

**Congregational Meeting St. Paul UCC  
December 9, 2007**

President Thomas Thieman called the meeting to order and offered an opening prayer. Approximately 85 people were in attendance. Deacons distributed an agenda, list of council nominees, 2008 proposed budget, and an explanation of the Youth Endowment Program.

Tom Thieman stated that Tom Quellhorst would be helping to make sure that parliamentary procedures were followed during the meeting, and this should be part of the motion to approve the agenda. Dennis Dicke made this motion, and Randy Clark seconded. The motion was approved.

**2008 Council Members** – Tom Thieman recognized the council members who are completing their terms and then listed the proposed new members of the 2008 council. Currently the vice president and two deacon positions are unfilled. Karl Mesloh made a motion to close the nominations and elect the officers as proposed. John Wierwille seconded the nomination, and the motion was approved.

**2008 Budget** – Tom Thieman gave an overview of the proposed budget and answered several questions. The salary kept in the budget for a Parish Life Minister was intended to help with calling on those in hospitals and nursing homes. Only ordained ministers can administer the sacraments, so lay persons cannot be used in those instances. The budget for search committee expenses was set at \$6000 to cover expenses that may be incurred finding a new minister. The 2008 budgeted amounts for utilities are lower than in 2007 based on history. The insurance budget is reduced because the premium was re-quoted after the smoke/heat alarm system was installed.

Karl Mesloh made a motion to accept the 2008 budget as presented. Randy Clark seconded the motion. Deacons distributed and collected paper ballots and counted the votes. The budget was approved 84 to 1.

**Present information about Youth Endowment**  
Tom Thieman reviewed the Youth Endowment program. Tom stressed that donations to the Youth Endowment Fund should not be done at the detriment to parishioners' usual giving to General Fund and Building & Maintenance.

At present, there is \$215,000 in principal and \$32,766 in interest. If the principal increased to about \$500,000 the interest would be able to support the salary for the Director of Youth Ministries. The funds are invested at Edward Jones and administered by the Board of Controls.

Terry Wissman will be taking charge of the Youth Endowment Program after the first of the year. Pledges to the fund can be made over a three year time period. Terry Wissman then summed up that pledges are appreciated but not required. Anyone wishing to make a donation can specify whether they would like their donation to go to the principal which would never be touched or to the interest fund where it would be used and paid out.

A question was then raised by Dennis Dicke about how funds are allocated when someone passes away and memorials are given. Discussion then followed about who determines where those funds are allocated.

John Gilberg asked the status of benevolent giving. A report will be prepared.

With no further business or questions, Terry Wissman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dick Hudson seconded. The motion passed, and Tom Thieman adjourned the meeting.

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Lisa Davidson, Secretary

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Tom Thieman, President

## St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting

December 11, 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, Betty Dietrich, Ron Hegemier, Norm Holcomb, Virginia Kuenning, Don Scheer, Cheryl Barlage, Shirley Henegar, Virginia Kuenning, Brice Schmitmeyer, Rev. Matthews, and Carrie Cutlip. Meditation was provided by Carrie Cutlip.

**Secretary's Report** – Minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Joyce Holdren made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Norm Holcomb seconded and the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Fund Activity Report for November was available for review. Tom Braun was present to review it for the council. The contributions for November were relatively low at \$12,989.50. Total Year-to-Date Income is \$181,355.83 which is approximately \$9,000.00 less than last year at this time. The deficit for the month was \$6,821.84 which brought the Year-to-Date deficit to \$23,581.43. Brice Schmitmeyer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Cheryl Barlage seconded the motion, and council approved.

Tom Braun also notified council that he has set up two new accounts to receive contributions to the Youth Endowment Fund. One is called "Principal" and is designated for contributions for the permanent fund. The second is called "Interest" and will receive the contributions slated for immediate use. All funds will be managed by Edward Jones and earn interest.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Catch the Vision** – No meeting has occurred.

**Membership Committee** – No meeting has occurred. Tom Thieman asked whether a Confirmation Reunion is again being planned. Tom Braun reported that it hasn't been discussed yet, but can be brought up to the chairperson at the next meeting.

**Mission Report** – Tom Braun has compiled figures from January through November, 2007 to track the benevolent giving. A total of \$51,983.52 has been given with \$31,283.50 going to OCWM.

**Worship Report** – Janice Schroer reported that the Worship Committee had baskets installed at each door that can be used for submitting announcements, suggestions, and prayer requests. This can be done anonymously if desired. A notice will be placed in the Beacon to advise the congregation of the location and purpose of the baskets.

### OTHER REPORTS

**Board of Christian Education** – Greg Maurer was not present to a report, but Rev. Matthews notified council that the Child Sexual Safety workshop met the first week of December. The Board is also hard at work on the Christmas program.

**Deacon Report** – Don Scheer thanked everyone for their service and notified council that a new head deacon will need to be selected for 2008; Brice Schmitmeyer volunteered. Installation of new deacons and council members will occur January 6.

**Elder's Report** – Janice Schroer had nothing new to report.

**Trustee Report** – Roland Dicke was not present, but had previously notified Tom Thieman that he is still working to get a quote for waterproofing the bricks and is also still working on getting the sidewalk fixed. Norm Holcomb also reported that the trustees have worked on replacing/repairing screen doors at the parsonage. The screen door that was recently removed and recycled was original to the house and not a standard size; a replacement has not yet been located. Tom Thieman also notified the trustees that the Sanctuary front door and the entrance lights in the Education Building need looked into.

**Rev. Matthews' Report** – Rev. Matthews provided the following report:

#### St. Paul

10 hospital visits

1 home visit

3 office consultations

1 Holy Baptism

Preparation for weekly Confirmation classes

Confirmation classes

Led Bible Study for Satellite C

Nursing Home service at Golden Living

Attended Capsule Christmas dinner and program

Helped 2 needy families-one passing through and one resident of N.B.

Participated in Search for Christmas Treasure

*Attended Sexual Abuse Prevention Training (Christian Ed.)*

*Attended Christian Ed. Board meeting*

*Met with Moderator and Vice Moderator almost weekly*

*Started Advent Bible Study – snowed out on first week*

*Weekly preparation for two weekly worship services and preparing ahead for the extra Christmas services*

*“Watched” busy people decorate the church for Christmas*

#### Community

*Met with area clergy*

*Preached at Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Holy Redeemer*

#### Other

*I have been mentoring an Eden Seminary student for 6 months-weekly consultations*

*Vacation: December 26-January 1. Terri Goodwin will be preaching both services, and Rev. Wills will be available for emergencies.*

**Carrie Cutlip’s Report** – Carrie supplied the following report of her duties:

*JYFS – We continue to have weekly meetings. In the past month we have done a leaf raking service project and made cookies to be taken to congregation members when the youth go caroling. In the month we will be having a Christmas party at the bowling alley and a service project the first week of January.*

*Confirmation – We meet weekly with the teens in confirmation. In the past month they have met with their mentors and begun to explore their faith journeys. They will be going caroling with the church as a service project.*

*Jr. High – Weekly meetings are going great. We had a wonderful retreat at Kalahari Indoor Water Park. It was a great opportunity to get to know the kids and build relationships with them.*

*Sr. High – Weekly meetings are going very well. The Sr. High group is developing a great sense of community amongst the teens and leaders. They are preparing for the Service Trip to Lotts Creek School in KY.*

*Recent Youth Activities – Several youth helped out by serving as shepherds in the Search for the Christmas Treasure.*

*Upcoming Youth Activities – Jr. High Christmas Party, Sr. High Christmas Party, Sr. High Service Trip to Lotts Creek, Jr./Sr. High Winter Break All Nighter, and possibly a Jr. High Service Trip.*

*Atlanta Trip – The conference in Atlanta went extremely well. I feel it was confidence-building of the volunteers and it provided them with great training. I was encouraged in faith and renewed in my passion to reach out to young people.*

*Volunteers – Volunteers for all the programs are doing a great job. Many of them are truly making their time with the youth a ministry and investing in each one of them. I’m still looking for a male Jr. High volunteer.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Visual Technology** – This issue will remain tabled unless there are immediate needs from either Carrie Cutlip or Rev. Matthews.

**Nominations for 2008 Council** – The only office unfilled is vice president.

**Update on Stained Glass Windows** – Tom Thieman has given Norm Holcomb the information he had received from Karl Mesloh.

**Search Committee Presentation** – Tom Thieman expressed his thanks to Norm Holcomb, Cheryl Barlage, Joyce Holdren, and John Voress for completing the task of finding members for the Pulpit Committee. The proposed committee members are: Gen Conradi, Randy Davidson, Michelle Suchland, Joyce Gilberg, Lloyd Schroer, Amy Barhorst, Randy Clark, Mark Fledderjohann, and Shelley Dicke. With no further discussion, Don Scheer made a motion to accept the committee members. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion, and council approved. From this committee, a chairperson and vice-chairperson should be selected before the first meeting with Rev. Busch.

**Project of the Year for 2008** – John Voress has asked the trustees to be thinking of suggestions, since 2008 is a Building Improvement year.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Accept resignation of Red Rump and Appoint New Trustee** – Red Rump had submitted a letter of resignation to Tom Thieman because of his work schedule and the resulting difficulty attending meetings. He would like to be considered again in a year or two if his work schedule then permits. Cheryl Barlage made a motion to accept his resignation. Norm Holcomb seconded the motion and council approved. Kathy Topp has volunteered to fill the position of trustee. Norm Holcomb made a motion to appoint Kathy Topp as a trustee for the remaining two years of the term. Ron Hegemier seconded, and the council approved.

**Appoint Dennis Dicke as Deacon for 2008 and 2009** – Virginia Kuenning made a motion to appoint Dennis Dicke and Ann Nelson to fill the two remaining deacon positions. Betty Dietrich seconded and council approved.

**Snow Blower** – John Voress notified the council that the snow blower is in need of replacement. He has gotten quotes, and Western Ohio Hardware has a 20" basic 5 hp snow blower for \$650. It is necessary for the parking lot around the blocks, the curbs, doorways, etc. Brice Schmitmeyer made a motion to purchase the new snow blower that John Voress suggested. Norm Holcomb seconded. Council approved, and the purchase will come out of the Building/Property fund.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Memorial for Wilton Dicke** – A memorial was collected and given for Wilton Dicke. A thank you note was also received from the family. Roland Dicke requested that the money be put towards the purchase of new trees.

### **Follow the Bulletin for Special Christmas programs**

With no other business to discuss, Tom Thieman expressed his thanks to everyone for all the wonderful work done during his term as president. Gratitude was also expressed to Tom Thieman for his service. Virginia Kuenning made a motion to adjourn. Betty Dietrich 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