**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**August 22, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:11 p.m. Kenn Oerkfitz led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Judy Carte Betty Craig Ingrid Dickson Sally Herzog Irene Joyce Lola Millhoane

Kenn Oerkfitz Joyce Reed Bill Schneider Cheryl Sobek Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 7/25/17 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Lola Millhoane. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 8/22/17**: Last month’s balance: $2,222.91. No activity. No report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer sent a report reiterating last month’s information.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Kenn Oerkfitz reported that all bills are paid and finances are good through the summer because of the lack of a minister. Plans should be made to address stewardship and membership.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that the Free Lunch Program continues and volunteers are sorely needed. The $5,000 grant was received from the Deaconess Foundation.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that pulpit supply is set through October 1st with Rev. Mendle Adams on 9/3, Rev. Oommen Thomas on 9/10, a special guest speaker from Afghanistan on 9/17, and Rev. Larry Craig on 9/24. Heidi Denman McDougall has accepted the position of interim/designated minister and will begin her service on October 1st. Until she completes a polity class, she will be unable to serve communion or perform baptisms. The Diaconate is still exploring the idea of a permanent pavilion structure on the church’s property. The church’s CCLI will be renewed. Pins are being ordered for the 200th Anniversary; the Diaconate will cover half the cost. Sally Herzog moved that the Official Board pay the $330 balance for the pins. Betty Craig seconded and the motion was approved.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that they have silent auction baskets representing Mexico, China, Poland, Italy, Great Britain, Germany, and The Czech Republic, plus baskets for kids ready for October display. In November, they will work with Warriors Journey Home out of the Heritage Congregational Church in Berea. Neighbors in Need offering will take place in October.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that choir and bell choir rehearsals begin August 31st and new & returning singers/ringers are welcome. Elena Taylor will direct the bell choir for the time being. Thanks to Jim Heinrich for replacing the cracked discs on three of the bells. The choir begins its season on Rally Day, September 10th. The search continues for a choral accompanist. Ads are out and they’ve had a few auditions so far. The quality and variety of music was appreciated during the summer. Thank you to Elena Taylor for a great job.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** No report.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog reported that the church’s profile is complete and it, along with our marketing statement, has been sent to UCC for dissemination. Rita Root is the new contact person with the UCC.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich sent a report that the Stewardship Campaign kick-off is October 22nd, followed by brief Stewardship Moments on October 29th and November 5th, then the dedication of pledges on November 12th. Pledges will be accepted through the end of the year and a running tally of the number of pledge cards received and the dollar amounts will be published.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that future Penny Sundays will be dedicated to our own Sunday School, the Free Lunch Program, and other charities. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to teach a summer Sunday School class. Donations will be needed for the Bake Sale at the Garage Sale on September 9th. Rally Day is September 10th. Fall curriculum has been ordered, including Confirmation books.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane reported that they are having bag sales and will also have one during the Garage Sale.

**Trustees**: Greg Dickson sent a report that Church Furnace and AC inspection for Fall 2017 will include inspections for the two rental properties. Thank you Eddy Bond. Strongsville United Methodist Church will rent the tent for an August 27th pig roast. They will donate $200.00 deposit to the free lunch program. They will pick up the tent Monday or Tuesday so ABC can set it up for the weekend. Tent also offered for sale to the Methodist church, $2000 or best offer with a credit for their $200 donation to our free lunch program. Jim Heinrich repaired the sanctuary ceiling fans. Thank you to Jim and to Lloyd Bridle for repairing the chipped foundation facing Royalton Road. Royalton Road tenants communicated to Greg Dickson they will be back from traveling next week sometime and are interested in renewing their lease. Trustees are working on parking lot and steeple lights and Thrift shop basement issues: lighting, new battery for back up sump pump. Royalton Road cleanup TBD in September when it cools down. Also, the have a goal to have front outside entrance areas painted and have loose bricks repaired. Ed Sobek submitted a painting bid for the minister's office. Jim Dettmer volunteered to help paint and handle it. Timing will be coordinated with the Diaconate. Parking lot crack filling project will be completed this fall and financed through gains earned from the Endowment Fund. Sealing the parking lot will be late fall or next spring depending on conditions and finances

**Women's Fellowship:** The ladies will meet on September 6th.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**200th Anniversary** Joyce Reed reported that the ornaments are in and pins are being ordered, with all other aspects of the luncheon, including ticket sales being planned. Joyce distributed an update sheet of the projects. Almost all of the tickets have been purchased already. Elena Taylor and Ken Mehalko are planning special music and the Diaconate is discussing ideas for a special worship service. Communion will celebrated on October 15th.

The Church Garage Sale will be held on September 9th, with set up on September 6th – 8th. Donations will be accepted starting on August 13th. Help will definitely be needed, as the Official Board’s treasury is low.

An ad hoc committee tasked with overseeing redecorating and refurbishing several rooms in the church is to meet on August 27th, the committee includes Ken Mehalko, Sandy Gleichauf, Cheryl Sobek, Ingrid Dickson, and Irene Joyce. Input will be sought from Heidi McDougall to determine where she would like her office to be located.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

An idea was brought to the church about starting a prison ministry. Mission/Outreach cannot take on this project at the present time, but will possibly consider doing so in the future.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Cheryl Sobek. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary