**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**July 24, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:02 p.m. Irene Joyce led the group in prayer. Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Rosemary Bechtel

Judy Carte

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Jim Heinrich

Irene Joyce

Lori Kovatich

Lola Millhoane

Bill Schneider

Rachel Zielinski

(Special Guests: Penny and Oliver Zielinski)

**Minutes of the 6/26/18 meeting were** approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Rosemary Bechtel. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 7/24/2018**: No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** The club’s list of activities for the year includes the Botanical Gardens in August, Dinner & show at Carrie Cerrinos and Jilbert Winery & Brewery in September, Ohio Mart & Stan Hywet in October, Country Christmas show in November, and Downtown Holiday Lights tour in December. Contact Linda Plain for reservations.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer sent a report that there is an upcoming article about the Free Lunch for All program in the *Strongsville Post*.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that the Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic was great and very well attended. Thanks to Linda Plain and crew for all their work. The Diaconate will take ownership of the picnic next year. Pastor Heidi is away; Rev. Joe Santomen will preach on July 29th and Rev. Larry Craig will preach on August 5th. Rev. Craig requested that the bread for communion be pre-cut for logistical and sanitary reasons. The Diaconate will provide a cassata cake for Elena’s farewell party.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Dinners continue to be on hiatus. Free Lunch for All is doing well. She plans to attend the parking lot during the Strongsville Homecoming and collect donations for the Free Lunch. Everyone is invited to join her.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that Fit Club will not meet on July 25th because of the Parade. We had a new exerciser, Sharon Maresco, join us last week. Everyone is welcome—you do not have to be fit to be a part of Fit Club.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich distributed the financial reports. An unexpected donation improved the balance sheets for this month. Second quarter giving statements will go out at the end of July.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that they would like to look into putting together bags of usable items for homeless veterans. They would start collecting items and donations in October with a goal of 100 bags.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that the sanctuary piano has been tuned. Elena Taylor’s farewell reception is August 19. Donations of snacks and pastries are welcome. Tom Foley will begin his service as Music Director on August 19th, with the first choir rehearsal on August 23rd. Bell Choir and Children’s Choir will start in September. The Music Committee will be meeting with Mike Elkins and Tom Foley to define roles and confirm compensation requirements for the fall.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich reported that Leek Organ Company is in the midst of phase 12 of 12.Tentative date for the Organ Festival and rededication is October 14th.

**Pulpit Search Committee:** Sally Herzog sent a report that the Meet & Greet is scheduled for Saturday, August 11th from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. A few volunteers will be needed. The Congregational Meeting to vote on Pastor Heidi’s call will immediately follow the worship service on August 12th.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich sent a report that this committee is trying to schedule a meeting to discuss ideas for the fall campaign.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that after a quarter century, she is submitting her resignation as Sunday School Superintendent, effective September 9th, due to being hired as church secretary. Kristen Clotworthy will join Jamie Trinckes as Co-Superintendent. A new handbook has been put together. The next Penny Sunday is July 29th, with the money going to our Sunday School programs and scholarships. Thanks to everyone who signed up to teach Summer Sunday School and to Kelly Bickley for putting the lessons together. Bake Sale at the Garage Sale is September 8th and Rally Day is September 9th.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane reported that bag sales will begin soon. Any donations of items should not be left on the steps or blocking walkways. The Thrift Shop is paying for new mats for the kitchen and hallways.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that the Trustees have ordered the new kitchen mats. The exterior and partial interior of the Royalton Road house have been painted. The natural gas leak on that property has been repaired by Columbia Gas. Jim Dettmer is looking into repairing/replacing the garage door opener at the house. Thank you to everyone who helped to clean up the property on June 30th. Tenants have been secured for the house, with an occupancy date of August 1st. Solar shades have been ordered for the back two sanctuary windows. Olivia Clotworthy will stay on as custodian in the fall; she will be advised not to be in the building alone for safety reasons. Eddy Bond suggested having a clambake in the fall. Trustees suggest that the Thrift Shop adopt Standard Operating Procedures defining their policies.

**Women's Fellowship:** Rosemary Bechtel reported that 60 tote bags for the Strongsville Food Bank were put together and delivered. In the fall, the group would like to have a few evening meetings to encourage better attendance. They are planning a Christmas Tea at Miss Hickory’s Tea Room either in late November or early December.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi is visiting family in Colorado and Montana.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Rachel Zielinski and Sharon Heinrich are still working on the pictorial kitchen guide and cupboard labeling.

Preparations are underway for the Strongsville Homecoming Parade. Our large blue felt banner is missing; please see Rachel if you know its whereabouts. The congregation has donated non-chocolate candy. Thanks to the Clotworthys, the Hawk/Hayes family, and to Irene Joyce for working on the float. Solar Windows and More will sent up a table on our property and make a donation to the church.

The Garage Sale will be on September 8th. Donations will be accepted starting August 19th. Help will be needed for set-up, during the sale, and for clean-up. Rachel Zielinski will ask Karen Morgan to contact VOA for pick-up of leftover items.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Sharon Heinrich’s retirement party.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ingrid Dickson moved to purchase $50 in gift cards as a gift from the Official Board for Elena Taylor’s farewell. Bill Schneider seconded and the motion was approved.

Irene Joyce moved to appoint Kristen Clotworthy as Sunday School Co-Superintendent to complete her unexpired term. Betty Craig seconded and the motion was approved.

We have had complaints about smoking at the church’s entryways. Greg Dickson will contact the service groups and remind them to refrain from smoking where people have to walk. Also, everyone is to be reminded to keep the kitchen screen door closed when the main door is open so as to minimize flies in the building.

Animals have been reserved for the Open House on November 18th. Let the Board know of any suggestions.

Thanksgiving Basket project served about 45 families, with 30 being referred by Church Street Ministries and the rest referred by church members and friends. Collection of items will begin in October.

Greg Dickson moved to put together an ad hoc committee to review the minister’s compensation package. Bill Schneider, Lori Kovatich, Adria Bond, Jim Heinrich, and Sally Herzog will join Greg on the committee. Rosemary Bechtel seconded and the motion carried.

Gina Cathcart is heading up a work party to straighten up the Outdoor Prayer Garden on August 11th at 8 a.m. All volunteers will be needed and welcomed.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Bill Schneider. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary