

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
January 12, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Paul with 16 members present including: Jeffrey Paul, Debra Lear, Cheryl Barlage, Terri Goodwin, Lori Likens, Norm Holcomb, Greg Maurer, Larry Kuhn, Brice Schmitmeyer, Greg Paul, Zelta Fogt, James Gilberg, Gary Wehmeyer, Tom Braun, Rev. Strang, and Katie Jackson. Jeffrey Paul gave the meditation. Jeff started the meeting by passing out a contact list for all members to fill out, as well as a meditation list. Jeff gave an overview of the shape of the church at this time. He feels we are in a growing phase and looks for good things this year.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December meeting were discussed. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb and seconded by Larry Kuhn to accept the report as printed. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Braun presented the report and a discussion was held. We have a deficit for the month of \$4,259.08 and a deficit for the year to date of \$17,527.45. Tom also talked about the Youth Endowment Fund and the Youth Director's costs and expenses. In 2009, all of the Youth Director expenses were charged to the general fund. For 2010, the Youth Endowment should be able to fund the Youth Director's salary and benefits but in the following years, this fund will need to grow. The big expenses this past month were the natural gas use and Christmas gifts to the Sunday school students. The general fund financial statement was discussed and it came in \$5,000 less than what was budgeted. Memorial contributions for the year totaled \$6057.42. Expenses during the year included \$18,000 to purchase a copier and \$21,849 to repair the bricks on the sanctuary. A motion was made by Larry Kuhn and seconded by James Gilberg to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: Will meet Feb. 1st.

Mission Team: Decided to continue with the same mission projects this year as last year. The Christmas Fund brought in \$1729, with \$1000 going to the Fund and \$729 to Agape. The next meeting will be on March 8, 2010.

Worship Team: Next meeting is Jan. 28, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

OTHER REPORTS

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

Deacons: Gary Wehmeyer reported that all first year positions have been filled. Discussion was held about the electronic piano which sits at the front left side of the church pews as a concern of someone tripping especially on communion Sundays. Also, he

mentioned that the electronic piano is slightly blocking an exit. He suggested that we need to look into where to store it in the future.

Elder Report: Nothing to report at this time.

Trustees: Norm Holcomb reported on the proposed air conditioning project for the Assembly Room and kitchen. A pledge of \$10,000 has been committed for this project. We hope to have a final proposal for this project next month.

A proposal for windows to be replaced on the west side of the Educational Building was mentioned.

Lock-up schedules were established for the Educational Building.

It was also brought to the trustees' attention that the tables for funeral set-ups be easily accessible and that the funeral committee might need help with disposing of the garbage when it is particularly heavy.

The trustees were also reminded to keep a check on the oven in the kitchen. It goes out unexpectedly and needs to be monitored.

Rev. Strang's Report:

- Worship notes: Christmas Eve worship attendance at 5:00 p.m. was 168 (up from last year); at 11:00 p.m. attendance was 181. Preliminary thoughts--adding a 7:00 p.m. candlelight service?

- Terri Goodwin Licensure

- Called to Care – meeting in a week and a half.

- Family Fun Nights: January 23, February 27, March 20 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Family members of all ages are welcome. There will be crafts, games and impromptu skits.

- Four-week Bible Study beginning Tuesday, January 19, from 10:00-11:15 a.m., "Jesus' Healing Miracles."

- Need to schedule reception of new members soon

- Final designation of a \$100,000 gift received in late October still has not been decided, but at least part of the funds will go toward the Youth Director Endowment.

- Rev. Strang would like to request an extra weekend off, above and beyond her contracted four weekends, to accommodate her son Jimmy's high school graduation and start of college. Norm Holcomb moved to allow one additional weekend off to accommodate Jimmy's high school graduation and start of college. It was seconded by Greg Maurer. Motion passed.

- Pastoral Care: December 9, 2009 – January 11:
Hospital Visits: 5
Home Visits: 2
Nursing Home Visits: 29
Phone Calls: 5

Notes Written: 5
Funerals: 1
Home Communion: 2
Comma Deliveries: On hold until the weather warms

Katie Jackson's Report:

Past Events:

- December 10--Rob Bell: The talk was great; talked about tragedy and disruption to our lives and how we get through it and deal with it. It was a very unique opportunity.
- December 13--Mission trip meeting: There were several families represented at the meeting. I reserved 15 spots for the trip. So far, there have been 6 filled. I will be sending a postcard to remind people to sign up.
- December 16--Jr. High Christmas Party: 25 students attended our Christmas party. We played Musical Partners and a Christmas version of Name That Tune. It was a fun night!
- December 20--High School Christmas Party: Around 20 attended the party held at Jack and Darlene Gilberg's house. We ate dinner and did a white elephant gift exchange. We also wore our tacky Christmas sweaters and such. It was a lot of fun.
- JYFS is going well. We had two more students join last week, so we are up to 19 kids in the program. We will be talking about family in the next few weeks, and talked about getting along with our siblings last week.
- Jr. High talked about the church last week, and this week they will be preparing for Youth Sunday.
- We talked about Jesus' Resurrection Sunday at youth group, and also prepared for Youth Sunday.

Upcoming events:

- Youth Sunday, January 17
- Winter break overnigher, January 17-18
- Kalahari Winter Retreat, grades 8-12, February 11-12
- Simply Youth Ministry Conference, February 26-March 1.

OLD BUSINESS

- Stove in kitchen still not working properly--keep an eye on it.
- Staff Policy/Contract Revisions--established a committee consisting of Norm Holcomb, Rev. Strang, future Vice-President and President Jeffrey Paul to work on policies and contract revisions
- Nominations: Vice President nominations were discussed.
- Healthy Lawn--discussed if we received a bill from them. Tom Braun will look into this. Discussion was also held regarding modifying the lawn mower contract to be changed to a mulching lawn mower.

•Pipe organ preventive maintenance--Tom Braun said a contract has come through.

NEW BUSINESS

- Youth Endowment Fund clarification: Jeffrey Paul discussed a need to clarify what the fund can be used for. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb to clarify that the Youth Endowment Fund be used ONLY for salary and benefits. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Brice Schmitmeyer brought up a suggestion to look into automatic withdrawals from checking accounts for donations to the church. Tom Braun will check into this suggestion to see what the process involves.
- A change in time for the council meetings was discussed. Larry Kuhn made a motion to start the council meetings at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. Terri Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting will be held on February 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Larry Kuhn to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Cheryl Barlage. Motion passed.

The meeting was closed with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Deb Lear, Secretary

Jeff Paul, President