

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

### Consistory Minutes for May 5, 2010

Consistory met on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Those present were President Barry Kulakowsky, Pastor Steven Simpson, Shelby Laney, Pete Dadey, Bette Mooney, Marlene Dadey, Sharon Fizz, Barbara Kulakowsky, Keith Berry, Jerry Fizz, Priscilla Knerr, Kelly Yanos, Judy Reitz, Pete Kunsch, Mahlon Boyer, Norma Jean Rogers, Marianne Reinert, Donna Pennypacker, and Karen Spotts. Billy Harrison, Anita Zuber, Connie Walter, and Kathy Weller were excused.

President Barry Kulakowsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Devotions were led by Judy Reitz.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Steven distributed copies of his monthly work report. He commented about several items of interest. He pointed out the Caring Bridges website available for updates on the condition of Erik Zuber. He mentioned that Pam Onyx, former Consistory member, has moved out of the area and would welcome emails. He went on to comment on the recent Stewardship workshop and about some of the suggestions he has started to implement in his ministry.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes for April were approved on a Norma Jean Rogers/ Judy Reitz motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Peter Dadey reported that the revenue for April was \$27,414 and the expenses were \$34,443. This leaves a deficit for the month of \$7028. Pete pointed out that there were 3 pay periods in the month. For the four month period the revenue was \$126,905 and the expenses were \$155,298. Pete closed his report by stating that the first Sunday in May brought in over \$15,000 which included a \$5000 check for steeple repair.

**President's Report:** President Barry Kulakowsky introduced Wendy Pfluger, chair of the Guldin Trust who was there to present changes made to the applications. The changes included things like keeping all documents confidential, making sure the applicant is a full-time or part-time student, scheduling interviews between November 16 and December 31, establishing the time period of the award as January 1 until December 31 of the same year, allowing for a candidate to reapply the next year, and clarifying Special Grant requirements. Marianne Reinert made a motion to approve the changes to the application forms and Pete Kunsch seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

President Kulakowsky suggested that posters or signs of big projects be created to show the progress of the fund raising. He reminded everyone of the Opportunity House event on May 14 and went on to say that he is planning to schedule a congregational meeting to talk about communication. He closed by showing a bulletin from another UCC church that listed categories for all money donated to the church. He suggested this may be an idea for our church.

**Worship:** No report.

**Christian Education:** Marlene Dadey distributed copies of her report and highlighted some of the items. The end-of-the-year celebration will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. Marlene will be on vacation May 23 through

May 30. Vacation Bible School will be held June 21 – 25 and she is still in need of a few teachers and a recreation team leader. The plans for the After School project are still moving along and there is a scheduled information meeting for parents on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Marlene has sent flyers advertising the event. Rally Day is set for September 12 and the special entertainment (Woofie, the missionary puppy) has been booked.

Marlene brought up the subject of the Safe Church Policy and asked if the volunteer application and disclosure form could be replaced because a newer version is much better to understand. Mahlon Boyer will check out the new form before a change is made.

Marlene raised a question about the number of adults required in the classrooms because it may cause a problem for Vacation Bible School. Currently there are two teen helpers and two teachers in each room. The question is – Why do we need two adults if one is a teacher with clearances? Would two teen helpers be sufficient? Marianne Reinert made a motion that we ask Marlene to make changes to the Safe Church Policy to allow Vacation Bible School to have one adult with clearances and two teen helpers and leave it to the discretion of the teacher whether two adults are needed. Priscilla Knerr seconded the motion. Motion passed,

**Evangelism:** Co-chair Barbara Kulakowsky reported that the next meeting would be May 18 . The committee is working on plans for Community Days on September 10-12. She also said that a banner is being ordered to advertise times for the summer church services.

**Facilities:** Keith Berry, chair, said that a subcommittee was formed to review the price proposals received regarding repairs for the sanctuary roof, water damage, and brick sealing. The contractors were asked to submit more detailed proposals.

Keith announced that the AEDs ( Automatic External Defibrulators) purchased with grant money have arrived and will be installed upstairs in the crossover near the top of the steps and downstairs at the end of the hall near the elevator. Training classes will be held for their use.

The next item was about the electricity choice program. Utilitech, Inc. forwarded a price proposal from an electricity broker that would lock us in at approximately our current rate for up to 2 years after the rate caps are lifted in January. Keith said the committee is looking into the details.

Secure-A-Home Monitoring has come up with a solution to all the false alarm calls we have experienced due to apparent power fluctuations.

Keith concluded by stating that construction in the Service Area (the former kitchen) has begun and that Mark Sitler is working on reinstalling windows and framing out the back walls so that the blue tarp can be removed.

**Missions:** Judy Reitz reported that the shoe project is going very well. She said that Consistory members can give her the \$10 for Opportunity House and that volunteers are needed to serve the meal.

**Stewardship:** Co-chairs Karen Spotts and Donna Pennypacker reported that they are moving forward with plans for the Mission Fair on November 14.

They asked that the categories be eliminated on the new church envelopes. Kelly Yanos made a motion to remove the account labels on the new envelopes and Marianne Reinert seconded it. The motion passed.

The Spiritual Council has reviewed the membership lists, sent out letters, and is receiving feedback.

Stewardship moments will continue to be presented during the services to get people engaged in stewardship and to develop a disciple, vision, and stewardship message.

**Youth:** Priscilla Knerr, chair, highlighted some of the events being done by the youth. The recent ice cream social was a huge success. Care packages were sent to college students. The Pepsi machine has been serviced and prices have been lowered. The Boy Scouts will be supporting the upcoming chicken dinner. Future events are serving at Opportunity House on June 11 and participating in a Lock-In on June 7.

**Budget and Finance:** Kelly Yanos, chair said that automated giving is still being investigated as a possibility. Kelly reported that the recent audit was finished and went well. She pointed out a few areas that were brought up in the audit. One was that the sales tax exemptions aren't being used. Another involved the contributions from weddings and a third was that our contract for natural gas is substantially higher than the current market rate. The last thing was that there is no formal tracking of vacation and sick pay for salaried employees. (This item will be addressed by the Church and Ministry committee.)

Kelly said her committee had met with Church and Ministry and that a letter was sent to employees asking for budget cut ideas.

**Church and Ministry:** Shelby Laney, chair, reported that the committee met with the Budget and Finance committee and discussed budget cuts. The committee will meet again on May 24. Shelby announced that Harriet Boyer will be joining the committee as a new member.

**Fellowship:** No report.

**Property Use Policy:** No report.

**Deacons:** Pete Kunsch will have devotions next month. A comment was made that after meeting with the PUP committee, the deacons felt that the building is in good hands.

President Barry Kulakowsky thanked Mahlon Boyer for his services.

**Elders:** Marianne Reinert said that she attended her first Spiritual council meeting and was very pleased.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** President Barry Kulakowsky presented a check for \$2269 to the treasurer from the chicken and waffle dinner.

Jerry Fizz, Vice-President, announced that Allison Fake was not eligible to the Guldin Trust for covering the cost of her required psychological testing. It had previously been decided to have the church cover \$500 of the cost ,so Jerry made a motion to do so. It was seconded by Mahlon Boyer. After a brief discussion the motion was amended to say that the \$500 would come out of the Adult II class contribution for the chicken and waffle dinner. The motion passed with one vote against.

Jerry made a motion that no outside advertisements be allowed as inserts in the church bulletin. Bette Mooney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Priscilla Knerr asked if the church could get involved with a recycling program. Sue Wunderlich will be asked to pursue the matter.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM on a Judy Reitz/Norma Jean Rogers motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby J. Laney