**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**March 26, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:06 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Adria Bond

Kristen Clotworthy

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Rev. Heidi

Lola Millhoane

Rachel Zielinski

Guests: Dick Colmery and Doug Thorn

**Minutes of the 12/26/19 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 3/26/2019:**  **Beginning balance** $3,878.14.  **Income:** Swiss Steak Dinner $3,092.00.  Holiday Open House donations $432.10.  **Expenses:** Swiss Steak Dinner food $1,128.18.  **Ending balance** **$6,274.06.**  Irene Joyce moved to accept the treasurer’s report. Betty Craig seconded and the motion was approved.

Irene Joyce was added as a signer on the Official Board account, along with Betty Craig and Sharon Heinrich.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** No report. They are on hiatus.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer sent a report about the Easter ads. Sharon Heinrich moved to pay $180 for the same size ad as last year. Lola Millhoane seconded and the motion carried.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Sally Herzog/Adria Bond reported that we currently have $6,137.38 in the bank.  We need to pay bills totaling $6,019.34 by April 1, plus we have payroll.  We have already borrowed $1,500 from savings this year.  Adria brought a chart detailing that while the average yearly contribution has gone up, the number of pledges (76) is down from the recent high in 2016 (92). More funds will be borrowed from savings until an appeal from the heads of the boards and the financial team can be made to the congregation to try to make up the shortfall.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported their list of Holy Week duties was looked at and volunteers for greeters and other jobs were divided up. Palms have been ordered and the bill will go to Diaconate. They have started selling tickets for Wing Night on Friday, May 3 and will post a list for Basket Donations this week in Pilgrim Hall. They purchased $100 GFS gift card if the Panera donations are "light" and more is needed for Coffee Hour.  If Coffee Hour people are intimidated by using the dish washing machine, they can leave the cups on Sunday after rinsing and the Wednesday crew will run the dishwasher.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Swiss Steak was a success with a profit of $1,963.82. Free Lunch for All is growing. Rev. Nayiri Karijan, our Association Minister, visited the Free Lunch for All on March 20. Papa John’s Strongsville donated 28 pizzas on March 27. Rachel and Betty will go to Dubick’s to see about purchasing a new stove. Rachel will contact Cintas and Irene will contact Merchant Linen about possibly having a service deal with the kitchen mats. Betty Craig moved to keep the profits of this year’s Swiss Steak Dinner in the Official Board account, seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion passed.

Betty moved that the Roast Pork Dinner not be rescheduled this year. Sharon Heinrich seconded and the motion carried.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that Fit Club will be revving back up. We went to see Stravinsky's opera "The Rake's Progress" at Baldwin Wallace on March 22. Rosemary is back from Florida and is filled with new exercise ideas for spring.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that the Lenten Study, *Interfaith: Being Love in the World,* continues. We received a $500 anonymous gift for Easter music. The Deaconess Foundation Dinner is May 15 and work on a new grant proposal should begin soon.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte sent a report that Mission Outreach held its first meeting this past week, looking at options for a project in November.  Along with new committee member, Tony Koussa, Judy attended the annual meeting of Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.  We will discuss ideas with the committee at our next meeting as well as talking with Reverend Heidi. New committee member, Bobbi Krisak volunteered to work on our handbook.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that Ken Mehalko and Mike Elkins are heading up a project, creating a CD featuring Native flute and more. Bob Kovatich is doing the cover art for this fundraiser, which hopes to drop after Easter. Kids choir will be singing on the 31st. Bell Choir played last Sunday. New polishing cloths and polish have been ordered and should be arriving this week. April play date to be determined. Good Friday: Combined choir with Columbia UMC. Rehearsal there on April 4. Brass and timpani for Easter: a donation from a Music supporter will be used to facilitate the hiring of guest musicians. A new date for a Spring Concert fundraiser has not yet been decided.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** Jim Heinrich reported that he is meeting with James Leek to develop a 5 year plan, which would include blower motor replacement and adjusting the reset action of the keyboard. Organ will be tuned March 28.

**Stewardship Committee:** Adria Bond reported 76 pledges totaling $129, 432.00. She and Sharon Heinrich will advise the new Stewardship Committee members about the upcoming campaign.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Kristen Clotworthy reported that $124.71 + a $20 check went to St. Herman’s House of Hospitality, from February’s Penny Sunday. March’s collection will go to UCC Disaster Ministries to assist flood victims in Nebraska and the Midwest. April’s will go to Laura’s Home. The Christian Ed Committee met at the beginning of the month and will put an interest survey to send out to members about different types of education opportunities. We are currently working on summer Sunday School lessons and sign ups. We discussed needed more acolytes and Lora Rung will be talking to her class about signing up for this opportunity. The Diaconate will hold training for all those who are interested. We would like to spruce up the Sunday school rooms with some touch up paint on the non- mural walls. In addition the carpeting upstairs is looking a little grungy so either a good cleaning or replacement is being discussed. We are discussing the structure of our future youth group and what activities we want to build in and the fundraisers we could do to support our goals.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane reported that The Thrift Shop will be closed April 4 for spring change-over. Thrift Shop would like to pay for refurbishing the Pilgrim Hall restrooms. Rachel, Irene, and Ingrid are interested in gathering bids for this project, but no work will start until the ramp project is complete. Please do not leave donations in entryways; it is a safety hazard.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that the Pilgrim Hall ramp project still being researched. Ed Sobek has detailed measurements of the area. Dale Hawk will reach out to John Rusnov with the city of Strongsville for the next steps in our project. A church member obtained a bid for a sign for $28,000 and also saw a sign priced at $14,000. Much planning will still need to be done if we are to upgrade our sign. We need city approval, congregational vision, and much more before we can move on this proposal. Dick Colmery presented his proposal for a church camera security system. We still need more research regarding what our church can afford and what we need regarding church video surveillance before we can move on this project. Pastor Heidi and Dale Hawk presented safety practices our church should adopt. Trustees will meet 4/2 instead of the 2nd Tuesday due to the Passover Seder field trip.

**Women's Fellowship:** Betty Craig will make tote bags for the annual project and donations will be collected. Pastor Heidi’s daughter is procuring 2 cases of toothbrushes and toothpaste from her dentist to donate to the church for this or any other project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Retreat** is booked for February 14-16, 2020.

Strongsville United Methodist will be using Pilgrim Hall for their Confirmation Breakfast on Sunday, May 5 from 10 a.m.

A donation of $100 has already been received.

Rachel and Dale Hawk are procuring an AED, which has Memorial money allotted, and will set up classes for people to learn how to use it. They will also get a Stop the Bleed kit for the church.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

AJ at Solar Windows and More asked for permission to do the company photo shoot in front of the church. They are being featured in an article in the Strongsville paper. He would like to make a gift of $500 to the church. Irene Joyce moved to allow the photo shoot and accept the gift, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion was approved.

Irene Joyce moved to reimburse Pastor Heidi $24.78 for a CD player for the Lenten Study.  Kristen Clotworthy seconded; motion passed.

Betty Craig moved to allot up to $200 for spring flowers around the church, seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion carried.

Dick Colmery and Doug Thorn gave a comprehensive presentation about a security camera system for the church.  The matter will be directed to the Trustees, but the general consensus of the board was that fewer cameras and only exterior ones at the exits and parking lot are needed. Finances are not in place to start this project.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:48 p.m., seconded by Jen Barry. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary