**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**September 24, 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

Judy Carte

Kristen Clotworthy

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Lola Millhoane

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 8/27/19 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Kristen Clotworthy. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 9/24/2019:**  Beginning Balance:  $7,771.60.  No income.  Expenses:  $50.00 for two manuals on Ministry.  $3,000.00 for payback toward the $6,000.00 loan.  $1,271.38 to UCCR for Winter Retreat deposit.  $250 to Lifetouch  (10 submitted pictures @ $10 each = $100 + 3 Community Connects – set of 15 – 3 sets @ $50 each = $150.00).  **Ending balance:  $3,200.22.**  Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** Adria Bond reported that they were looking at ideas for Christmas concerts to attend.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: No report.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond and Sally Herzog reported that income is higher than last year and expenses are lower. $7,745.36 is currently in the account with payroll pending.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry, recovering from a cat bite, reported that the Diaconate is starting to make arrangements for the Open House, which will take place on November 24th.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Free lunch is going very well. We need to confirm some of the help needed for Turkey Dinner, which will be on November 9th. Prices will be $12 for adults; $6 for kids 6-12; and free for kids 5 & under.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that they went to see *La Boheme* at the Ohio Theater in September. *Turandot* at the movies and *Manon Lescaut* at the Tudor Arms are coming up. We should be back on Wednesday evenings in October.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Heidi reported that 4 new members joined. She has 2 weddings at which she is officiating this month. She stressed the importance of personally inviting people to help with tasks and projects.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that Mission Outreach has two possible projects: The first is the Blue Bus from Strongsville Methodist Church.  The Bus leaves their church every Wednesday at 4:30 for Cleveland, carrying hot prepared meals for the needy and stops at 8 different locations to hand them out. They need 8 total volunteers to make the trip from 4 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. They would also appreciate wrapped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the children for their school lunches.  Lora Rung is interested in having Sunday School class help with this.  It could be a monthly project. They would also welcome donations of socks (white preferred) as well as hats and mittens in the winter. In order to have volunteers to ride the bus, we would need someone to be the call person for our church and co-ordinate with their person in charge. The second opportunity is Laura’s Home.  This is part of City Mission and serves women and children, offering a safe place to live temporarily.  I need to communicate further with them for specific needs, besides socks which are always needed.  This also could be an ongoing project.  It is located nearby on Puritas and Rocky River Drive.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that All the Choirs are in full swing. The Music Ministry suffered a great loss, with the passing of Karen Morgan. The choir sang at her memorial service with music arranged by the late Susan Stevenson Tressa, and by Tom Foley and Mike Elkins. Sharon Heinrich played the organ. Sanyuka Children's Choir from Uganda was a success. It was incredibly inspirational. Thanks to Lisa Heinrich for bringing them here. Bell Choir will play on October 20th. Sharon Heinrich will play Karen Morgan's bells and Barb Fraunfelder has rejoined, so we are able to play all 3 octaves. Christmas Jazz concert is still scheduled for December 13th. We need to make sure to keep the sanctuary and choir loft/ altar area clutter-free. Music, folders, papers, bulletins, and extra books, etc. should not be left on pews or in the loft area. Also, we need everyone's help to not junk up the music room. Huge continued thanks to Doug Thorn for all of his logistical support and set up/tear down help. We are eternally grateful to Doug and Jim Heinrich for sound expertise. Sharon Metivier brought several boxes of music from the estate of Susan Stevenson Tressa for the church.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** Jim Heinrich reported that people enjoy having Sharon Heinrich and Richard Densmore play the organ for worship.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sue Gigliotti sent a report that the Stewardship Committee is meeting on Sundays at 9:30am to plan its fall campaign, "Building a Rainbow of Giving" with photographs of members and friends.  Brief Stewardship Moments will be presented after the morning announcements on the Sundays of October 20, 27 and November 3.  Pledge cards will be dedicated on Stewardship Sunday, November 10th.  Stewardship volunteer forms were distributed so the groups of the church can update their volunteer needs.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Kristen Clotworthy reported that the Clean out went well! Thanks to all our helpers! Sue Gigliotti likes the idea of the mural photos to honor Betty and her beautiful artwork and service to the Sunday School. Trustees have approved the paint color cream for upstairs. We are still trying to find a company to clean the carpets. Penny Sunday goes to Sanyuka Children’s Ministries. Sunday school is running smoothly. Next big event will be our whole group harvest party on October 20th. The “Uppity Women of the Bible” study has begun and is a success with more than 2 dozen attendees.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that Thrift Shop is doing well. New fall/winter merchandise is on display. Cathy Hawk has been added to the Thrift Shop account since Karen Morgan’s passing. The Thrift Shop would like to pay for bush removal and flower planting on the parking lot side of the church building.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that the Royalton Rd. house has been rented and the tenant will be moving in this week. We have a one year lease through September 30, 2020 @ $1300 per month. A prorated amount was also paid for the remainder of September.  Various projects were completed to get the house ready.  Many memorials have been deposited in memory of Karen Morgan.  We have contacted our landscaper to plant the memorial Cleveland pear tree near the outdoor worship area. At long last, the bushes around the sign will be removed by our landscaper, funded by the Diaconate. In the void left by the bushes, mums will be planted this fall followed by other flowers next spring. The ramp project for Pilgrim Hall continues as we seek alternative bids and ideas. The only bid we received so far has been for $45,000 to follow the ADA law, To follow ADA, many, many modifications would need to be made in the hallway and surrounding spaces. They have not yet found someone from the Trustees to serve on the Stewardship committee.

**Women's Fellowship:** Sharon Heinrich reported that on Tuesday, September 3 – they had fun making Cross Christmas Ornaments with Cheri Teagno.  Future programs are Tuesday, October 1 – a pumpkin planter craft with Linda Elkins; Sunday, October 13 – Style Show (with the Thrift Shop) in Pilgrim Hall after the Church Anniversary Potluck meal; Tuesday November 5 – Election of Officers, Making Favors for the Christmas Tea, and Planning the Christmas Tea.  Sunday, December 1 – Christmas Tea at 1:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.  As always, all ladies are welcome to any and all events.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Lifetouch Photo Directories: everything has been submitted. We are just awaiting a proof. Folks who do not receive a free copy of the directory may purchase one for $5.

Sanyuka Children’s Chorus was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a moving and inspirational experience.

The deposit of $1,271.38 for the Winter Retreat has been sent in.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Please tell all groups to securely store food items and take out the kitchen garbage (after combining bags) IMMEDIATELY after use. A number lock may be a good solution to the garage key displacement issue.

Jim Heinrich mentioned that a chair rail is needed behind the chairs in the choir loft because of wall damage.

50 year member names have been submitted for the plaque and should be ready this week. Also, 11 plates needed to be updated to indicate 50 year members who have passed away. Women’s Fellowship usually pays for this.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:23 p.m., seconded by Lola Millhoane. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary