in appreciation of the use of auditorium, stage, and rooms for rehearsals.

Apr. 15 – Youth travel to Toledo to visit Nu Vision

Apr. 28 – NWOA Meeting

May 6 – Confirmation Reunion

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

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

Tom Thieman, President