

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting
July 10, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 14 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Joyce Holdren, Janice Schroer, Greg Maurer, Roland Dicke, Ralph Plattner, Betty Dietrich, Norm Holcomb, Don Scheer, Cheryl Barlage, Keith Dicke, and Shirley Henegar. Meditation was provided by Brice Schmitmeyer, and read by Betty Dietrich in his absence.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the June 12, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Keith Dicke made a motion to accept them as written. Norm Holcomb seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Fund Activity Report for June was available for review. Total income for June was \$13,938.00. Year-to-Date figures for Income, Expenses, and the Deficit are all extremely similar to last year at this time. Expenses are very close to the budgeted amount. Balances for the Funds Report were also reviewed by Tom Braun with the opportunity for questions. Betty Dietrich made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Cheryl Barlage seconded the motion, and council approved.

Committee Reports

Amy Stuhlemmer – Amy came to council to represent a special committee that has formed with the mission of erecting a Peace Pole on the grounds of St. Paul. The Peace Pole would be four-sided with the message "May Peace Prevail" written in a different language (English, Spanish, German, and Hebrew) on each side of the pole. Amy explained that the use of a Peace Pole originated in Japan, and came to America after the Boston Tea Party when it was called a Liberty Pole. The proposed pole would be gray granite, 10" on each side and 8' high; it would be sunk 30" in the ground to get below the frost line. Its base would be a 24" concrete square. The \$1657 quote includes engraving but not installation. The committee would like council's approval to take the proposal to the congregation, to generate involvement and donations. They are looking to begin in September and hope for a ceremony for installation in the spring. Council recommended choosing a location with the best visibility, and suggested coming back for more specifics as necessary.

Membership Committee – No meeting has occurred.

Mission Report – No report at this time.

Worship Report – Nothing to report at this time.

Reports

Board of Christian Education – Nothing to report at this time.

Deacon Report – Don Scheer reported that he has put a speaker in place until something more permanent can be arranged for recording sound on the camcorder. It seemed to work. It does, however, need to be unplugged after each service.

Elder's Report – No report.

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

I usually look forward to the summer months as being a more laid back time. June was a disappointment. The pastoral needs continued as usual. During the month of June, I made 27 hospital visits, 12 nursing home visits, 25 home visits, and held 12 office conferences. I prepared and preached at 2 Saturday evening worship services and 2 Sunday morning worship services.

Early this month I had the honor and privilege of officiating at the wedding of Rev. Steve Wills and Connie Kennett. This service was held at St. Peter's Church. Because Rev. and Mrs. Wills were on their honeymoon, I conducted the funeral service of one of their members, Mrs. Cleora Forwerck. Because the Interim Minister at St. Paul UCC, St. Marys was unavailable, I conducted the funeral service for Roger Leffel. I also conducted the funeral services of two of our members, Evelyn Warner and Robert Topp.

Rev. Weir's Report – No report.

Trustee Report – Roland Dicke reported he is waiting for replies about sealing the bricks. He should have a report for next month. Janice Schroer notified the trustees that a book rack is falling down from a pew; the trustees will fix it.

Old Business

Update on Visual Technology – Don Scheer reported that he has been in contact with Bob Ever who will make the presentation about the video technology. He has also worked with Patty Cisco and Stacy Jones to set up a meeting to include members from all the committees or groups who will be using the equipment. The meeting is set for Wednesday, July 25 at 7:00pm.

Youth Focus Group – No meeting has occurred.

Update on Director of Youth Ministries – The team has sent three invitations for candidates they would like to meet with.

Job Descriptions for Council Positions Due in July – Anyone who still needs to turn in a job description to Bev Plattner should do so as soon as possible.

New Business

Personnel Issue – Tom Thieman presented an oral resignation from Rev. Weir. Council reviewed Rev. Weir's contract and felt the contingencies he requested in his resignation were items that were in his contract. The first contingency was that council honor a three-month sabbatical that he is entitled to after five years of service at St. Paul UCC, New Bremen. This means his resignation date is October 1, 2007 and he would use his three-month sabbatical time (October 1, 2007 thru December 31, 2007) to finish the year out with full pay and benefits. The second contingency was that he could use his continuing education fund and his business expense fund, which are line item budget accounts in our current 2007 budget, to help pay for his educational classes. These classes are required of him to qualify for an interim minister position in his future ministry. After much discussion, Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept Rev. Weir's proposed resignation to include a three-month sabbatical and for St. Paul to cover the two needed continuing education classes with Rev. Weir's last day as of October 1, 2007. Roland Dicke seconded the motion. Council voted to approve the motion. The Senior Ministry Endowment Fund could be used to cover any payments necessary.

Tom Thieman has already been in contact with the Association office; they believe that we could possibly have an interim minister by October, and have a full-time minister within a year to a year and a half. The priority would be to get a new Senior Minister, before an Associate Minister, while still working on placing a Director of Youth Ministries.

Redoing Parking Lot – Crown is redoing their parking lot at the old post office and has offered to cover the cost of redoing the part of the parking lot on the east side of Franklin St. owned by the church as well. We gratefully accept their generous offer.

Help for Putting the Beacon Together – Help is needed in gathering the information and putting together the Beacon. It is estimated to take about six to ten hours per month. Also, a reminder that the deadline to submit anything for the Beacon is the 20th of each month.

Pay Tom Quellhorst for Synod Expenses – A motion had already been passed at the February 20, 2007 council meeting to reimburse Tom Quellhorst \$700 in expenses incurred serving as a delegate to the General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut. Tom Braun will take care of the reimbursement.

Contribution for Seniors Day at the Fair – A request had been received for a monetary contribution for Seniors Day at the Fair. St. Paul is already sponsoring the Gospel Music Tent at the Fair. Janice Schroer made a motion that no further contribution should be made. Roland seconded the motion. The motion was approved and no donation will be made.

Friedman Mission Fund – The Friedman family has accepted the call to go for missionary work in France and Jean Burgess notified St. Paul UCC that donations were being collected to supplement their pay. The mission team had reviewed the request and asked for \$100 to send as a donation. Tom Braun announced that \$100 had already been collected from the congregation in the offering plate. Norm Holcomb made a motion to send an additional \$100 along with any money collected from the congregation. Joyce Holdren seconded, and the motion was approved.

Announcements

July 27th & 28th – Ohio Conference Meeting; members are still needed to attend this overnight in Westerville.

July 29th – Rev. Tostrick's 40th Anniversary in the Ministry

Thank you note received from Elly Cisco.

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

St. Paul UCC Church Council
Special Meeting
June 25, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Thieman with 14 members present including: Tom Thieman, John Voress, Lisa Davidson, Janice Schroer, Greg Maurer, Roland Dicke, Ralph Plattner, Betty Dietrich, Ron Hegemier, Norm Holcomb, Virginia Kuenning, Don Scheer, Cheryl Barlage, and Brice Schmitmeyer.

A letter of resignation from Rev. Tostrick was distributed to all the council members. Rev. Tostrick submitted his letter resigning as Minister of Parish Life of St. Paul UCC dated effective June 12, 2007 with a last day stated as September 15, 2007.

The next letter distributed for council to review was from Rev. Tostrick to be mailed to the St. Paul congregation. This would also be announced to the congregation at the next Sunday worship service.

The Ethics for Retiring and Retired Ministers was distributed for council members to read, including the Covenant of Closure for Retiring or Resigning Pastors. Rev. Tostrick is not willing to sign the Covenant. He has agreed to perform no services with the exception of one wedding in September, 2008. He would like to remain a member of St. Paul UCC but would hold no committee or elected positions. He also requested that St. Paul UCC cover his insurance for the last quarter of the year.

Roland Dicke made a motion to accept Rev. Tostrick's letter of resignation effective June 12, 2007 with a last day of September 15, 2007, with the agreement of St. Paul UCC paying his insurance for the final quarter of the year and with the agreement of Rev. Tostrick abiding by his letter. Norm Holcomb seconded the motion. Council approved the motion and wishes Rev. Tostrick well.

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

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

Tom Thieman, President