**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**July 23, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:04 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Adria Bond

Judy Carte

Kristen Clotworthy

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Sharon Heinrich

Irene Joyce

**Minutes of the 6/25/19 meeting** were approved in a motion by Jen Barry, seconded by Judy Carte. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 7/23/2019:**  Beginning balance:  $6,084.56.  Income:  Interest of 7/20/19 - $0.90, Garage Sale income $1,820.00.   Expenses:  None.  Ending balance: **$7,905.46.**  Ingrid Dickson moved to approve the report, seconded by Kristen Clotworthy. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** Adria Bond mentioned that they were thinking about a Playhouse Square trip in the fall.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: No report.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond reported that we are doing pretty well for summer and will have money left in the checking account after July 30th payroll. We still need to repay the savings account about $6,500.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that they are finalizing details for the upcoming Church Picnic, coming up on July 28th at Volunteer Park. Everyone is encouraged to come and it's still not too late (for those who did not yet sign up). In case of rain, church service will be held at the church and picnic will be held in Pilgrim Hall. The Diaconate discussed removal of the bushes around the church sign and have offered to pay for removing them.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig sent a report that Dinners are still on hiatus. Free Lunch for All is doing ok. We need people to pick up the Panera Bread donations on Monday for the Free Lunch and on Friday for Coffee Hour.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that two operas we saw in July were “The Barber of Seville” and “*Aida*.” Fit Club will be on hiatus through the month of August.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi was on vacation at the time of this meeting.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that Mission Outreach met Sunday, July 21st. They are exploring options for a project in the fall.  The committee is awaiting the response of the other Strongsville churches about working together for the homeless of Cleveland served by NEOCH.  Members are getting information about two other possibilities: Laura’s Home for Women and Children through the City Mission and Adopt a US Soldier.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that summer music has been really well received. Gary Hackett will be taking care of the music for the church picnic. Other upcoming special musicians and  guests include We Three Ring, Satori Winds, Jim Studer, the Keenen family, and Sharon Heinrich. Somebody wants to donate a piano. We will evaluate if we want it. We must be careful not to store anything other than the bell and tonechimes cases in the organ pipe room. Choir rehearsals will start August 29th. Children's and Bell choir rehearsals will start in September. Looking at Friday, December 13 for Christmas Jazz concert.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** No report.

**Stewardship Committee:** Total remains at 78 pledges totaling $134, 932.00.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Kristen Clotworthy reported that the June Penny Sunday collection of $155.46 will go toward refurbishing our upstairs Sunday School classrooms—We will not have a Penny Sunday in July, due to the Church Picnic festivities. A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Bake Sale. We made the most we have ever made in the history of our Bake Sale: $682.55. Rally Day is September 8. They will be painting the upstairs area in the fall, when the weather is cooler. Christian Ed talked about doing a service project with the youth that addresses mental health. Linda Elkins is organizing an adult Bible study called “Uppity Women of the Bible,” which will begin in September.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that Thrift Shop has scheduled upcoming bag sales: August 22: $7, August 29: $7, Wednesday, September 4: $7, September 5: $6 Thrift Shop will be closed for fall changeover on September 12.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that Olivia Clotworthy's last day is July 27. We could use some help keeping things clean while the Clotworthys are on vacation for the next week. When they return, Emma will begin as our church custodian. Royalton Road tenants moving July. Plans are in place to clean and list the property for rent. A cleanup event is planned for August 10 at 7:00 am We are soliciting bids for the Pilgrim Hall ramp. The bushes along the base of the church sign will soon be removed. A plan to freshen up the upstairs Sunday school area is in place. Approximate cost will be $2800. Funding is TBD.

**Women's Fellowship:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the collection of tote bag items concluded June 30th; they need to purchase needed items.  They are working on coordinating bag assembly.  Meeting at the Home of Claire Wills Tuesday, August 6, 2019 – 11:00 a.m. Program:  “Quilts by Claire.” Future Meetings: September 3 – Cross Christmas Ornaments with Cheri.  October 1 – decorate pumpkins with Linda Elkins. November 5 – Election of Officers and planning the Christmas Tea.  December 3 – Christmas Tea for our church ladies, location to be determined.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Lifetouch Photo Directory time slots have all been filled. Irene Joyce is working to get more photo shoot dates.

Garage Sale earned $1,820.00. Bake Sale earned $682.55. Thrift Shop brought in $278.80. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Strongsville Homecoming Parade spent less than $20 because the church members’ generosity in donating candy. Thanks to everyone who participated, especially to Rachel Zielinski and Sarah Hayes for organizing the float.

We will owe a deposit of $1,271.38 in September for the Winter Retreat.

Outdoor Worship & Picnic is July 28 at Volunteer Park. The Diaconate is handling the arrangements.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ingrid Dickson made a motion to appoint Judy Gaumer to fulfill Karen Morgan’s unexpired term as clerk through January, 2020. Adria Bond seconded, and the motion was approved.

Sanyuka Children’s Chorus is coming on September 7th. The choir is made up of orphaned children from Uganda. Need volunteers to feed the choir children prior to the concert and to set up/clean up the reception afterward. The Diaconate is willing to sponsor the lunch for the children and the reception afterward. Wine will not be served.

Rachel Zielinski has a plan to move the cigarette butt receptacle outside the kitchen door to a less conspicuous place that will be less visible but not discourage its use.

Pastor Heidi is planning to have worship outdoors on our property on Labor Day weekend, September 1st.

Please be extra vigilant about locking doors to the church at all times and office doors during the worship service. An incident occurred with someone rummaging through Pastor Heidi’s office on July 21st.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment via email at 7:58 p.m., seconded by Kristen Clotworthy. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary