**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**October 22, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Adria Bond

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 9/24/19 meeting** were approved in a motion by Sharon Heinrich, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 9/24/2019:**  Sharon Heinrich—Beginning Balance:  **$3,200.22.**  Income:  $0.78 Interest of 9/20/19.  Expenses:  $27.00 check printing charge for 120 Official Board checks.  **Ending balance:  $3,174.00.**

 Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Tom Gaumer. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** No report.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that it is time again to consider Open House advertising. A copy of the ad we ran last year was at the meeting. He suggested we do it again with date changes. The price of the ad is the same as last year -- $539.58 and it covers homes in Strongsville, Brunswick and North Royalton. He mentioned an enhanced listing in *The Strongsville Image* magazine for people new to Strongsville. He brought copy of that magazine and an example of what we could get for $150. Betty Craig moved to pay $539.58 for the Open House ad, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion passed. Sally Herzog moved to pay $150 for the magazine listing. Sharon Heinrich seconded and the motion carried.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond and Sally Herzog reported that currently giving is up and expenses are down. Payroll will come out of the checking account at the end of the month.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that they are working on Open House preparations. Kenn & Ginny Oerkfitz will be procuring and preparing hot cocoa and cider. Sign-up sheets will be posted for volunteers. All Saints Sunday is November 5th and memorials will be dedicated. Four new brass altar vases have been ordered.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that help is needed for Turkey Dinner, which will be on November 9th. Free Lunch Program has received $1,000.00 from the Roub Family Foundation. Irene Joyce will make cards to hand out at the dinner listing the Advent events and Swiss Steak Dinner 1/18/20 and Roast Pork Dinner 3/2/20.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that they went to see *Turandot* at Cinemark on October 16. Reminder: Everyone is welcome to come and get moving on Wednesday evenings.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Heidi reported that she officiated at a wedding in Brunswick for Lynsey and Allie Oblisk, who were referred by the Strongsville United Methodist Church. Pastor Heidi has been recertified for another year. She will be attending a clergy training about ministering to veterans on October 25th and the Association Annual Meeting on November 2nd.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte sent a report that Mission Outreach has a visit scheduled Wednesday at Laura's Home.  Once we get a better feel of their needs, we can present our ideas to the Board.  At this point, we are considering supporting them as a year round project, asking the congregation to donate different items monthly to meet their needs. Also, I am scheduled to help at the Methodist Church next Wednesday with preparing the meals for their weekly bus trip to the Projects in Cleveland's west side. Need to form a plan to gift out the socks this winter.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that we are receiving continued great feedback about the music, quality and variety. People are loving the addition of Sharon Heinrich's organ playing on a regular basis, as well as guest organist Richard Densmore. Bells played this past Sunday. Many thanks to Jim Heinrich for repairing the lights upstairs, where the bells practice. Children's Choir will be singing in church this upcoming Sunday. Ingrid and Irene will help with kid's robes. Tom is looking for a solution to the large age disparity in the kid's choir, by maybe splitting the group? Chancel Choir is doing well, and has been running through unfamiliar hymns, when notified for a Sunday, to help lead the congregation. We are wondering if there will be a combined choir at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Band continues. We will be seeking help for the Christmas Jazz concert and reception Friday, Dec. 13th.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** No report

**Stewardship Committee:** Sue Gigliotti sent a report that they kicked off their campaign on October 20 by introducing our committee members as well as our theme "A Rainbow of Giving".  Each week they will reveal a color or two along with the topic we are addressing.  Bill Schneider provided buttons and handed them out to the congregation. On October 27, they will introduce Worshiping and Welcoming All (orange and yellow on the rainbow visual), and will talk about the meanings of each. They will introduce the remainder of the colors November 3rd (green, blue, purple). November 10th is Stewardship Sunday and that will wrap up the campaign. The Estimate of Giving cards will be turned in and we will celebrate the conclusion of our campaign with cake.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Kristen Clotworthy sent a report that they got one bid for painting the upstairs and are seeking more. We have a carpet cleaning bid and will next start thinking about some sort of window treatment for upstairs, maybe funded in conjunction with the Memorial or Endowment fund. Pumpkin Party was fun for all. Penny Sunday for September, $168.33, went to Sanyuka Children’s Ministries and October’s is going to UCC Disaster Relief. The "Uppity Women of the Bible" study is set to conclude next week.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that the Thrift Shop is doing well and will be open for Turkey Dinner. They would like to move forward with getting bids for refurbishing the Pilgrim Hall restrooms.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that altar vase purchases were approved by the Memorial Committee. Total will be around $400. Pear Tree planted near the outdoor worship area as a memorial for Karen Morgan. Due to the cost and structural requirements for a new ramp, other options are being explored. The Trustees approved up to $120 for purchase of a time clock for hourly employees. The church needs to communicate smoking policy regarding not smoking near entrances where smoke can re-enter the building. Gwen Salvatore cleaned the kitchen (It had been six months since her last cleaning). The board needs to decide how this will be paid for. The cleaning expense was slightly higher since we did not clean last quarter. Motions for Re-Keying the church exterior locks and cleaning the gathering area carpet and stairs were approved. The upstairs carpet will be cleaned once renovations are completed. Jim Heinrich is going to ask George Love about a concrete pad.

**Women's Fellowship:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the group will meet on Election Day, November 5, at 10am at church.  We will elect new officers, plan the Christmas Tea, and make favors for the Tea.  Any ladies who want to attend the Christmas Tea, please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.  Last month Linda Elkins led us in making pumpkin planters, which we thoroughly enjoyed.  We are very blessed to be having fun and wonderful fellowship together.  Thanks to all our participants! Style Show was a lot of fun for the spectators and the models. Special thanks to everyone who helped.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Lifetouch Photo Directories: everything has been submitted. 6 additional photos were submitted. Irene Joyce moved to pay $60, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion was approved. Folks who do not receive a free copy of the directory may purchase one for $5.

Three 50 year members were recognized. Plaques in the Gathering Area have been updated.

Thanksgiving baskets will be assembled and distributed on Monday, November 25th. Irene Joyce will contact the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank to obtain a list of people who would benefit from receiving a basket.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Official Board appointed Sharon Heinrich and Eddy Bond to the Stewardship Committee for this year only by unanimous email vote.

By email vote, the Official Board unanimously approved $180 for recognition of the volunteers of the Free Lunch program. Then money is so that each volunteer may get a shirt of their own embroidered with the God is Still Speaking logo. Ken and Ginny Oerkfitz are going to host a luncheon for the volunteers as well.

Rachel Zielinski will start to collect money for the Live Nativity animals and Sharon Heinrich will bake reward cookies.

The board members are thinking about starting to plan for a congregational picture, maybe hiring Bob Kovatich to take the photo in the spring--Mother's Day. Irene Joyce will research this project.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Ingrid Dickson. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary