

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
June 7, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 15 members present including: John Voress, Tom Braun, Cheryl Barlage, Kathy Topp, Dennis Dicke, Staci Jones, Katie Jackson, Gary Wehmeyer, Norm Holcomb, Larry Kuhn, Karl Mesloh, James Gilberg, Mark Barhorst, Ann Nelson and Jeff Paul.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the May meeting were discussed. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb and seconded by Ann Nelson. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Braun presented the report and a discussion was held. There was a budget deficit for the month of May of \$3719.23. We have a deficit year-to-date total of \$3609.74. Tom explained the deficit was due to the youth director's salary having to be paid out of the general fund. We are waiting for the Youth Endowment Fund to build back up, hopefully in a few months, with the economy coming back. There were also a lot of church camperships paid this month. It was suggested by Dennis Dicke if we could get quarterly reports on missions. Tom said that would be no problem. A motion was made to accept the report by Mark Barhorst and seconded by Karl Mesloh. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: John Voress reported that they will continue to use the red pew pads. The church is getting good responses from visitors. New members are joining - it has been a positive thing. They will have another meeting for prospective members in the fall. The history of the church is discussed and any questions they may have. They will try to have these meetings about 3 times a year or more. Next meeting will be in August.

Mission Committee: No meeting until September.

Worship Committee: Collecting money for the cost of shipping a container overseas.

Pulpit Committee: Finalizing Open House for Saturday, June 13. There will be an informal gathering from 6-8 p.m. There will be no Saturday service. Rev. Strang will conduct the candidating service on June 14. A congregational meeting and ballot vote will immediately follow the service. John Voress passed out the Call Agreement for Rev. Strang. It was reviewed. Electric, gas and water are provided by the church at the parsonage. Internet, long distance and cable TV services for the parsonage are the responsibility of the new pastor. Health insurance is paid quarterly. The Call Agreement Contract is negotiable every year. The Association and Council approved the contract, as it was within our budget. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb and seconded by Gary Wehmeyer to approve the Call Agreement. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS

Deacons: Deacons will help with the counting of ballots on Sunday at the congregational meeting. Mark Barhorst asked for permission to light the candles early because of the fact that they cannot keep the flames from going out when approaching the altar with the candle wands.

Trustees: Kathy Topp reported that Kogge Plumbing & Heating has finished the heating upgrade except for the library radiator which has two leaks. Kogge will determine the best way to fix the problem. After a recent overheating issue with one of the radiators in the sanctuary, Kogge's advised that the 6 radiators in the sanctuary and 3 in the Educational Building should have the motors serviced regularly each year. They offered a quote of an additional \$110 per year to our current preventive maintenance contract with them to handle this service. A motion was made by Dennis Dicke and seconded by Larry Kuhn to accept the preventive contract for \$110 per year. Motion carried.

The work on sealing the bricks is continuing. The rain is interfering and slowing down the contractor.

It was brought up that some of the communion cup holder liners in the pew racks need to be replaced.

Rev. Youngkin's Report: He is in Africa and will be back the last two Sundays of July and will help with the transition of the new minister. We have people who are covering the ministerial duties while he is gone.

Katie Jackson's Report: JYFS, Jr. and Sr. High end of year parties all went well. We are currently planning for this fall, including decisions about curriculum and topics that should be covered.

We are also gearing up for the rest of the summer. Jr. High went to Cedar Point last Saturday. Everyone had a great time. Sr. High will be traveling to Cedar Point this Saturday. We leave for Alive Concert next Wednesday morning.

Mission Statement: I spoke to Dave Plant about a youth mission statement. He suggested that we try using the church's mission statement and modifying it to fit our purposes. So, at our Jr. and Sr. High volunteer's meeting last week, we discussed how we could better fulfill the church's mission statement as a youth program. Between a curriculum template and the mission statement, planning for the upcoming school year is much more focused and has provided structure for our programs.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Policy: Jeff Paul reported that new staff policies are being finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

Staci Jones passed out the Child Sexual Safety Policy for review. Terri Goodwin, Rev. Youngkin, Katie Jackson and Stephanie Dicke have been working on it.

**St. Paul Congregational Meeting
June 14, 2009**

Council members will review and make any suggestions at the July council meeting. Jason Cupp will lead a class on Safe Church. The meeting will be on August 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for volunteers that work with youth. It was suggested to bring any questions back to council in July. At that time council will adopt a new Child Sexual Safety Policy and put it in place at our church. It was recommended that it should be reviewed every 2 or 3 years. Any person or group that uses our church for meetings (4-H, Scouts, etc.) should have this training or proof of similar training.

Don Kuck of New Bremen Insurance Agency handed out Summary of Insurance to be reviewed by church council. He was here 3 years ago for the last Summary of Insurance. Anything movable is considered personal property. It was reported that there has been a 12% increase on building materials. There is a 3 year rate guarantee from The Cincinnati Insurance Co. Two years ago, the church installed a fire/smoke system that gave us a \$600 credit. It was suggested to raise the building insurance from \$4,600,000 to \$5,000,000. Personal Property loss would stay at \$500,000 for replacement value. There is a \$25,000 business expense if needed after a fire to rent another facility. The limit of liability if someone falls is \$1,000,000. The parsonage will be insured for \$380,000. A motion was made by Dennis Dicke and seconded by Mark Barhorst to accept the Summary of Insurance. The motion passed.

A letter was received from the Bremenfest Committee asking if we wanted to participate in making a float this year. Any volunteers or suggestions please let John Voress know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was a bike group from Zeeland, Michigan who used the church facilities to stay overnight on June 9. They come every 4 years and are from the First Baptist Church. They are heading to Cincinnati and King's Island.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. Cheryl Barlage will have the meditation.

Karl Mesloh made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry Kuhn seconded the motion. The meeting was closed with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Cheryl Barlage, Secretary Pro tem

John Voress, President

President John Voress called the meeting to order. He gave a prayer. He asked the congregation if there were any questions for Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang. Dan Voress asked Rev. Strang if she plans to move into the parsonage and she replied with a yes, definitely. Vicki Brackman asked if she planned to keep doing the Saturday evening service and she said yes. Being no other questions for Rev. Strang, several members of the pulpit committee escorted her out so a vote could be taken. John asked if there were any questions for Chairman of the search committee, Randy Clark. Being none, Randy thanked the congregation for being patient and for all of the help his committee gave him. Randy made a motion to hire Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang as Senior Pastor of St. Paul U.C.C. and George Voress seconded the motion. The deacons passed out the ballots. Votes were cast and counted by the deacons. The vote was 175 in favor and 1 opposed to hire Rev. Strang as Senior Pastor. John thanked the search committee for all of their hard work.

John had a few announcements to make. The parsonage will need to be painted before Rev. Strang moves in and anyone willing to help should contact Kathy Topp or another trustee. Also if you have donated furniture that is in the parsonage please let the office know if you would like it returned. A reception immediately followed in the Assembly Room to greet Rev. Strang and her family.

Dan Voress made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jill Borkowski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Cindy Newman, Secretary

John Voress, President