

St. Paul UCC Church
Annual congregational meeting
February 24, 2008

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Paul United Church of Christ was called to order on February 24, 2008 by President John Voress. He opened the meeting with prayer. One addition to the agenda was that Tom Quellhorst would be the parliamentarian for the meeting. Dot Ouwerkerk made a motion to approve the agenda and Norm Holcomb seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried. Reports from Rev. Matthews, Miss Carrie Cutlip, and Mr. Tom Thieman were reviewed. John gave a sincere thank you to Mr. Thieman for all of his work during his time as President of the church. A motion was made by Ralph Plattner to approve the reports and George Voress seconded the motion. A vote was taken and motion passed. Minutes of the Congregational Meetings from February 25, 2007 and December 9, 2007 were reviewed. A motion was made by Gary Wehmeyer and seconded by Beverly Poppe. A vote was taken and motion passed.

President John Voress commented on the Audit Committee Report. John Wierwille and David Jarvis will be auditing the books but it has not been completed at this time. President John thanked Tom Braun for all of his work with the book keeping of the church. Wayne Gruebmyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Amy Scheer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Individual reports were brought up for discussion. Being no discussion, John Mohrman made a motion to accept the reports and Peg Chamberlin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and motion passed.

John Gilberg made an announcement that clean-up kits are still needed. He will get buckets for all of us to fill. Peg Chamberlin also said that Agape is always in need of food and clothing. She said they really appreciate all St. Paul does for them. Right now they are in desperate need of bar soap, and diapers, (size 3-4). Any type will work.

Project of the Year: Re-do all east sidewalks outside of church and the west entrance of the Educational Building. Also the trustees are looking to getting more electrical power into the educational building. This needs to be done before anything else can be done in the educational building.

There was no other business brought forward. Norm Holcomb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John Mohrman seconded the motion. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Cindy Newman, Secretary

St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting
March 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 16 members present including: John Voress, Jeff Paul, Cindy Newman, Joyce Holdren, Greg Maurer, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Cheryl Barlage, Keith Dicke, Brice Schmitmeyer, Mark Barhorst, Dennis Dicke, Ann Nelson, Tom Braun, Rev. Matthews and Carrie Cutlip. Meditation was provided by Cindy Newman.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the February meeting were discussed. Rev. Matthews had one correction. She is leading the NWOA training sessions, "Preparing Boundary", for the next three Tuesdays, not just attending the meetings. Mark Barhorst made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Ralph Plattner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Fund Activity Report for the month ending February, 2008 was available for review. Tom Braun reported we have a deficit of \$2940.00 year to date. Discussion was held on the report. Dennis Dicke made a motion to accept the report and Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: Tom Braun reported on the confirmation reunion. Things are underway for the reunion to be held on May 4, 2008.

Mission Committee: Rev. Matthews reported on mission. Checks have been sent to CUE (\$204.00) and Back Bay (\$418.00). Upcoming mission projects are: Nu-Vizion, Crossroad, and One Great Hour of Sharing.

Worship Committee: no report

Pulpit Committee: The committee would like to have the profile of the church completed by May. It takes a lot of time to get the profile ready.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: no report

Deacons: Brice Schmitmeyer talked about the reception for the Confirmation Class after the service on Palm Sunday. There will be cake, cookies, punch, and coffee. It will be held in the Assembly Room. Norm Holcomb put a new cable on the camera and it worked very well. Brice will meet with Rev. Matthews to talk about Holy Week services.

Elder's Report: Greg Maurer reported that the deacons will continue to use the plastic communion cups for further services.

Trustee's Report: Ralph Plattner brought a proposal from Western Ohio TrueValue Hardware for leasing a Simplicity Prestige 25/50 garden tractor. The cost for one year would be \$665.00. He also had a price for a new 46 inch snow blower and that is \$945.00. The garden tractor is a line item in the budget and the snow blower would come out of the Building and Property Care fund. A discussion was held. Dennis Dicke made a motion to go with the one year leasing plan for the Simplicity Prestige 25/50 garden tractor at \$665.00 and purchase the snow blower for \$945.00. Jeff Paul seconded the motion and the motion passed. A Preventive Maintenance Contract proposal was brought to the table from Kogge, Inc. This includes spring maintenance for the two parsonage air conditioners and fall maintenance

for the two parsonage furnaces and the church's four boilers. The total cost per year is \$395.00. Price includes all labor and material. A discussion was held. Mark Barhorst made a motion to go with this proposal and Keith Dicke seconded the motion. Motion passed. A discussion was held about the sidewalks. No quotes have been gotten as of this meeting. The North side steps are going down, too. They are very dangerous.

Rev. Matthews' Report: Study and preparation for two worship services weekly, Confirmation class, Lenten Bible Study, 19 hospital calls, wedding consultation, and one funeral.

I met with the new minister at Faith Alliance and with St. Peter's pastor, Steve Wills, to plan the community Good Friday service.

I led a total of three Boundary training sessions for Northwest Ohio Association and attended the Auglaize Leadership Empowerment Day with three others from St. Paul. (It was a very informative day and you can read about the workshops in the Beacon).

I spent a half day with the youth/confirmation class on their mission trip to Nu-Vizion and worshiped with them on Sunday afternoon there.

As the Confirmation class reaches the day of confirmation, I am pleased to say what a privilege it is to work with each one of the youth. We have covered a variety of topics including church architecture, Christian symbols, liturgical season and colors, sacraments, stewardship, history of the Christian church, history of St. Paul, structure of the UCC, (local, association, conference and national), took trips to Holy Redeemer and the Jewish synagogue in Piqua to explore how others worship and believe, and how the church determines our values and decision-making. The youth have also written their own statements of faith.

Carrie Cutlip's Report:

JYFS: In the past month we studied the armor of God. Specifically we had lessons on what the armor of God is, overcoming fear, and the belt of truth. Our service project of the month was assembling care packages for our college students and young people serving in the military. Our next service project will be a food drive for Nu-Vizion. We also had a Valentine's party at the church.

Confirmation: The confirmation class met weekly over the past month. We had lessons on the bible, biblical history, and service. We also worked on writing our own statements of faith. Nearly all of the confirmation class attended the service trip to Nu-Vizion. The youth worked at the CHEAP store, did cleaning projects at Nu-Vizion, helped prepare meals, and set up for worship. They also participated in worship, devotions on discipleship and group building activities.

Jr. High & Sr. High: In Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group our lessons have focused on relationships. We had lessons on family, friendship, and dating relationship. Our worship experiences for the month included silence, solitude, and a reflection on Lent. In upcoming weeks our lessons will be focusing on difficult choices that teens face such as drugs, alcohol, and media.

Recent Youth Activities: Sr. High Retreat to Kalahari Indoor Waterpark, Jr. High weekend service trip to Nu-Vizion, and a Prayer Labyrinth Experience for Jr. & Sr. High.

Upcoming Youth Activities: Confirmation Sunday, Easter Sunrise Service, and outreach event and a retreat.

Child Safety Course: A child safety course has been scheduled for Sunday, March 30th at 2 p.m. Jason Cupp for Mercer County Children's Services will be leading the training.

Summer Camps: Information about summer camps has been distributed to the children and youth. Registration has begun.

Summer Programs: Several trips are being planned for the youth over the summer months in addition to weekly meetings. These trips include:

Alive Christian Music Festival—June 18-21

Confirmation Camp—July 13-19

UCC National Youth Event—July 24-28

7th Grade Retreat—TBA

9th Grade Retreat—TBA

OLD BUSINESS

Norm Holcomb got information from Karl and Ethel Mesloh about the stained glass window. They want to make a plaque with information about the window and about each pane. Norm is continuing with this project.

Baptism records from 1833-1920 are in the library. Tom Braun uses these for genealogy purposes. A discussion was held. Kathy Topp made a motion to get a CD made so these records would be available for Tom to use. Ralph Plattner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nature's Green has not gotten back with John Voress with a quote for lawn care. John will check with Healthy Lawns in Coldwater for a quote.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Controls has met. They will be meeting at the end of the month again. Where is funding for the 175th celebration coming from? With tents and games, etc. the total cost could be \$3000- \$5,000. It was also noted that the self insurance endowment \$50,000.00

Next council meeting will be April 8, 2008. Kathy Topp will lead the meditation.

John thanked Rev. Matthews, Carrie Cutlip, and Dot Koeper for all their hard work during this busy time.

Motion to adjourn was made by Cheryl Barlage and seconded by Dennis Dicke. Motion carried.

The Lord's Prayer was said by all.

Cindy Newman, Secretary

John Voress, President