**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**February 27, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:04 p.m. Irene Joyce led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Ted Bickley

Adria Bond

Judy Carte

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Sharon Heinrich

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Lori Kovatich

Bill Schneider

Claire Wills

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 1/23/18 meeting were** approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried. Thank you to Sharon Heinrich for taking the minutes last meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 2/27/2018**: Balance: $5,105.18. Income: $ .44 in interest; $90.00 from Winter Retreat payments; $2,121.00 from the Swiss Steak Dinner ticket sales; $181.50 from food sales. Disbursements: $183.96 for new roasters; $965.24 for Swiss Steak Dinner expenses; $130.72 for the Annual Meeting Pancake Breakfast; $140.00 Retreat refund; $3,482.45 for the Winter Retreat. Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that he will place an ad for Holy Week services in the *Strongsville Post*. Irene Joyce moved to spend up to $200 from their budgeted amount in the church’s General Fund. Ted Bickley seconded and the motion was approved.

**Christian Education:** No report. (Lenten study of *The Shack* began February 18th.)

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that January’s Penny Sunday collection brought in $117.05 for replenishing the money spent on the National Youth Advocacy Program and Memorial School in December. $99.48 was collected in February’s Penny Sunday and will go to Providence House, a crisis nursery in Cleveland. March’s collection will go to St. Malachi’s Metanoia Project, which helps the homeless. The Sunday School kids voted on these charities. Kids will process to *Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock* on Palm Sunday and have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Confirmation is scheduled for May 20th, Pentecost.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that the Roast Pork Dinner is March 10th. Help is needed, and we have to remind folks to sign up. The Free Lunch Program is doing well, with a couple of regular helpers due to return soon. A question was raised about using paper plates for desserts at the dinners. We will try using paper plates for the items that need to be marked, such as sugar free pies and items with dyes in them, like cake frosting.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that Wing Night is May 4 (first Friday in May) from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Grindstone Tap House in Berea (where the event was held last year). Tickets will be sold after the Roast Pork Dinner and raffle baskets will be needed. Jennifer is the new chair; Sarah Hayes is vice-chair; Marty Winch is the treasurer and Cathy Hawk is the secretary.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that Fit Club has had good attendance, but will take a Wednesday off so that the members can go to the opera. Reminder: everyone is welcome!

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich and Adria Bond reported that all bills are paid, and financial reports were distributed.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that Brandi Garsteck is covering the “One Great Hour of Sharing” announcements. Bev Wehr is collecting monthly sponsorships for our child in India. Michele Mihlack is putting together a handbook. Gary Paul has been helping Judy with transporting food to the Food Bank. Michele also offered to assist.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report welcoming new choral accompanist, Mike Elkins and his wife, Linda. Tannis Merrimee, cellist, and Jim’s Little Big Band will present a concert March 4th, which raises money for music ministry. Tickets are $10. Choir is participating in a combined choir/orchestra piece, “Song of the Shadows,” for Good Friday at Columbia United Methodist Church. Brass and Timpani will play on Easter and will be paid for using budgeted money from the General Fund. Future music expenses will be paid for by fundraising. Choir will be off on April 8th; Elena Taylor will arrange for music. Music Committee is considering donating to the ORC. Bell Choir will play March 18th & April 15th and needs ringers! A concert of Satori Winds & Broadway Bound is set for May 6th.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich sent a report that $4,500 more is needed to complete the final phase of the project. A Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for April 15th.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog reported that they are continuing to review profiles and view videos of sermons from candidates. 41 profiles have been received and reviewed so far.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the committee is exploring themes for next year’s campaign.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that the shop is doing well and may have a bag sale at the end of the month. They are looking into ways of hanging artwork for sale that would be better for display.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that the Trustees welcomed new members Mike Clotworthy, Myron Costin, and Tom Gaumer, and new treasurer, Lori Kovatich. The board approved donating the church’s large tent to Templed Hills Camp. Sharon Heinrich and Karen Morgan are negotiating a lease on a new copier, saving $40 per month. The six sanctuary windows will be double paned, not tripled paned. Dedication of the newly installed windows is planned for April 8th. Many thanks to Bill Robinson for his generous donation of the windows. Employee reviews for the custodian and church secretary have been completed. A new commercial vacuum has been purchased. Job description and review for the Nursery Attendant is needed, which should go through the Diaconate. Trustees will meet March 6th instead of the 13th because of attendance at the Seder.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills reported that the ladies will probably not make candy for Easter.

**Minister’s Report:** Six new members join the church on March 4th: Clay Williams, Jan Stough, Rick and Cherie Teagno, and Mike and Linda Elkins. Pastor Heidi is handling the Prayer Chain. Maundy Thursday will be a short service at 7:30 p.m. at our church in the sanctuary with communion. Good Friday worship will be a joint service with Columbia United Methodist Church. We will carpool from our church. The Lenten Study on *The Shack* movie has begun. Easter Sunrise Service is at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8 a.m., and Traditional Worship at 10 a.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Retreat back at Templed Hills was a great success, despite some "rough around the edges" accommodations. Thanks to everyone for their patience and flexibility. 58 people attended (52 overnight guests), including the youngest ever at 10 days old. Reservations have been made for February 15 – 17, 2019.

Audit Committee of Rachel Zielinski, Sally Herzog, Sarah Toth, Sarah Hayes and Brandi Garsteck finished auditing all church books. Committees that raise funds will be asked to put together a financial report for the Annual Report detailing their income and disbursements, even if they do not have a separate account. Profits of the dinners will be reported correctly.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The church’s calendar for 2018 and 2019 was reviewed and dates for Official Board functions were set or confirmed. Each group is asked to bring event dates to the next meeting to be included on the calendar.

Easter Breakfast: Betty Craig volunteered to procure the eggs at a good price. Ted Bickley made a motion to allot up to $100 for Easter Breakfast expenses, seconded by Jennifer Barry. Motion carried. Ray Suttle will be asked to help as usual.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 6:30 p.m**. (PLEASE NOTE EARLIER TIME)

Irene Joyce, Secretary