**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**July 25, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:10 p.m. Sally Herzog led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Ted Bickley Judy Carte Betty Craig Greg Dickson Ingrid Dickson Tom Gaumer Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich Sally Herzog Irene Joyce Joyce Reed Bill Schneider Cheryl Sobek Claire Wills Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 6/27/17 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 7/25/17**: Balance: $2,222.91. Income: $0. Disbursements: $116.23 for outdoor flowers; $107.00 for Free Lunch equipment; $53.99 for Church Picnic supplies. Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that $900 of the technology budget is reserved for purchasing sound equipment at the Audio Technica sale in December. Computer updates may be another expense. Updates for the slides on the church TVs may be given to Michele Mihlack, for the website to Irene Joyce, and for Facebook, either to Kelly Bickley or Irene Joyce. Thanks to Irene for the time spent updating the website.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Kenn Oerkfitz and Adria Bond sent detailed financial reports. $5,000 has been saved over the summer because of the lack of a permanent minister. The church is $14,000 behind in giving and plans should be made to address stewardship and membership.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that she single handedly collected $145 from donations for use of our parking lot during the Strongsville Homecoming. Thank you to Betty! The Free Lunch Program continues and volunteers are always needed. A $5,000 grant was received from the Deaconess Foundation, but the funds are not yet in hand. Some kitchen equipment may be replaced using the credit from Dubek’s Restaurant Equipment.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that pulpit supply is set through September 10th with Rev. Joe Santomen, Rev. Mendle Adams, Rev. Oommen Thomas, and Rev. Heidi McDougall. Several church members will do Children’s Sermons. The Interim Search Committee extended an offer to a candidate, but he did not accept the position. Rev. Becky Stephenson will conduct a memorial service for Zach Williams on October 14th. The Diaconate discussed possibly building a permanent pavilion structure on the church’s property. Many obstacles exist, but they will explore the idea.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that they will have a silent auction basket fundraiser, rather than a raffle, on October 22nd. Other projects they are discussing include helping veterans, crime victims, and Church Street Ministries.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that summer music has been well-received and the summer Sundays have been filled. They will be meeting soon.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** No report.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog distributed printed copies of the Church Profile for the Board’s review. Thank you to the committee members for their diligent work on this lengthy document. Jim Heinrich made a motion to accept the profile with a few minor modifications. Betty Craig seconded and the motion was approved. It will be sent to the Western Reserve Association as the next step in the process.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that they have been meeting monthly and are planning to host a concentrated stewardship campaign starting October 22nd and concluding with the dedication of pledges on November 12th.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that $89.73 (plus a $10 check) was collected for the Wink Foundation. Future Penny Sundays could be dedicated to our own Sunday School or the Free Lunch Program. Still a few Sundays left in August to teach a summer Sunday School class. The Christian Education Committee will be meeting to plan this fall’s Confirmation Class. Donations will be needed for the Bake Sale at the Garage Sale on September 9th. Rally Day is September 10th.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that sales are going well. Any large items they collect go to the Garage Sale.

**Trustees**: Greg Dickson reported that the church furnace and a/c have been inspected and approved. The final balance of the restroom ($7,684.90) was paid through Endowment Fund gains. The Strongsville United Methodist Church is renting our tent for a $200 donation to the Free Lunch Program. The Trustees are also working on parking lot and steeple lights and Thrift Shop basement issues. Thanks to the Thrift Shop for clearing the stairwell area. The lease for the Royalton Road tenants is pending. Clogged downspouts were cleaned and the recommendation for new gutters would cost around $5,200 and would require research into logistics and funding, plus a congregational vote. Ken Mehalko will serve on an ad hoc committee to refurbish some of the church’s interior rooms. A Royalton Road property clean up party should take place in September, along with maybe painting the front entrance areas and repairing loose bricks. Eddy Bond and other trustees suggested that we need to do more with membership and stewardship.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills reported that the ladies will meet on September 6th. 60 tote bags were donated to the Strongsville Food Bank.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**200th Anniversary** Joyce Reed brought a tentative list of invited guests for the 200th Anniversary banquet. Most of the invitees have been sponsored by church members. Sharon Heinrich moved to approve the list as amended, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion was approved. $1,344.77 is the profit from sale of the cookbook. This money is to be used for the Anniversary Celebration.

Cheryl Sobek mentioned that the Church Picnic should be better organized next year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Strongsville Homecoming Parade on July 19th, particularly Rachel Zielinski and Karen Morgan who headed up this event and came in under budget.

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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

An ad hoc committee tasked with overseeing redecorating and refurbishing several rooms in the church is to include Ken Mehalko, Sandy Gleichoff, Cheryl Sobek, Kelly Bickley, Ingrid Dickson, and Irene Joyce.

Sharon Heinrich was contacted by a man from Afghanistan who speaks to churches about his journey to Christianity. Cheryl Sobek will bring the information to the Diaconate with the possibility of having him speak during a future worship service.

Greg Dickson and Jim Heinrich asked each of the groups for their thoughts on selling the tent. Please bring feedback to the next meeting.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:42 p.m., seconded by Jim Heinrich. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary