**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**January 28, 2020**

Meeting was called to order by OB Secretary Irene Joyce at 7:02 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Elaine Coffey

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Sharon Heinrich

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Rob Toth

**Minutes of the 11/26/19 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 1/28/2020:**  Sharon Heinrich— **Beginning Balance:**  **$5,541.81.** Income:  $0.77 for interest from 12/20/19,  $1,000.00 donation,  $500.00 from Bushea family in memory of Betty,  $60.00 from sales of pictorial directories,  $2,211.00 from Swiss Steak Dinner Ticket Sales,  $10.00 for donation for nativity animals.  Expenses:  $140.00 for Plexiglas for monument sign,  $303.00 for two sign inserts,  $4.84 for knife to trim outdoor sign,  $144.00 for embroidery of shirts for free lunch volunteers,  $50.00 to Lifetouch for five additional photos submitted for the directory.

**Ending Balance:**  **$8,681.74.**  Sally Herzog moved to accept the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion was approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** No report.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: No report

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond sent a report that Office expense was high for January because of the cost of creating the Annual Report. Electricity is over budget as it includes 2 months. Pearl Rd expenses over budget as it includes the real estate taxes which are paid every 6 months. Balance prior to the 1/30th payroll run was $15,764.21.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that John Toth presented his name tag ideas.  We also briefly discussed Holy Week and what will need to be covered as well as a quick discussion on Wing Night which will be coming up on Friday, May 1, 2020. Thank you to Barb Camp and Linda Ponstingle for organizing the sacristy and the Pilgrim Hall balcony.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Swiss Steak Dinner profit was $1,538.89. The dinner wasn’t sold out, but we did have 29 carry out orders. We may need to reconsider the time of year we host that dinner. The Roast Pork Dinner is scheduled for March 7th and volunteer sign up lists will be posted soon.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported the group is going to see *Porgy & Bess* at Strongsville Cinemark on February 5. All are welcome. We will not meet on February 26, due to the Ash Wednesday worship service.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Heidi reported that she is officiating a wedding on January 29, 2020. On Ash Wednesday, February 26, she will offer ashes to the Free Lunch for All patrons and there will be a worship service at 7 p.m. Pastor Heidi will be leading a Lenten Bible Study starting March 4th at 1:15 p.m. for 5 weeks.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte sent a report that Pastor Heidi has applied to Bomba socks for a grant like we received last year for which we are very grateful.  We are collecting boxes of tissues and cough drops for Laura's Home with a collection container in Pilgrim Hall.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that Richard Densmore has been elected to serve on the Music Committee. Sharon will accompany the choir rehearsal and service while Mike is in Mexico this week. Children's choir sings. Bell Choir played this past Sunday and going forward, we would like to ask Richard Densmore to play the hymns on Bell Sundays. A D7 Bell was purchased in memory of Betty Bushea. For February, the choir will be focusing on the old spiritual/gospel style for Black History month. Choir will sing at the Ash Wednesday service. Lent and Easter music is already being chosen with a cantata is planned for Palm Sunday. We will once again be joining Columbia UMC on Good Friday.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** No report.

**Stewardship Committee:** To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 75 pledges totaling $155,384.00.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Kristen Clotworthy sent a report that the kids the kids collected $202.25 for Australian bushfire assistance through the Salvation Army Australia in January’s Penny Sunday.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that the Thrift Shop will be closed April 2 & 9 for spring changeover. Winter Hours are 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Thanks to Cathy Hawk for stepping up to help.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that January memorials received in memory of Bill Williamson, Allan Haberkorn, Judith Munshower, and in honor of Elaine Coffey. A D7 hand bell was purchased for the bell choir in memory of Betty Bushea. Motion passed for a classic, wooden, permanent church sign.  Pilgrim Hall ramp will be a safer version of what we have now. Bids being taken to repair church step leading to Pilgrim Hall. Safety audit being conducted for all items in the church. For example, step stools, ladders, lighted exit signs, electrical cords.  Any questionable items should be thrown out.

**Women's Fellowship:** Elaine Coffey reported that ladies have put together a schedule of meetings and activities for the coming year that include crafts, speakers, and projects as well as a picnic in July. Sharon Heinrich added that the ladies would like to play the tonechimes for worship on Holy Humor Sunday, April 19th.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Retreat has 56 overnighters signed up and around 8 Saturday visitors. Sharon gave Irene a check to bring to Templed Hills for payment.

Ripcho Photographers have been contracted for a congregational photo on Mother's Day. The cost will be

$245.00. The cost for 8” x 24” prints to be offered would be $29.95 each. The cost for an 8” x 24” framed and dry mounted print for the church would be $198.00. The board thought that a framed, mounted print would be good to have.

**Audit Committee:** all the books were found to be in good order. Thanks to Rachel Zielinski, Sally Herzog, Sarah Hayes, and Dave Williams.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominating Committee:** Ingrid Dickson moved to appoint Jennifer Sekorky to Mission Outreach and Judi Pavisich to Stewardship. Sharon Heinrich seconded and the motion carried.

Ingrid Dickson is going to research purchasing some additional folding chairs for Pilgrim Hall, to be paid from the Memorial Fund. The old brown chairs could be offered to church people for $5.00 each.

The Strongsville United Methodist Church has once again requested use of Pilgrim Hall for their Confirmation breakfast on Sunday, May 3rd at 7 a.m.

Betty Craig moved to approve $100 deposit to Spring Mist Farms for Live Nativity animals. Elaine Coffey seconded and the motion carried. Sharon Heinrich will send the check.

Sign-A-Rama sent some photos of the proposed sign, the idea of which has been approved by the Trustees, funded by the Memorial Fund. The cost would probably be under $1,000.00 We may need a variance from the city to have two signs.

Linda Ponstingle would like to donate a low cabinet if there is a place for it in the church. The board decided that there was not an appropriate place for it, but would accept Linda’s donation for the Garage Sale.

With some of our tellers/counters headed south for winter and the passing of Jan Stough, a few more people are needed to serve in this capacity.

A push will be made to reunite items that have been abandoned in the Lost & Found next to Pilgrim Hall with their rightful owners. Items not claimed will be donated to the Thrift Shop after a month.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary