

St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
Feb. 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Paul with 18 members present including Jeffrey Paul, Debra Lear, Cheryl Barlage, Terri Goodwin, Lori Likens, Norm Holcomb, Greg Maurer, Larry Kuhn, Brice Schmitmeyer, Joyce Topp, Greg Paul, Michelle Voress, James Gilberg, Gary Wehmeyer, Lisa Davidson, Tom Braun, Rev. Strang, and Katie Jackson. Terri Goodwin gave the meditation. Jeff started the meeting by introducing our new Vice-President, Lisa Davidson. A sympathy card was presented for all council members to sign for Delza Weir and family.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the January meeting were discussed. Amendments to the Secretary's minutes were discussed and made. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb and seconded by Gary Wehmeyer to accept the report as corrected. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Braun presented the report and a discussion was held. We have a surplus of \$3,023.13 for the month. Tom also shared that the big expense this past month was the natural gas use. A motion was made by Larry Kuhn and seconded by Greg Maurer to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: A meeting was held and plans have begun for the confirmation reunion which will occur during the first week of May.

Worship Team: Plans for the next two months have been scheduled and they are off to a good start.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: Lori Likens reported that on communion Sundays starting in March, there will be no Lessons and Fun activity. Instead, the children will be given an activity bag. This will start March 7th. She also shared the plans for the future months: Jan/Feb. Mission in Haiti Relief; March is Campership; May 2nd is Senior Sunday; May 23rd will be the last day of Spirit Safari; Bible presentations will be made to the 6th graders going into 7th grade; there will be a Teacher Recognition.

Deacons: Gary Wehmeyer reported that the wireless microphones might be interfering with the Verizon Bands. He stated that we are in compliance with usage of band width. It was also discussed and confirmed that only paid hired staff need to have finger printing done and we are in compliance

Elder Report: A reminder that Ash Wednesday will have communion by intinction on Feb. 17th.

Trustees: Norm Holcomb reported on the air conditioner quote from New Knoxville Supply. This would be a ductless mini split unit that would be installed in the Assembly Room and kitchen. He stated that the quote is \$9,745.

If we would like to air condition the chapel, it would require approximately 2 additional units at an approximate cost of \$6,600.

It was suggested to do this in two parts. Norm Holcomb moved to accept New Knoxville Supply as contractors for the air conditioning units to be installed in the Assembly Room and kitchen. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion contingent upon Jeff Paul speaking with John Voress. Motion passed.

Norm Holcomb moved that we include the chapel to be air conditioned contingent upon \$6,642 being pledged to complete this. Michelle Voress seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A proposal for outside lights was put on hold until the weather gets better. It was proposed to have a post lamp by the east door entrance from the financial donors although they would like to see samples. There will be further discussion on this at a later time.

Norm Holcomb and Larry Kuhn reported that they have checked for additional storage space under the stage. A discussion was held on what type of storage units could be housed within this space.

Rev. Strang's Report:

•Worship notes:

Ash Wednesday will be Feb. 17th at 7:30 p.m. Confirmands burned the old palms to create the ashes which will be used on Feb. 17th.

A reception has been planned for New Members on February 28, 2010. New member orientation will be on Feb. 21, 2010.

•Terri Goodwin licensure – still working on this.

•Called to Care – continues to grow

•Family Fun Nights: February 27 and March 20 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Family members of all ages welcomed. January's Family Fun Night hosted 6 families.

•Four-week Bible study, "Minor Prophets," beginning Monday, March 1, from 7:00-8:15 p.m.

•Spoke at the New Bremen Ecumenical Luncheon on January 24 and I am leading a workshop for NWOA's Leadership Empowerment Day on Feb. 14. I've also been asked to lead worship at Otterbein Community on Sunday evening, March 7, 2010.

•\$50,000 of the \$100,000 gift received in late October will go to the Youth Endowment Fund and \$50,000 will go toward a specific project/program/staff person with a specific focus on pastoral care to the elderly. The donor would like to have our proposal in writing and is clear that the money needs to be used in a way that suits our elder-care needs. Council did some brainstorming for ideas.

Rev. Strang reported that Rev. Rick Weir died on Saturday, February 6, in Reno, NV. A memorial prayer service will be held on a Sunday morning following worship in the near future.

•Pastoral Care: January 12 – February 8, 2010.
Hospital Visits: 8
Home Visits: 2
Nursing Home Visits: 7
Phone Calls: 4
Funerals: 1
Comma Deliveries: On hold until the weather warms!

Katie Jackson's Report:

Past Events:

•Youth Sunday: Youth Sunday's theme was spiritual gifts. I thought it went well, and I think the students did an excellent job. I have gotten several comments about the hymns with the guitarist, and I will be working with her to make it easier for everyone to sing along next time.

•Winter break All-Nighter: We had 31 students and 3 adults attend the event held at the Celina YMCA. Students swam, played games and sports, and got to participate in worship and a concert. It was a good (but exhausting) time, and I am sure we will be going again next year.

•Youth Leaders' meeting: On January 26, the adult leaders of the youth met to discuss upcoming events and to evaluate past events. We have scheduled our meetings for the rest of the school year and I think this meeting was a great success. At the meeting we discussed having a youth representative to attend the church council meetings. I will be working to recruit a student to fill this position.

•Super Bowl party: 18 high school students attended the Super Bowl party on Sunday. It was a little boring, but I thought more than 2 of the students would actually want to watch the game. We hung out, though, and I think everyone had a decent time.

•The JYFS students have been having fun lately with movie day, making valentines for college students, and playing games. They are still learning how to get along better with their families. We also did a science lesson about God getting people through rough times. I am having a lot of fun with these kids.

•Jr. High and high school students have been talking about God's purposes for our lives, including how we should treat others and also about how to have and build a relationship with him.

•Mission Trip--The mission trip is going to have to be cancelled because of lack of interest/availability with students. We might try it again next summer if that's okay, but we are going to focus on single-day mission opportunities this summer instead of the weeklong trip.

•Camp information is available from Katie.

•I am going to start high school Sunday school on March 7th with breakfast at Bolly's. We will meet in the youth room each Sunday morning for the rest of the school year.

Upcoming events:

- Kalahari Winter Retreat for grades 8-12 is February 11-12
- Jr. High Laser Tag is February 21
- Simply Youth Ministry Conference February 26-March
- High School Laser Tag is March 7.

OLD BUSINESS

- Wish List: air conditioner taken off list.
- Staff Policy/Contract Revisions – Jeff reported that all revisions are completed except for one.
- Healthy Lawn – gave contract to Tom Braun to be paid.
- Pipe organ preventive maintenance – contract has been sent in.
- Automatic withdrawals – Tom Braun reported that First National Bank and Minster Bank do offer this service with no charge. Information will need to be gathered so the stewardship board can place this information in *The Beacon*.

NEW BUSINESS

•Esther Dicke memorial – Items suggested by Dennis Dicke are a motorized winch for the dome chandelier in church, new gears for church clock mechanism and risers for the Spirit Safari Club. We will get definite prices for these items and will give these to Dennis for him to decide.

•Rev. Weir Memorial – Norm Holcomb suggested to plant a tree in his name on church property, particularly in the park. No motion was made but discussion will continue when more information is acquired.

•Need two new members to serve on the Stewardship Committee for a three year term.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Leadership Empowerment Day will be this Sunday from 2:30–6 p.m. at Emmanuel UCC, Bluffton.

A motion was made by Larry Kuhn to adjourn and seconded by Lori Likens. Motion passed.

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

Deb Lear, Secretary

Jeff Paul, President