**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**February 28, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:09 p.m. Pastor Becky led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Ted Bickley Adria Bond Betty Craig Tom Gaumer Sally Herzog Irene Joyce

Melinda Slavik Jack Stephenson Rev. R.A. Stephenson Cheryl Sobek Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 1/24/16 meeting** were approved with a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 2/28/17**: Balance of $2,976.43. Income: $.19 in interest; $2,325.00 from Retreat payments; and $117.00 from cookbook sales; $2,349.00 from Swiss Steak ticket sales; $116.00 from Swiss Steak food sales. Disbursements: $876.12 for Swiss Steak dinner expenses; $3,290.70 for Winter Retreat. Irene Joyce moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer and Jack Stephenson reported that they implementing the scaling back of expensive *Strongsville Post* ads and focusing on Facebook and other free means of advertising. We will still be included in the *Post*’s directory for Easter, the Open House, and Christmas. Thanks to Kelly Bickley for Facebook ads.

**Christian Education Committee**: The Journey in Faith class begins March 1st through April 5th with new members being received on April 9th. Sunday evenings will be the Jesus & the Movies II series, beginning March 5th at 5:30 p.m. with soup and bread, followed by viewing and discussion of the movies viewed.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond distributed detailed financial reports and answered questions. She reported that giving in February was low, but hopes that people will make up their pledges in March.

**Dinners:** Betty Craig reported that the Swiss Steak Dinner profit was $1,586.88, of which $158.86 will go to the Free Lunch program. The Roast Pork Dinner is on March 4th. Volunteers on the day of the dinner are needed. Ticket sales for all the dinners have been down, so pricing and advertising strategies will be discussed before the November dinner.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that new altar cloths and altar Plexiglas have been ordered. Wing Night will be on Friday, May 5th at Grindstone Tap House on Front Street in Berea. Basket donations are needed. The Diaconate continues to give chalices to new members and baptism books to the families of those baptized. They are in the process of lining up pulpit supply when Pastor Becky departs. Rachel Zielinski will check into having an AED on premises.

**Mission Outreach:** No report

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that the new choir robes and stoles should debut on Palm Sunday. Joe Williams has been hired as choral accompanist. Lenten music is being prepared; we will have brass and timpani on Easter. The tonechimes have been refurbished and returned. The next Arts in Strongsville benefit concert will be on March 19th at 3 p.m., followed by a reception.

**Organ Restoration Committee**: No report

**Search Committee:** Transition Team is Kelly Bickley, Lloyd Bridle, Tom Gaumer, Cathy Hawk, Ginny Oerkfitz, and Lora Rung and have begun their meetings, with many scheduled. Bob Richardson is our Transition Coach.

**Stewardship Committee:** No report

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that the Sunday School has an opportunity to have a painting of the church made by local artist Joan Satow as a gift to the church for our 200th Anniversary. Substitute teachers will be sought and Kelly Bickley volunteered to put together “emergency” lesson kits. Thanks to Lora Rung for teaching the combined class on Retreat Sunday. Sue Gigliotti will be asked to oversee the Easter Egg Hunt once again.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that the Shop will have bag sales for 3 weeks prior to the spring changeover.

**Trustees**: The Thrift Shop paid for the first half of the ADA restroom project. Bill Guiliano has been working with the contractor to obtain permits and work will begin shortly thereafter. Estimated construction time is around 2 weeks. Greg Dickson and Jim Heinrich will serve as co-chairs. Many projects are on hold until spring. Melinda Slavik stopped in to ask about her planting subcommittee, including procedures for reimbursement and staying on budget.

**Women's Fellowship:** It’s looking doubtful that the ladies will sell candy for Easter because, although people signed up to help, there are not enough experienced volunteers to make this project happen.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Becky reported that the trip to the Holy Land was a memorable experience for all who went. She has several baptisms, funerals, and weddings lined up. Her retirement celebration will be April 23rd.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The 200th Anniversary Committee has reserved a room at the Senior Center for the banquet. More details will follow.

The Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills was a great success. Thank you to Charles & Aimee Jannsohn for coordinating it. The Retreat is likely to go back to Templed Hills next year.

The e-mail vote to allot up to $200.00 for the Annual Meeting Pancake Breakfast was approved following a motion by Betty Craig, which had been seconded by Irene Joyce.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Betty Craig moved to allot $150.00 for the Easter Breakfast. Irene Joyce seconded and the motion was approved.

Betty Craig moved to reimburse Rachel Zielinski for Sally Herzog’s “thank you for stepping in as Moderator when we really needed you” gift. Cheryl Sobek seconded and the motion was approved.

The board entered into Executive Session to discuss the formulation of the Pulpit Search Committee, following formal adjournment.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Cheryl Sobek. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary