**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**April 24, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:09 p.m. Rev. Heidi Denman-McDougall led the group in prayer. Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Judy Carte

Betty Craig

Tom Gaumer

Sharon Heinrich

Irene Joyce

Lori Kovatich

Rev. Heidi

Lola Millhoane

Bill Schneider

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 3/27/18 meeting were** approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sharon Heinrich, with the following correction: the elimination of specific amounts in the Church Treasurer’s report in the O.B. minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 3/27/2018**: Balance: $5,857.99. Income: $ .24 in interest; Disbursements: $103.70 for the Free Lunch Program from the Pork Dinner profits; $47.37 for Easter Breakfast expenses. Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** Linda Plain sent a list of activities for the year including Brunch at Perk Up in April, Hard Rock Casino in May, Cleveland Aquarium in June, Picnic in July, Botanical Gardens in August, Dinner & show at Carrie Cerrinos and Jilbert Winery & Brewery in September, Ohio Mart & Stan Hywet in October, Country Christmas show in November, and Downtown Holiday Lights tour in December. Contact Linda for reservations. A certain amount of people is required to hire the bus.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer had nothing new to report. Rev. Heidi has been adding lively posts with many photos to the church’s Facebook page.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that Wing Night is May 4th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Grindstone Tap House in Berea. Tickets are $25 and are on sale now; raffle baskets will be needed. A reception for Lloyd & Barb Bridle will be on April 29th, and the sacrament of communion has been moved to that Sunday as well. They have a plan to deal with the Christmas decorations upstairs. Looking toward Confirmation in May and Graduate Recognition Sunday in June.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Dinners are on hiatus and the Free Lunch program is doing well. Rachel Zielinski and Sharon Heinrich volunteered to put together a kitchen guidebook with photos, so that groups that use the kitchen will know where items are located and where they are to be returned.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that Rosemary Bechtel is back from her trip and Fit Club numbers will increase. Cherished charter member Karen Morgan is still on the mend. We had a Fit Club field trip to visit her at Parkside Villa last week.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich presented summaries of year-to-date income and expenses and discussed the differences between the figures. She and Adria Bond will be distributing quarterly statements.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that they voted to donate funds to the church’s Operating fund to help with the decline in weekly donations.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report: The next concert in the series will be Sunday, May 6th at 3 p.m. Help and donations of snacks are gratefully accepted. Money raised will go to the ORC. New bass Dave Williams has joined the choir and new ringer Linda Elkins has joined the bell choir. The bell choir will play May 6th and June 3rd and be recognized on the latter date. The choir will sing through the 2nd week of June on which day they will be recognized, then go on hiatus for the summer. Elena Taylor will coordinate the summer music program and her last Sunday with us will be August 26th; on that date, we will host a farewell reception for her. Plans are underway for finding her replacement.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich sent a report that the Pancake Breakfast made $807 from ticket sales, $160 from Key Stop sales, and $1,310 in donations for a grand total of $2,277.  Thanks to all volunteers who worked at the breakfast. The final phase of the restoration is due to be completed by the end of August/beginning of September.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog: no new update.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the committee is meeting to plan Stewardship Moments to remind people to financially support the many ministries of the church. Chester the Church Mouse may make an appearance. They are exploring exciting ideas for the upcoming campaign later in the year.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that the Penny Sunday collection will go to the Strongsville Food Bank for April. The kids are making cards and will distribute carnations on Mother’s Day. Confirmation is scheduled for May 20th, Pentecost. Volunteers will be needed to teach Summer Sunday School beginning June 3rd.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane reported that the Thrift Shop is not accepting any donations of items at present, due to an over-supply of merchandise. The ladies have been victims of stealth donators who leave items in the stairwell, violating fire code.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson sent a report that the Trustees discussed that the Stewardship campaign should be ongoing. Information has been updated for the Cuyahoga County rental property audit. The custodian will be off from 5/23/18 through 9/1/2018 and substitutes are being sought. Flower planting budget was requested by Kathie Paul of $300-$400. Also, they are considering cleanup/planting party involving church volunteers. Nothing can be in the stairwells of the Thrift Shop. Please keep clear of donations. Sanctuary painting will begin Monday, April 23rd with carpet installation to follow. Parking Lot sealing continues as weather warms. Upstairs Christmas decorations still need organizing. Job description and review needed for Nursery attendant. Church gutter downspouts and sanitary drains being checked for underground leaks. Lloyd Bridle was recognized and appreciated as this was his last meeting before moving to California.

**Women's Fellowship:** Lola Millhoane reported that on Wednesday, May 2nd, they will discuss Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu. They are planning a Tea Party on a Saturday in June for all ladies: mothers/daughters/grandmothers/friends.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that Communion will be offered THIS Sunday instead of next, for a couple of reasons: 1) It's Bridles' last week with us; and 2) Rev. Thomas, who will supply pulpit May 6 in my absence, does not feel completely comfortable serving Communion because of his physical challenges. Pastor is continuing, with Sharon's assistance, to get out and about to meet our homebound folks. Confirmation class kids will each receive a wood medallion that says "Love one another as I have loved you" and a book on prayer by Henri Nouwen when they join the church family on May 20. She and 6 others from our church attended a hospital visitation seminar. On May 9th, at the Deaconess Foundation dinner, out church will present a grant proposal for the Free Lunch program.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Additions to the church calendar: Strongsville United Methodist Church will use Pilgrim Hall on Sunday, May 6th, prior to worship, for their Confirmation Breakfast. Farewell Reception for Elena Taylor on Sunday, August 26th, after worship.

The Church Picnic will be on July 22nd at Volunteer Park and the Adult Social Club will coordinate. We may still have an outdoor worship service on our grounds sometime this summer.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rachel Zielinski will reserve our church’s spot for the Strongsville Homecoming Parade, scheduled for July 25th.

The marble sills from the old church windows have been saved and ideas for repurposing them were discussed, including bench tops for the Outdoor Worship Space or cutting boards.

Sharon Heinrich moved to allot up to $400 for flowers for the church. Lori Kovatich seconded and the motion carried.

Betty Craig moved to designate $3,000 for the church’s operating expenses. Jennifer Barry seconded and the motion passed.

Sharon Heinrich moved to recommend to the Trustees that we accept a donation of a picnic table to be place outside the kitchen. Betty Craig seconded and the motion was approved.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:31 p.m., seconded by Lola Millhoane. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary