**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**January 23, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:08 p.m. Rev. Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Ted Bickley

Adria Bond

Ed Bond

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich

Sally Herzog

Rev. Heidi

Lola Millhoane

Bill Schneider

Cheryl Sobek

Claire Wills

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 11/28/17 meeting were** approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 1/23/2018**: Balance: $7,614.61. Income: $2,925.00 from Winter Retreat payments. Disbursements: $0. Sally Herzog moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that Jim Heinrich and Doug Thorn bought two new cordless microphones in December. Irene Joyce updated the television screens for this month.

**Christian Education:** No report.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce emailed her report. Jamie Trinckes will teach a combined lesson on Retreat Sunday, February 18. Spring curriculum will be ordered soon. We need to figure out payment since we no longer have the source at UCC to deliver the curriculum and bill the church. We could pick up the curriculum, but we need to discuss this with Irene Joyce. Penny Sunday on December 31 collected $158.22 for Sunday School’s contributions to the National Youth Advocacy Program and Memorial School. January’s money will also go toward replenishing the money from the donations to these causes.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that the Swiss Steak Dinner is February 3. Help is needed, and more advertising is needed because ticket sales are down. The dinner is advertised on Facebook. The dinner will also be advertised on the Chamber electronic sign. The church’s outdoor sign was lettered for the Swiss Steak Dinner—thanks to Myron Costin and Jim Heinrich, and the sign was moved for more visibility. The Free Lunch Program is doing well. Attendance has been down due to the cold weather, but the response to our request for help has been good. Pastor Heidi’s Chuck is now making soup!

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek 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). Cheryl is going off the Diaconate, so next month the Diaconate will have a new representative at Official Board.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce emailed a report that the club had record attendance last Wednesday—with an international flavor! The Pogozelskis’ exchange student from France, Carla, exercised with the group. The club also had three generations of one family walking. Reminder: everyone is welcome!

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond reported that all bills are paid, and she distributed financial reports. The 2018 budget reflects a 2 percent (cost of living) increase over what was spent last year. The budget shows what is in the Operations account, not what was paid by individual church organizations. The budget will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting, and an additional $23,000 is needed for 2018. Ed Bond stressed the need to increase church membership to help with income, and discussion ensued that Official Board could work on membership ideas in February. Adria explained the Balance Sheet. Cheryl Sobek moved to transfer the Thanksgiving Basket Fund balance of $1,326.92 to the Food Program Fund (Wednesday Free Lunch). Betty Craig seconded, and the motion carried.

**Mission Outreach:** No report.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that Eli Manos’ last day as choral accompanist was January 14, and we wish him well. New choral accompanist, Mike Elkins, starts Thursday, January 25; and we welcome him and his wife Linda. Sadly, Elena Taylor announced that she and her family are moving to New Jersey at the end of August. We thank her immensely for her service and appreciate her ample notice of her leaving. Music ministry’s positions will be restructured for new personnel. Currently the church budget indicates $22,000 for music salaries; but the actual cumulative spending is closer to $26,000. Positions/duties must include Organist/Choral Accompanist, Chancel Choir Director, Bell Choir Director, Praise Band Director, Children’s Choir Director, Director of Music. These duties may be divided among two or three persons. Over the next two months, job descriptions will be revamped and reworked to begin vetting candidates to fill these positions. Fundraising concerts for our music ministry will be held on March 4 and May 6. Lenten and Easter music is being planned. Bell Choir needs ringers!

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich reported that the Organ Restoration Fund is close to having enough funds to complete the restoration. The committee would like to begin the final phase of restoration this year—hopefully after Easter and before summer.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog explained that the committee is still reviewing profiles and viewing videos of sermons. The committee has been functioning for five months and is on schedule, not behind in its work.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich said that 71 pledges have been received for a total of $119,408. Thanks to all who pledged. The committee will be exploring themes for next year.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola reported that the shop is doing fine and has lots of merchandise. The ladies are talking about having the shop open one Sunday for members to be able to shop.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that memorials were received for Robert Heinrich, Albert and Elsie Ruman, and Don Bushea. The Memorial Fund paid for the sanctuary side room annex lights; painting around the lights is needed. The Endowment Fund will be an investor in the Royalton Road house and will receive a dividend or interest payment TBD in March 2018. Investment of $27,906.29 was used to pay back the private investor. Endowment Fund is researching investment options. Sanctuary carpet and painting proposals are separate items for the annual meeting. Church usage fee schedule will be updated. Concerns were communicated regarding the settling of Pilgrim Hall foundation (wall cracks, door frames). Employee communications reviews will begin in December—first is the custodian. Feedback is appreciated for areas of improvement. Walkway between the Pomeroy lot and church sidewalk is not our property—our snow plow person will shovel this as a courtesy. The next Trustees meeting is February 13 at 7:00 p.m. Trustees are now meeting the second Tuesday of the month.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills said that Rosemary Bechtel is the new Women’s Fellowship chairperson. The group’s Cheese Ball Fundraiser in December was a success.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that the interview with choral accompanist, Mike Elkins, went very well.

Good Friday worship will be a joint service with Columbia United Methodist Church—at their church’s location at Royalton Road and West River Road from 8:15 p.m. to about 9:00 p.m. The Tenebrae Service is a service of shadows—a very emotional experience with a 25-piece orchestra and 30-40 people in the choir. We need to start advertising the service. Marcia Wonnacott, their Music Director, provided 15 copies of the music for our choir members. Hopefully our choir will also be able to use the music in worship at our church. After the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, a reception of finger sandwiches and veggie trays will be held. Our church is responsible for finger desserts—cookies and brownies. Pastor Heidi hopes we all support this ecumenical service. We will carpool from our church.

Maundy Thursday will be a short service at 7:00 p.m. at our church.

Pastor Heidi is planning to take in new members and that they will have sponsors to answer their questions and help integrate them into the congregation. Potential members and their sponsors are Clay Williams (Rob Toth), Jan Stough (Betty Craig), Rick and Cherie Teagno (sponsors?), and Mike and Linda Elkins (sponsors?). Pastor Heidi will meet with them on a Sunday after church, when they will talk about “where we are and why we are here”—to get to know each other better.

The Lenten Study on *The Shack* movie will begin on Sunday, February 18, at 12:00 noon when the movie will be viewed in Pilgrim Hall. The study will continue for four or five more weeks. A light lunch will be provided.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Retreat is February 16-18 at Temple Hills Camp. Irene Joyce and Rachel Zielinski are leading the retreat, and 54 overnight guests are confirmed with 6-8 people planning to come for the day on Saturday. Sally Herzog made a motion that Official Board will pay $40 for two children to attend the Retreat. Betty Craig seconded, and the motion carried. Reservations are now closed.

Nominating Committee is working to fill the vacancies on the board and committees. Almost all those who are eligible for re-election have agreed to serve an additional term.

Audit Committee of Rachel Zielinski, Sally Herzog, Sarah Toth, Sarah Hayes and Brandi Garsteck reviewed all church books and are still working on one report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Annual Meeting Pancake Breakfast: Pancake flippers are Ted Bickley, Myron Costin, Bill Giuliano, and Chuck McDougall. Betty Craig made a motion to allot up to $150 for Pancake Breakfast expenses. Cheryl Sobek seconded. Motion carried.

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, February 27, 2018, at 7 p.m**. Sharon Heinrich for Irene Joyce