**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**May 22, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:19 p.m. Rev. Heidi Denman-McDougall led the group in prayer. Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Rosemary Bechtel

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich

Irene Joyce

Rev. Heidi

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 4/24/18 meeting were** approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Jennifer Barry. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 5/22/2018**: No report. (Ted had indicated no activity)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** Linda Plain sent a list of activities for the year including the Cleveland Aquarium in June, Picnic in July, Botanical Gardens in August, Dinner & show at Carrie Cerrinos and Jilbert Winery & Brewery in September, Ohio Mart & Stan Hywet in October, Country Christmas show in November, and Downtown Holiday Lights tour in December. Contact Linda for reservations. The group will no longer avail themselves of Lakefront Lines due to a sub-par experience in May.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer mentioned that the United Church of Christ has a free weekly newsletter and he will be submitting articles.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that Wing Night made around $4,100 and the Diaconate will pay for hot dogs, buns, and paper products for the church picnic. Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 10th. The Christmas decorations have been put away; thank you to Greg and Ingrid Dickson and Irene Joyce. Music recognition Sundays will be June 3rd and 10th; cake will be served. Jennifer provided a job description for the Nursery Attendant.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Dinners are still on hiatus. Five church members attended the Deaconess Foundation Dinner to present our grant proposal for the Free Lunch Program. A new gas grill was purchased to replace the one purchased with Memorial Fund money, but will still be recognized as a memorial. New coffee pump pots are needed. Jan Stough has been cleaning the freezers and refrigerators. Confirmands are planning to help on Wednesdays with the lunches.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that Wilma Graham from Utah was a guest at May 16th’s Fit Club.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich and Adria Bond sent a treasurer’s report. All bills are paid.

**Mission Outreach:** No report.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that instrumentalists will be recognized on June 3rd. The choir will be recognized on June 10th, then go on hiatus for the summer. Elena Taylor will coordinate the summer music program and her last Sunday with us will be August 26th; on that date, we will host a farewell reception for her. Plans are underway for finding her replacement. The May 6th concert featuring Broadway Bound and the Satori Winds made $522.00, which went to the Organ Restoration Committee. Thanks to the donators, attendees, and helpers with that event and reception.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich reported that the check has been sent and the contract signed for the final phase of the restoration, which is due to be completed by September. They will plan an organ festival to celebrate the completion of this major project.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog: no new update.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the committee had a Stewardship Moment on May 13th, with Hershey Hugs for appreciation of the congregation’s giving, Lifesavers to represent how the church saves us, and Now & Later candies reminding us to continue to give in the summer. They are working on a new idea involving buckets and giving.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that the April Penny Sunday collection for the Strongsville Food Bank was $129.65, plus a $10 check. Summer Penny Sunday collections will go to Sunday School programs and scholarships. Scholarship applications are available. The Sunday School will pay for the Mother’s Day carnations. Six students were confirmed on May 20th, Pentecost. Volunteers will be needed to teach Summer Sunday School beginning June 3rd. A new co-superintendent will be needed for next year due to Irene Joyce’s new duties as Church Secretary.

**Thrift Shop:** Rosemary Bechtel reported that the Thrift Shop is now back to accepting any donations of items, as long as they are not left on the steps.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported that the Trustees will be filling in for our custodian until Olivia Clotworthy, who has been hired as summer substitute, can begin in June. The Trustees voted to hire Irene Joyce as Sharon Heinrich’s replacement as church secretary. Both Irene and Sharon will volunteer their time during the training process. A new support group will meet on Friday afternoons. Replacement blind ideas are being examined for two windows in the sanctuary. Trustees inspected the Royalton Road house, which was vacated by the tenants and found it to be in decent shape. The church usage schedule of fees was updated and a Pilgrim Hall usage request was received from Serena Abruzzino; Sharon Heinrich volunteered to be the kitchen attendant. Parking lot sealing continues as the weather warms. Gutters downspouts and sanitary drains are being checked for leaks. The Pauls and Melinda Slavik planted flowers. Painting and carpet installation in the sanctuary are complete. Please make sure the front doors of the church are closed completely when not in use.

**Women's Fellowship:** Rosemary Bechtel reported that they are reading and discussing a chapter a month of Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu. They are planning to alternate meeting time between daytime and evenings to accommodate more participants.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that at the Deaconess Foundation dinner, she and others presented a grant proposal for the Free Lunch program and should have an answer in a few weeks. Six new members were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. Several other people have expressed an interest in joining the church.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Jeff Thompson from Templed Hills will be picking up the tent. The Strongsville Methodist Church had requested to use the tent in May and they have been informed that we will no longer be in possession of the tent.

The Church Picnic will be on July 22nd at Volunteer Park and the Adult Social Club will coordinate. The worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. Betty Craig moved to allot up to $100 for picnic prizes, seconded by Jen Barry. Motion carried.

Rachel Zielinski and Sharon Heinrich are working on the pictorial kitchen guide and cupboard labeling.

Solar Windows & More has asked to sponsor our float in the Strongsville Homecoming Parade, scheduled for July 25th. Betty Craig moved to accept their offer of a banner and sponsorship. Rosemary Bechtel seconded and the motion passed with one nay vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A recognition reception is planned for Sharon Heinrich’s retirement on July 15th. Diaconate will provide cake and other members will be asked to provide snacks and treats. Jen Barry moved to pay $75.60 for a gift for Sharon, seconded by Betty Craig. The motion was approved.

Greg Dickson moved that the $50 kitchen attendant amount be given directly to the person serving in this capacity for the Abruzzino party. Jen Barry seconded and the motion passed.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Jennifer Barry. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary