**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**June 27, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:07 p.m. Kenn Oerkfitz led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Ted Bickley Betty Craig Greg Dickson Ingrid Dickson Brandi Garsteck Irene Joyce Lola Millhoane Kenn Oerkfitz Joyce Reed Cheryl Sobek Claire Wills Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 4/25/17 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Greg Dickson. **Minutes of the 5/23/17** meeting were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Lola Millhoane. Both motions carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 6/27/17**: Balance: $2,501.12. Income: $ .20 in interest; $12.00 from a cookbook sale. Disbursements: $300 for 200th Anniversary Banquet hall deposit; $814.04 for Pastor Becky & Jack’s retirement party; $30.00 for U.C.C. resource book. Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Michele Mihlack trained Tom Gaumer and Irene Joyce on updating the church’s website. Irene Joyce updated all pages of the website, adding current information, graphics, and photographs. Irene and Kelly Bickley have continued to make the church’s presence known on Facebook.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Kenn Oerkfitz reported that bills are being paid and the church is saving money on payroll since Pastor Becky’s departure. However, income will need to increase in order to compensate a new minister.

**Dinners:** Betty Craig reported that the Free Lunch Program continues and she collected $91.00 for the program from manning the parking lot during the Strongsville Rib Cook-Off. Betty, Kenn Oerkfitz, Lola Millhoane, Rachel Zielinski, and others will be lined up to collect donations during the Strongsville Homecoming event in July. Thank you to Betty! Betty and Rachel traded the old steam table and meat slicer at Dubek’s Restaurant Supply for $700 and obtained trays, cup racks, a mixer cart, and several other needed items with a $175 credit still remaining. Kenn bought a new food processor. New dish towels are needed.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that pulpit supply is set through August 13th with Rev. Joe Santomen, Rev. Mendle Adams, Rev. Oomen Thomas, and Rev. Heidi McDougall. Several church members will do Children’s Sermons. They are still in search of an interim and have been conducting interviews with candidates. So far, a match has not been found.

**Mission Outreach:** Brandi Garsteck reported that Mission Outreach will have a raffle basket fundraiser with the theme of “Around the World,” selling tickets through the drawing date, October 22nd. They discussed care packages for veterans and hospitalized veterans. They are also looking into partnering with Prayers for Maria, a childhood brain cancer charity, and A Voice for the Innocent, which serves rape and abuse victims.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that the search for a new choral accompanist continues now that Elena Taylor and Pam Keened have returned from their travels. Thank you to Sharon Heinrich and Ken Mehalko for providing music while Elena was away. The summer music schedule is set with guest instrumentalists and vocalists. Only August 27th remains to be filled as of this meeting date.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Still anticipating a report on the status of the work remaining.

**Search Committee:** Ingrid Dickson and Ted Bickley reported that they have been meeting weekly to complete the church profile and anticipate the completion of that important task by the end of July. Survey forms are still being collected. The committee published an update explaining the process of calling a minister so that the congregation is informed. They will meet again on July 2nd to continue their work. Sally Herzog is the new chair.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich sent a report that their next meeting is July 9th. Please let Sharon know if you have someone to nominate for the “Stewardship Corner” in the newsletter where people are thanked for helping the church.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that the Sunday School distributed Tootsie Pops on Father’s Day. On July 2nd, we will have a special Penny Sunday to collect money for the Wink Foundation in honor of Annette Karr and her one-eyed dog, Wink, who visited our church on June 11th. Still plenty of Sundays left to sign up for teaching a summer Sunday School class. The Pre-School/Primary class will be moving upstairs in the fall.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane reported that the Thrift Shop is going strong. They donate clothing that they do not sell to an organization in Cleveland that distributes free clothing to the needy.

**Trustees**: Greg Dickson reported that a compensation package for an Interim/Designated Pastor has been established. Pilgrim Hall fans will be cleaned soon and the fans in the sanctuary are turned off until repairs can be done. They will discuss the Strongsville United Methodist Church’s request to borrow our tent. The new project form is now in use. Kathie Paul is using it to document her flower purchases. Expenditures over $500 will require bids. The stairways need to be kept clear for fire safety. Items blocking the staircases on the Royalton Road side of the church will need to be removed. Biljana is filling in for Jovo as custodian. Parking lot and steeple lights will be replaced and clogged downspouts cleaned out. A Royalton Road property work party will be scheduled for a Saturday morning in the near future. Gina Gigliotti has completed the outdoor worship garden and will turn it over to the church to maintain.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills reported that the ladies are on hiatus until September, but Crystal Jardine’s program on funeral planning was well received at the last meeting. Fundraisers in the works include selling pre-ordered cheese balls with tasting and ordering on November 26th and delivery on December 10th, plus they are considering selling a limited selection of candy during the Advent season.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**200th Anniversary** Joyce Reed reported that the banner/flag will be displayed in front of the church. Joyce has talked to Tom Gaumer about placement and installation. They are trying to keep the cost of the banquet affordable and are considering offering sponsorships or donor levels so that guests and speakers do not have to pay for their meals and so that commemorative gifts may be given to all attendees. There will be a discounted price for children at the banquet. Another project will be an outreach effort to collect small Christmas gifts for adults to be given to the Strongsville Food Bank for distribution.

Thanks to Betty Craig and Sharon Heinrich for overseeing the picnic when the other usual people were unable to attend. The board discussed moving the date of the Church Picnic to later in the summer next year.

A new date for the Garage Sale will be determined prior to the next meeting.

Claire Wills asked about Pastor Becky’s $3 Project last Advent. It was successful, but there is no plan in place to repeat it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Irene Joyce moved to allot $200 toward expenses for participation in the Strongsville Homecoming Parade on July 19th. Betty Craig seconded and the motion carried. Rachel Zielinski will secure a trailer and head up this project.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Ted Bickley. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

**Thank you to the members of the Official Board who are willing to meet throughout the summer even though we usually have a 2 month break. Your dedication during this time of transition is appreciated.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary