

St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting August 14, 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, Ralph Plattner, Betty Dietrich, Norm Holcomb, Don Scheer, Cheryl Barlage, Brice Schmitmeyer, Shirley Henegar, and Rev. Weir. Meditation was provided by Don Scheer.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the July 10, 2007 meeting were reviewed. There were two corrections requested. Rev. Weir requested that "No report" be changed to "Not present" in the section for Rev. Weir's Report. Also, Tom Thieman informed council that he actually had received a written resignation from Rev. Weir prior to the council meeting, so instead of "presented an oral resignation" the minutes should be changed to "presented a written resignation" in the Personnel Issues section. Betty Dietrich made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Janice Schroer seconded and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Fund Activity Report for July was available for review. Total income for July, which included five Sundays, was \$18,573.00. Income exceeded expenses for July by \$796.74, which reduces the Year-to-Date deficit to \$12,271.03. Tom Braun noted that the expenses were usual and expected. In addition, \$812.25 had been collected for the Crossroads furnace project, and \$5,060 has been received from the Verdella Schaefer estate. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion, and council approved.

Committee Reports

Catch the Vision – The team met for August, but the meeting was re-scheduled for September 17 because of low attendance; not enough people were there representing the four different sub-committees. However, the members who were present discussed how the team could help the church during this time of both ministers leaving. There was discussion about possibly tabling the other projects in order to focus all their efforts on easing the transition time.

Membership Committee – No meeting has occurred.

Mission Report – The Mission Team is collecting clothes for Nu Vizion and taking up at the end of August.

Worship Report – Rev. Weir recommends the Worship Committee should get ready for the interim minister to come in October. Terri Goodwin will be conducting the service on August 18 and much of the 19. Rev. Tostrick will perform the sermon on the 26th and the whole service on September 1 and 2 while Rev. Weir is away. September 9 is Rev. Tostrick's last Sunday and he will be preaching the sermon. Rev. Weir will have the services for September 16, 23, and 30.

Reports

Board of Christian Education – Greg Maurer was not present to report, however Tom Thieman notified council that he had met with Terri Goodwin, who is now on the supply preaching list and could be called out by the Association to preach at other churches when needed. She would like the Board of Christian Education to find a replacement for her to teach the Senior High Spirit Safari Club. Terri will stay through September. Tom Thieman asked Rev. Weir to inform Theresa Hemmelgarn, superintendent.

Deacon Report – Don Scheer reported that the deacons thought that the sound has improved. However, it had been reported that the video recording of a funeral had so much static that it couldn't be watched. Ralph Plattner will look into the problems with the amplification system.

Elder's Report – Janice Schroer thanked the deacons for their help with the communion services.

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

My usual visiting of home bound members was greatly curtailed this month, because of the number of persons in need of concentrated pastoral care. During the month of July, I made 12 hospital visits, 8 nursing home visits, 33 home visits and held 6 office conferences. In addition, I lead worship and preached at 2 Saturday evening worship services and 1 Sunday morning worship service. I officiated at 2 baptisms and planned and help lead 1 worship service at Heritage Manor Nursing Home. I also officiated at 3 funeral services.

In addition, I officiated at 2 wedding services at St. Paul United Church of Christ, in St. Marys, because their Interim Minister was unavailable.

I would like to thank the Church Council and the St. Paul Congregation for your thoughtfulness and many kindnesses shown to me on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of my Ordination into the Christian Ministry. Your gift will always be treasured and will be a reminder of the Christian love and ministry we have shared over these past years, as it hangs on the wall in my den. The recognition and reception you gave in my honor could not have been better. Thank you again.

Rev. Weir's Report – Rev. Weir reported that several people are interested in joining or re-joining the church, and he will be working with them towards that.

Rev. Weir also has a goal to get out to say goodbye to those shut-ins, the elderly, or those in nursing homes so he also will be focusing efforts on that. He also suggested scheduling an exit interview.

He will be passing along files of information he has been keeping for many of the different committees that he serves on so that someone else can continue.

Rev. Weir will be leaving on August 19 for the second of his planned educational programs and will return late August 24, so Rev. Tostrick will have the sermon for Aug. 26.

Trustee Report – Roland Dicke was not present to give a report.

Old Business

Update on Visual Technology – Don Scheer reported that the media presentation had taken place with a demonstration on how it could be used in the Sanctuary. Although the initial suggestion was to get portable media equipment, the system that was proposed is one that is meant to be kept in place and used consistently in the Sanctuary. The price range given from Media Integrators is \$12,000 to \$21,000 depending on the actual projector, lens, screen and installation required. Suggestions were made as to where the screen could best be installed and whether there would be additional needs for a more portable system for use with the youth and/or programs in the auditorium. Tom Thieman suggested that further discussion be tabled until a time that the new Director of Youth Ministries could be involved, since this project was originally suggested by and for the youth.

Update on Director of Youth Ministries – Carrie Cutlip has been hired, is moving to town immediately, and will begin her duties on Monday, August 20. Terri Goodwin has agreed to stay on to help through September 30, and Audrey Michael has been asked to participate as well for her experience with JYFs. Although Carrie already had arranged for help moving into her new apartment, Deb Kramer is helping Carrie get acquainted and settled into New Bremen.

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.

Kathy Topp has volunteered to help with the Beacon – Thanks goes out to Kathy for her time and energy. She'll do a great job!

New Business

Interim Pastor Search Committee – Three to five volunteers are needed, including someone from council, to form a committee to interview and select an interim pastor. John Voress will be on the committee who will interview Rev. Mathews from Cleveland. She comes well recommended from Rev. Busch and will be available within the next couple of weeks for a meeting.

Redoing Parking Lot – A quote of \$14,046 has been given from the same company completing the work for Crown's parking lot. This would include taking several inches of blacktop off, firming up the sinkholes, and re-doing the lot with 1.5" – 2.0" new blacktop. Norm made a motion that Tom Thieman be authorized to negotiate with Crown for the work on the South Parking Lot. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion, and council approved.

Ideas for Rev. Rick's and Rev. John's Farewells – A simple farewell reception is planned for September 9 for Rev. Tostrick, and for September 30 for Rev. Weir. Cheryl Barlage, Lisa Davidson, and Joyce Holdren will help coordinate the events.

Nominating Committee for 2008 Church Council –

- **Retiring members of council to find their own replacement?** – All council members with terms ending in 2007 should be thinking of replacements to avoid having a nominating committee to find them.

Need history of Stained Glass – The meaning and purpose behind the stained glass windows on the south side of the Sanctuary is needed. Norm Holcomb will contact Karl Mesloh.

Busy Twelve to Re-polish Altar Candleholders & Vases – The Busy Twelve would like to re-polish the altar candleholders and vases because they are so tarnished, but need to learn what they can use for polish. Suggestions were made to contact Dick Hudson or Jack Hansbrough; the same polish may have been used for the bells.

Announcements

No announcements were made this month.

Thank you notes were received from the Ohio Conference Outdoor Ministries for gifts donated in May and June for the Debt Reduction Fund. Also, thank you notes were received from the family of Irene Schmiesing, and from Rev. Tostrick following the 40th anniversary of his ordination.

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

Lisa Davidson, Secretary

Tom Thieman, President