**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**October 23, 2018**

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

Ted Bickley

Judy Carte

Kristen Clotworthy

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Sharon Heinrich

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Karen Morgan

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 9/25/18 meeting were** approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 10/23/2018**: Balance of $3,449.71. Income: $61.00 from the Garage Sale. Disbursements: $594.65 for Winter Retreat deposit. Irene Joyce moved to accept the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** November 13th is the Branson Country Christmas (Dinner & Show) at Carrie Cerino's

Downtown Holiday Lights Tour cancelled.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that for the annual Open House, it would cost $539 for a one/sixth page ad in the Strongsville Post, the same price as last year. he brought the ad we ran last year, which we could update for this year. The amount is well within the amount we budgeted for advertising this year. Betty Craig moved to purchase the ad, modified to include our December events. Greg Dickson seconded and the motion carried.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich and Adria Bond sent the financials for the month of October.  We have had to borrow $2,700 to cover the bills for this month but are hoping to start paying that back soon.  The only expense left for the month is a payroll for October 31st.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that items to pass out for the Christmas Open House on November 18th have been ordered.  We will be decorating the church for the Open House after church on November 11, 2018.  They also spent time at the last meeting discussing the different services coming up: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 21st at 7 p.m. (no refreshments following); Blue Christmas on Sunday, December 9th at 7 p.m.; Christmas Jazz concert on Friday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m.; Christmas Pageant followed by refreshments provided and visitor from the North on Sunday, December 16th; Christmas Eve services on Monday, December 24th at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Turkey Dinner is on November 3. Prep is on November 2. Help is needed—sign-up sheet is posted. Free Lunch for All is still doing good. Betty said that someone left chairs leaning against the freezer in the pie room. Betty moved that the portable sign is reserved exclusively for Official Board events for 25 days prior to the date of the event, unless otherwise approved by the Official Board. Kristen Clotworthy seconded and the motion carried.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that they have had pretty good attendance. On October 24th, they are meeting at South Park mall for their Opera field trip. No Fit Club on Halloween or the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that we are in the midst of a busy season, with new members, baptisms, dedications, commemorations, memorial services, and celebrations. The church needs someone to be a back up to Doug Thorn and/or Jim Heinrich at the sound board and video camera. Tom Gaumer said he would be willing to learn. A few others will be approached.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that Mission Outreach continues requesting donations for their Veterans Project.  This Sunday, October 28th, will be the final request and dedication of the collection by Rev. Heidi. The bell will toll at 11 a.m. on Veteran’s Day, November 11th.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that the Children's Choir will sing on Sunday, October 28th. Introit will be replaced by the original Stewardship song for the next three weeks. Bell Choir played last Sunday. We need just a couple more regular ringers for a complete 3 octave choir. Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be here on November 21st and we are planning to put together a combined choir. Dave Williams is singing a solo on Veteran’s Day. Special music is being planned for Veteran's Day, with an original arrangement of “America the Beautiful” by Mike Elkins. Advent music will be chosen soon. Christmas Jazz concert is on December 14th at 7:30 p.m. Help will be needed.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich sent a report that Organ Festival was October 14. Invoice for last payment was received in the mail on October 23rd.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the campaign began on October 21st and involves showing short videos during the Stewardship Moment, with a short musical congregational response immediately following the video.  Campaign concludes on November 11th, when estimate of giving cards are dedicated.  The "God's Pie" video this past Sunday was well received.

**Sunday School:** Kristen Clotworthy reported that the Sunday School Halloween party this Sunday! We will begin working on a plan for the Christmas pageant. .

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that the Thrift Shop is doing well after the floor painting and the ladies are working hard to keep up with all the donations. They could really use some helpers, including the 2nd Wednesday of the month for the Free Lunch for All Program special sale days. Lola has heard complaints about the new kitchen mats and was wondering if we wanted to go back to the old kind.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that a walkway solution is being worked on for those who park in the Pomeroy lot Sunday morning. The new sanctuary doors will be completed in a few weeks. Still working on a solution for the step and railing into Pilgrim Hall. Underground storm drain lines were scoped with a camera and jet to unblock clogs. Some areas may need further attention. Memorials will be dedicated this Sunday, October 28th in conjunction with All Saints Day. Trustees seeking volunteers to participate in 2019 church budget planning.

**Women's Fellowship:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Retreat deposit was mailed in. The Retreat is February 15th – 17th, 2019.

The Garage Sale final total was $1,697.00.

The cupboard labeling project has begun with number/letter stickers applied to the drawers/cabinets. The cupboards need to be cleaned.

**Nominating Committee:** Election tables were distributed to the committee members: Kristen Clotworthy, Sharon Heinrich, Pastor Heidi, Rachel Zielinski. Bill Schneider will receive his on Sunday.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Packing of the Thanksgiving Baskets will be on November 19th. Rachel Zielinski will have everything ready to go. Pastor Heidi has already received a few requests for receiving a basket. Church Street Ministries supplies other names of people needing one.

Open House sign up is ready and volunteers will be needed in all aspects of this event. The animals are reserved and Rachel will collect donations to defray the cost of renting them. The Open House and Live Nativity is November 18th from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Free Lunch for All will not be served on the day after Christmas, December 26th.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:14 p.m., seconded by Tom Gaumer. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary