

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting

May 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Roland Dicke with council members including Barb Holdren, Amy Opperman, Tom Brandewie, John Mohrman, Diane Gilberg, Erin Topp, Myra Hanenkratt, and Abby Bushman and Pastor Becky Strang.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved by Erin Topp and 2nd by Tom Brandewie, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report as of April 2021 was reviewed with a motion to accept by Tom Brandewie and Diane Gilberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Mission: No report – meeting this week

Discipleship: No report – meets next week, Becky has some good ideas to run by them.

Worship: No Report – meeting in August

Finance: No Report

Art Camp: Moved to summer of 2022

Deacon's Report: No report.

Elder's Report: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Maintenance Report: Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks. We had several issues with the sanctuary boilers this past month. The number one boiler had to have a control board installed. The number two boiler needed the return circulating pump replaced and the main circulating pump for the sanctuary was leaking and needed replaced. I have been working with vendors for steeple shingling. Currently have four bids on the project. Several vendors have not returned bids. Met with the president and trustees and looked at some sample roofs. Wheelchair lift top door would not open one Sunday morning. I got it to open. Checked it out on Monday and adjusted limit switch. Other small things taken care of as needed.

Trustees Report: Request was made to spray the weeds on the sidewalks and the bushes.

Abby's Report: "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9)

- This has been a month busy with writing letters to our youth, preparing gifts for teachers, seniors, Sunday School Youth and making many phone calls to prepare worship services.

- I am continuing to assist Barb and Rev. Becky with daily office jobs around the church, staffing and being available to those who come to the blessing pantry and attend the church council meetings.
- The Rummage Sale was a success! Thank you for the donations from the church and community members. Clothing and shoes were graciously collected and delivered to a family experiencing medical hardships.
- I put together curriculum materials for Sunday School for Mother's Day cards and Father's Day cards. I also picked out flowers at True Value hardware for the Sunday School students to plant for Mother's Day gifts.
- I have prepared handwritten Thank You cards which were sent out to the Sunday School Children who participated in the Mother's Day Worship service with speaking parts. The youth did an outstanding job signing, singing and reading too!
- I have handwritten 14 congratulations cards to the 2021 graduating seniors who were presented with their toolbox during Senior Recognition on Sunday May 9, 2021.
- 15 gift cards from the New Bremen Coffee Shop were ordered and put inside of handwritten Appreciation cards for our Youth Teacher Recognition which took place Sunday May 9, 2021.
- I created 7 handwritten cards that were sent out to St. Paul members who are on our prayer list. The Sunday School Children added their names to the cards to brighten each of their days.
- Currently I am preparing a Summer Script Challenge and an Ultimate Summer Bucket List for the Sunday School and Youth to take home on their last day of Sunday School May 16, 2021.

I am enjoying my time being the St. Paul UCC Ministry Assistant while Pastor Dee is taking medical leave and Pastor Becky was on sabbatical for three weeks.

Pastor Becky's Report:

Worship June 6. Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dedication of St. Paul Playground

July 4, 11, 18. Pastor Becky on Sabbatical.

Julia Mullins, Kennedy Topp, FaithAnn Voress, Levi Bushman, Parker Bushman and Hallie Bushman assist

me each week in worship by signing the hymns and other songs.

I am now fully immunized against Covid19.

I continue to lead Daily Devotions weekdays at 11:30 a.m. I have eliminated Fridays from that schedule in order to have one day a week off of work. Bible Study is now on break until September. Book Clubs are on break until September.

We have hired Lauren Miller to be our SALT Intern this summer. Lauren's first day is Saturday, May 29.

Vacation 2021 (6 weeks' vacation; 6 weekends)
September 27-October 1. Time with Family in Cleveland and Canton

I am a facilitator for the Heartland Conference's Excellence in Ministry Program. My group is currently meeting every other week via Zoom. I am also on-call at Joint Township Hospital as an emergency chaplain.

Pastoral Care Documentation. May 3-11, 2021 (Three weeks prior I was on sabbatical)

Hospital: 0 Baptism: 0 Notes Written: 0

Nursing Home Visits: 5 Office Visits: 0

Home Visits: 5 Phone Calls: 8

Cookie Deliveries: 0 Coffee Shop Attendees: 6

Home Communion: 18 Wedding: 0 Funeral: 0

Old Business

Rev. Becky Benefit Change- more will be finalized for next meeting.

Copier: Barb is still working out some over heating issues with the copier. She will monitor and report back next meeting.

Council Positions: If you hear of anybody that is interested, please let Becky know.

New Business

Nitro-Church Steeple: Nitro attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the options they thought would work best. A motion was made by Amy Opperman to move forward with this project and Myra Hanenkratt seconded the motion. Original estimate came in around \$52,484 with the expectation of a 25% increase in material cost at the end of May.

Spouting: We received the quote back from Sidney Spouting Service and a motion was made to move ahead

with the replacement of the spouting by Tom Brandewie and was seconded by Diane Gilberg.

Music Director: After much time and thought, Tim Olt has decided to step down as the music director. Tim will still be our director for the choir and Becky has some ideas to cover the special music slot. She will report back on this next meeting.

Ramp North Door: It was asked for the trustees to get an estimate for a ramp to be installed at the north door Sunday School entrance. This is the location for entry for the blessings pantry and it is not handicap accessible for our community members that utilize this service.

Wheelchair lift: Our current lift does not have the capacity to lift the newer motorized wheelchairs. It was also noted that the handicap parking lot is not easily accessible to this entrance, especially during bad weather. It was asked to consider this project into the future to improve the needs of our congregation. Becky will also be reaching out to her contacts to see if there are any grants available to help us reach this goal.

Blessing Pantry – West Ohio Food Bank: We have been a member of the West Ohio Food Bank since September. Due to our wonderful community support and alignment with other local organizations, we have not needed to utilize their services very much. The committee felt that a membership with West Ohio Food Bank was no longer needed and motion to withdrawal our membership was made by Amy Opperman and seconded by Tom Brandewie.

Rhianna Paul Girl Scout Gold Award: Rhianna is looking for ideas for her to complete her Girl Scout gold award. If anyone has an idea, please share it at our next meeting. A couple options that were brought up were a wheelchair accessible picnic table for our park area and the possibility of a bathroom located in the shelter house.

Announcements: Next meeting – June 8th @ 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Amy Opperman, Secretary

Roland Dicke, President