**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**June 25, 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

Judy Carte

Kristen Clotworthy

Myron Costin

Betty Craig

Ingrid Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Rev. Heidi

Rob Toth

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 5/28/19 meeting** were approved in a motion by Jen Barry, seconded by Kristen Clotworthy. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 6/25/2019:**  Beginning balance: $6,165.77.  Income:  $43.00 from Garage Sale checks; $0.79 in interest as of 6/20/19. Expenses:  $82.00 for header on monument sign; $43.00 for Garage Sale seed money**. Ending balance: $6,084.56.** Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** No report.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Information about the Garage Sale appeared in the *Strongsville Post*. Tom will send a press release about receiving the Deaconess Foundation grant.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Sally Herzog reported that we have $5,697.97 on hand and that we are holding our own, but summer is upon us and a shortfall may be expected. We need to repay the savings account about $6,500.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that they are working on details for the upcoming Church Picnic.  Linda Plain is handling getting all of the paper utensils, hot dogs, and hot dog buns.  Talked a bit about different games and prizes to play on that day; Sarah Hayes and Rachel Zielinski will procure prizes and arrange games.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Dinners are still on hiatus. Free Lunch 4 All has received the $5000.00 from Deaconess Grant, also $500.00 from the parents of young woman that often attended our lunches before she passed away and we received $146.93 thanks to Rachel Zielinski (and Penny and Ollie) and Tony Koussa, who took the job of collecting for parking during the Rib Burn Off. Thank you both!

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that we will be carrying boxes and sorting items for the Garage Sale at our next meeting. We will not meet on July 17--members may march in the Parade instead. Two operas coming up in July are “The Barber of Seville” and “*Aida*.”

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that the Strongsville Ministerial Alliance met and set the date for the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service for Wednesday, November 27 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Heidi will preach. This group plans to support a Veterans’ Project with us to fill 200 personal care bags. September 17 is the Safety Forces Prayer Service. Pastor Heidi also mentioned that the table currently in use for communion is a little too small and a larger one would be better.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that Mission Outreach is actively working on a committee handbook Meeting Tuesday, June 25th with Strongsville Ministry group to present info re NEOCH and possible collaboration for a project for the homeless. Jen Barry volunteered to assist with the task of assembling a handbook.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that the summer music program is underway and it's been really exciting and well received, and promises to continue to be. Many thanks to all who give of their talent and time! Upcoming summer music guests: Heinrich family, Megan Denman, Richard Densmore, Sandy O’Shea, Sharon Metivier, and Gary Hackett, who will do the picnic. The choir room is in the process of being straightened out and organized again. The music from this past season has been filed. All miscellaneous copied sheets will be recycled. Most music stands should be stored upstairs when not in use. Please try to keep this room from becoming a disaster area. Recently purchased music needs to be added to the data base and an updated hard copy should be in place, hopefully before choir season. Usually the sanctuary piano gets tuned at the end of summer, Easter time and Christmas time. Since it is not being played as much, it may only be tuned twice a year.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** Jim Heinrich did not have anything new to report at this meeting.

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

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Kristen Clotworthy reported that June’s Penny Sunday will go toward refurbishing the upstairs. Bake Sale at the Garage Sale is coming up. Donations are needed. Linda Elkins is starting to organize an adult Bible study for the fall called “Uppity Women of the Bible.” Estimates for carpet cleaning and window treatments for upstairs are being gathered. Planning to reorganize, paint, and clean up upstairs. A Pre-K class will be added in the fall.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that Thrift Shop will have a $1 clothing sale (50 cents for kids’ clothes) at the Garage Sale, so as not to confuse shoppers with the Garage Sale bag sale. The Shop does not want a chair lift at this time.

**Trustees:** Myron Costin reported that Architect Ibrahim Hakki was hired to design the Pilgrim Hall ramp. The design process will take four to eight weeks. Once we have the design we will then take bids for the actual construction. The architect will cap his cost at $1000. The costs of the construction are unknown at this time. Royalton Road tenants Mike and Stacie have bought a house and will not renew their lease. They will move out July 27. We have contacted our realtor Gail Prock from last year and will take appropriate steps to get the property ready for showing once the tenants move out. Any showings will be handled through our realtor. The church sign looks great with the new stenciling. The group investigating church sign prices have found an out of state company for a price of $11,000-$13,000 for a new church sign. For now the Trustees recommend using the sign inserts. The security camera project has been placed on hold since the presentation and subsequent recommendations have not met the needs of our church and UCC policy of interior corridor monitoring.

**Women's Fellowship:** Sharon Heinrich reported that collection of tote bag supplies continues until June 30; thanks to Betty Craig for sewing the bags and also to Tilly Sekorky for requesting her 8th birthday presents be donations for the tote bags.  Future meetings and programs:  July 2 – Women’s Fellowship picnic at church.  Sometime in July – Rosemary Bechtel and Jen Sekorky will coordinate the assembling of tote bags and will see that they are taken to Strongsville Food Bank for distribution.  August 6 – Quilts with Claire.  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.  A Thrift Shop Style Show in conjunction with Anniversary Sunday was an idea that was received with a lot of enthusiasm.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Endowment Fund has made a donation to the Free Lunch for All Program to offset the monthly cost of kitchen mat service.

Lifetouch materials have been received. Photo dates are August 19 & 20 from 2 p.m. – 9 p.m. We are just waiting to set up the online scheduling. Mary Ellen Zimmerman, Elaine Coffey, and Judi Pavisich have volunteered to help.

Garage Sale/Bake Sale is June 29.  This is Official Board's major fundraiser beside the dinners (one of which was cancelled this year). Please help! Volunteers of America is scheduled to come Tuesday, July 2.

Strongsville Homecoming Parade is Wednesday, July 17. We will be asking for donations of candy.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Karen Morgan will be resigning as the clerk. A new person needs to be appointed to fulfill her term through January, 2020.

Lisa Heinrich brought us the possibility of hosting a concert by the Sanyuka Children’s Choir, comprised of orphans from Uganda. We are thinking possibly September. Ingrid Dickson moved to host them, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion passed.

Christian Ed is getting an estimate for carpet cleaning upstairs from Stanley Steemer and will also ask about getting an estimate for the carpet in the Gathering Area to present to the Trustees.

Betty Craig moved to allot $3,000 to the Operating Fund for summer expenses. Myron Costin seconded and the motion passed.

The contract for the Winter Retreat was signed and mailed. We will owe a deposit of $1,271.38 in September.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Myron Costin. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, July 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary