

## St. Paul's United Church of Christ Amityville

### Consistory Minutes for March, 2010

Consistory met on Tuesday, March 3, 2010. Those present were Vice-President Jerry Fizz, Pastor Steven Simpson, Shelby Laney, Peter Dadey, Bette Mooney, Marlene Dadey, Sharon Fizz, Keith Berry, Connie Walter, Tom Reitz, Karen Spotts, Donna Pennypacker, Kelly Yanos, Judy Reitz, Pete Kunsch, Billy Harrison, Marianne Reinert, Norma Jean Rogers, and Kathy Weller.

Vice-President Jerry Fizz called the meeting to order at 7PM. Judy Reitz led devotions by commenting on her personal visit to Haiti.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Steven distributed copies of his February Work Report. He thanked Judy Reitz for the special devotion she presented. He also thanked all of those who attended the 30-Hour Famine, with special thanks to Pete Kunsch who was there the whole time.

**President's Report:** Vice-President Fizz reported that President Kulakowsky had met with the Spiritual Council and letters have been sent to inactive members to inquire about their future membership intentions. He also said that the electronic form surveys have been made available to the congregation.

**Secretary's Report:** Corrections to the February facilities report were submitted by Keith Berry, chair, and the minutes were approved as corrected on a Tom Reitz/Connie Walter motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Pete Dadey gave written reports to Consistory members and highlighted a few items. He reported that the revenues for February totaled \$26,590, but the expenses amounted to \$29,114. This leaves a deficit of \$2524. Pete pointed out the huge expense of \$5540 for snow removal. He went on to say that a \$25,000 CD was cashed in to help cover monthly expenses. The year-to-date deficit is \$21,747.04. Pete also stated that the money is okay now, but everyone needs to be mindful of budget items.

A discussion followed on the possibility of fund raisers. Marianne Reinert suggested that we try to make the most of the fund raisers already scheduled. She said that the turkey supper committee members had already decided to sell tickets ahead of time and that church members will be offered tickets at a price of \$9.50 to encourage their attendance.

The topic of congregational meetings was then brought up and it was suggested that they only be scheduled for specific purposes. As a result, the meeting scheduled for March 7 will be cancelled. To inform the congregation, it was decided to put the monthly minutes on the website, post them on the bulletin board, and put an abbreviated version in the newsletter.

Committee chairs were asked to cut back on their budgets wherever possible.

Marlene Dadey pointed out that people will give for specific purposes so she made a suggestion that an appeal be made to the congregation to help pay for the snow removal. Collections will be made after the services on Sunday. Kelly Yanos volunteered to make containers for the collection.

**Worship:** Bette Mooney, chair, reported that everything is ready for Easter week. The next meeting will be March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Christian Education:** Marlene Dadey submitted a written report but highlighted a few items. She pointed out that \$3400 was collected for the 30-hour famine and that plans are to participate again next year at the end of April.

The Lenten activities for children are going well and the Wish Tree project has been very successful.

Vacation Bible School registration this year will include a \$5 fee to cover the cost of the activity booklet. Other supplies for VBS may be put on the Wish Tree.

Marlene said that the Bring A Friend to Church project brought in 15-20 friends.

A meeting for the After School Program is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

**Evangelism:** No report. A question was asked about the directory and chair Sharon Fizz said that the directory will probably be coming out in May or June.

**Facilities:** Keith Berry, chair, made the following Facilities report.

John Casner is preparing a quote on the repairs to the exterior brickwork and roof that are causing water damage to the ceilings and walls in the rear of the sanctuary. We believe it will be approximately \$8,000 - \$9,000.

The bill for snow plowing for the two large snow storms on February 3 and February 16 totaled \$5340.

The Facilities committee met with the Home Association on February 21 to discuss maintenance and repair responsibilities at the parsonage. It was decided that a yearly inspection will be conducted at the parsonage. A question was asked about why the fireplaces can't be used at the parsonage. No clear answer was available so Keith said that he would make inquiries.

**Fellowship:** Chair Connie Walter said that there has been a good response to the Lenten classes.

**Missions:** Tom Reitz, chair, thanked the youth and the youth leaders for the success of the 30-Hour Famine. The next meeting is March 23.

**Stewardship:** Co-chairs Karen Spotts and Donna Pennypacker reported on several decisions made by the Stewardship committee. A greater Stewardship presence is planned by presenting short monthly Stewardship Moments during the services as well as articles in the newsletters. The goals are to keep the membership educated and thinking about stewardship all year, not just during the fall campaign, and to be aware of all three areas of stewardship ( time, talent, and treasure).

Karen has submitted the early registration fee and reserved 20 seats for attendance at the Conference workshop entitled "Turning Tippers Into Tithers" on April 10<sup>th</sup> here at St. Paul's. She encouraged Consistory members to attend.

Committee members agreed on the need for an annual campaign that will kick off on Rally Day, September 12 with commitment cards due on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Mission Fair will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

To continue educating members on where their money goes, a small envelope flyer explaining General Fund and Capital Fund categories will be created to insert into the bulletins. After a brief discussion it was decided to order the new envelopes without the two funds being listed. Karen also reported that so far 7 electronic giving surveys have been returned.

At this time it was suggested that envelopes that haven't been picked up be put in a less obvious place. Vice-President Fizz stated that on April 14 the Spiritual Council will meet to discuss the responses to the letters sent out to inactive members.

Pastor Steven said that he had been approached by Bob Fogel, minister of philanthropy, to discuss fund raising for contributions to be made directly to the conference. Consistory agreed to address it at a later time due to all of our current expenses.

**Youth Ministry:** Game Night is scheduled for March 12 from 7-9 PM. All are welcome.

**Budget and Finance:** Kelly Yanos, chair, expressed a real need for an action plan to address the financial situation at this time. She said there were three choices. The first is to take out a loan, which she stated would be difficult to do. The second choice is to cut expenditures, which is also difficult because of the bare bones budget already in place. The third choice is to sponsor fund raisers.

A discussion brought up some suggestions. One was to raise the fees on the building rentals. Vice-President Fizz said that the Property Use and Policy Committee is planning to pursue that action. Another suggestion was made to change the restriction on the serving of wine and beer at receptions. This change would have to come before the congregation. The consensus was that we encourage the support of the fund raisers already planned ( turkey supper, chicken and waffle dinner, chicken barbecue).

Kelly Yanos suggested that the title of Fund Raiser Coordinator be added to the Facilities Manager job description. This will be discussed by the Church and Ministry committee.

Tom Reitz made a motion that the profits from the next turkey supper be put into the general fund. Kelly Yanos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

This Sunday Pastor Steven will address the congregation about the snow removal costs and the cash flow problems after the Stewardship Moment.

**Church and Ministry:** No report. Next meeting is March 23.

**Property Use and Policy:** No report.

**Deacons:** Mahlon Boyer will have devotions next month.

**Elders:** No report.

**Old Business:** The Pastoral Relations committee will meet March 9.

A follow-up needs to be made to make sure Allison Fake submits an application to the Gulden Trust to cover the cost of her required test.

**New Business:** The Stewardship committee will discuss how the new envelopes will be printed.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby J. Laney