**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**January 24, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Sally Herzog at 7:03 p.m. Pastor Becky led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Ted Bickley Betty Craig Sharon Heinrich Sally Herzog Irene Joyce Lori Kovatich

Kenn Oerkfitz Jack Stephenson Rev. R.A. Stephenson Claire Wills Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 12/27/16 meeting** were approved with a motion by Rachel Zielinski, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 1/24/17**: Balance of $2,236.86. Income: $0. Disbursements: $0. Irene Joyce moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Jack Stephenson reported that they are scaling back on 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. New wireless mics are sorely needed, but were not purchased last year due to budget constraints. They must wait until December for Audio-Technica’s warehouse sale to buy mics at better prices. Michele Mihlack has been updating the website and power points. Tom Gaumer will take over as chair when Jack leaves.

**Christian Education Committee**: Sharon Heinrich reported that an abbreviated Journey in Faith class will be on Wednesdays, beginning March 1st and concluding on 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 and viewing and discussion of movies possibly including *Risen*, *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Jesus of Nazareth*, and more.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich distributed detailed financial reports and thanked Barb Fraunfelder, Sharon Heinrich, and Adria Bond for helping her when she was ill, but had all the end-of-the-year work to get done. Adria Bond will officially take over as Financial Secretary on February 1st. Thank you to Lori for her service. Kenn Oerkfitz reported that payroll has been met and bills are paid for this month.

**Dinners:** Betty Craig reported that the Swiss Steak Dinner is February 4th. Volunteers on the day of the dinner are needed, but more help is needed for food preparation/set-up on the day before. GFS Go Points amounted to about $800 and Betty purchased supplies for the Swiss Steak Dinner. Points are earned any time someone shops at GFS and mentions our church.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek sent a report that the Diaconate is still researching new altar cloths. The Thrift Shop or Memorial Fund will finance the purchase of new cloths. Wing Night is being planned for May 5th at Grindstone Tap House on Front Street in Berea. Basket donations are needed. Reverend Joe Santomen will fill in for Pastor Becky on February 12th & 19th.

**Mission Outreach:** No Report

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that the choir robes are awaiting steaming and the arrival of the stoles from the embroiderer. Thanks to everyone's generosity, enough money was collected to refurbish the tonechimes and the bells in addition to purchasing the robes. A couple of inquiries have come in regarding the accompanist position, but they are still searching for more ways to get the word out. Auditions will be scheduled for the people who have expressed an interest in the position. Elena Taylor will fill in for Barb Fraunfelder during Barb's absence in February and March. Barb will be stepping down as bell choir director at the end of this season. Sunday's concert by violinist Mary Beth Ions and Jim's Little Big Band featuring vocalist Cindy Smith was a success. $868 was collected in the free will offering, $150 of which goes to Mary Beth Ions. Arts in Strongsville gave $200 for Jim's Little Big Band. Thank you to the Heinrichs, Dicksons, Keenens, and Joyces for putting on the reception. The next concert will be on March 19th.

**Organ Restoration Committee**: Jim Heinrich sent a report that he is contacting Jim Leek to determine the final steps needed to complete restoration.

**Search Committee:** Focus has been on assembling the Transition Team. Kelly Bickley, Lloyd Bridle, Tom Gaumer, Cathy Hawk, Ginny Oerkfitz, and Lora Rung have agreed to serve. Bob Richardson will be our Transition Coach and a meeting is to be scheduled before the end of January.

**Stewardship Committee:** No Report

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that every kid received offering envelopes. This past Sunday, we tripled the amount of envelopes we usually receive (from 2 to 6). The Sunday School will host a movie watching party for all the kids during the Annual Meeting, complete with snacks and blankets. Spring curriculum has arrived.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that all is well with the Thrift Shop.

**Trustees**: Rachel Zielinski reported that upcoming goals for the year include improving handicapped accessibility throughout the church building, expansion of the inspection program, and improving the aesthetics of the church. The bathroom plan will be presented at the Annual Meeting, including the bids received and the proposal to use the equity line of credit to finance the project. Thank you to Lori Kovatich and Barb Fraunfelder for their work as Adria Bond steps into the role of Financial Secretary. Also, thanks to the departing Trustees for their service.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills reported that the ladies are on hiatus during the winter months. If they are to sell candy for Easter, they will need a great deal more help to organize, sell, and make it.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Becky reported that about 10 people from our church are going to the Holy Land in February.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The 200th Anniversary Committee sent an update that Ginny Oerkfitz and Cheryl Sobek will continue to place historical articles in the newsletter. Bruce Keenen has reserved a room at the Strongsville Rec Center for the Anniversary Banquet but no decision has yet been made regarding a caterer or other details. Still deciding on 200th Anniversary ornaments.

The Nominating Committee has a list of candidates for the various church officer positions. Many committees are filled. However, Christian Education, Stewardship, and Mission & Outreach need people most urgently.

The Audit Committee has audited all accounts except for the General Fund and Mission Committee.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 29th, 2017, preceded by the Pancake Breakfast. Sally Herzog and Rachel Zielinski will put together slides to assist with information at the meeting, including the transition models and the bathroom plans.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sharon Heinrich will be going to Alabama for four days in the near future to retrieve her mother-in-law. During her absence, Lori Kovatich will substitute in the church office.

Profound thanks to Sally Herzog for stepping in as moderator after Kim McKenzie abruptly resigned.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Jack Stephenson. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary