**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**May 23, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Moderator Bill Schneider at 7:06 p.m. Irene Joyce led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Adria Bond Judy Carte Betty Craig Greg Dickson Ingrid Dickson

Tom Gaumer Jim Heinrich Sharon Heinrich Sally Herzog Irene Joyce

Lola Millhoane Joyce Reed Bill Schneider Cheryl Sobek Claire Wills

**Minutes of the 4/25/17 meeting:** Approval was tabled with a motion by Irene Joyce, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried. Sharon Heinrich put together a rough draft of the April minutes to be reviewed for approval at the June meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 5/23/17**: Last month’s Balance was $3,664.86. Ted Bickley was unable to attend but will have a report for the board’s approval for the following meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that a vertical banner is being produced by Next Day Signs for the 200th Anniversary. Michele Mihlack will train him and Irene Joyce on updating the church’s website and operating the slide show, as a backup. The donated laptop was given to Lola Millhoane. Next meeting is in July.

**Christian Education Committee**: Annette Karr from Kansas will be giving the Children’s Message on June 11th. She will bring and tell the story of her one-eyed reject dog, Wink. The Sunday School will have a coordinating combined lesson that Sunday. Website for more information on Wink can be found at winkfoundation.com.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond distributed detailed financial reports and answered questions. Adria mentioned that all bills were paid and that money is being set aside for expenses of a new pastor.

**Dinners:** Betty Craig reported that the dinners are on hiatus until November, but the Free Lunch Program continues. Help is always welcomed, as they serve 80 -100 people each Wednesday.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that Wing Night made $4,025.00, the best ever and she thanked everyone who supported that event. Pulpit supply is set through the first week of July and interviews are being conducted for an interim/designated pastor. Interim=a person serving only until a permanent minister is called. Designated=this person may apply for the permanent position.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that Mission Outreach will have a small raffle basket fundraiser with the theme of “Around the World,” concluding on October 22nd. Irene Joyce moved to schedule that date, seconded by Bill Schneider. Motion was approved. Judy and Gary Paul visited the Wade Park Veterans Hospital researching programs for veterans and possible ways our church can get involved. Mission Outreach donated $50 to the Outdoor Worship Space project.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that the May 7th benefit concert brought in approximately $587 and the Music Committee discussed perhaps scaling back the number of concerts next year. A few church members have been footing the bill for all of the wine & cheese receptions that follow the concerts. The handbells have been returned, but 3 of them have cracked discs. Schulmerich Handbell Company has been contacted to remedy the situation. Jim Heinrich and Jim Joyce have offered to help replace the discs when received. The Memorial Fund will remit the balance of payment once this issue has been resolved. Elena Taylor is taking vacation for 3 weeks in June; Ken Mehalko, Sharon Heinrich, and Gary Hackett will provide music in her absence. Elena is coordinating summer music and volunteers are always welcome. A search for a new choral accompanist is ongoing, as is finding a new bell choir director. Five new 2 or 3 part anthems have been donated to the music program. Bell ringers and singers will be needed in the fall.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog reported that this committee is meeting weekly and continues to work on putting together a new church profile. Kristen Clotworthy is the chairperson with Sally Herzog, Bill Schneider, and Judy Carte as co-secretaries. Ingrid Dickson is the chaplain. Other members are Ted Bickley and Jim Dettmer. Each committee member has been assigned a portion of the profile to complete and the congregation will be asked to complete a brief survey to assist in the process.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the committee members are Rosemary Bechtel, Barbara Bridle, Sue Gigliotti, Sharon Heinrich, and Laurie Meister. They plan to meet monthly on Sundays following worship. They will continue the “Stewardship Corner” in the newsletter where people are thanked for donating their time and talents.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that the Sunday School distributed carnations to the ladies of the church on Mother’s Day, shared ice cream treats with the congregation on May 21st, and will distribute a small gift to the men of the church on Father’s Day. Summer Sunday School begins June 4th and volunteers are needed to teach a lesson. A sign-up sheet is located in Pilgrim Hall. The Sunday School donated $100 towards Gina Gigliotti’s Outdoor Worship Space project.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane reported that the Thrift Shop is humming along.

**Trustees**: Greg Dickson reported that a new form is being developed to secure permission and ascertain funding for desired projects around the church. The restroom project continues with no completion date given. Bill Giuliano will be contacted to notify the contractors that this project must be completed by the June 3rd wedding that is scheduled. Various projects on the Pearl and Royalton Road properties have been completed. Pilgrim Hall fans will be cleaned soon. The sanctuary windows are in need of repair/replacement. Parking lot sealer options are being researched. Our custodian will be on vacation June 3rd – 19th and a substitute is being sought. The Bridle Endowment is now invested with United Church Funds. A salary range for a new pastor was determined and given to Jim Dettmer for the Pulpit Search Committee. Jim Heinrich reported that he personally did a great deal of clean-up and brush clearing around the church grounds, but work parties need to be scheduled to complete the work he started and maintain the church’s property.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills reported that they continue to collect items for their tote bag project through June 4th. Crystal Jardine of Jardine Funeral Home will answer questions about funeral etiquette on Wednesday, June 7th at 10 a.m. It was suggested to call the program “Everything You Wanted to Know About Funerals but Were Afraid to Ask!”

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Joe Santomen will preach May 28th, June 4th, June 25th, and July 2nd. Rev. Mendle Adams will preach June 11th and June 18th. Annette Karr will do the Children’s Sermon on June 11th and Irene Joyce on June 18th.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Joyce Reed reported that the banquet hall at the Strongsville Community Center has been reserved for October 15th, right after the worship service. Cost will be $15 per person. They are checking out children’s prices. The vertical banner has been ordered. For an outreach opportunity, they have discussed collecting small adult gifts (~$5 value) for distribution by the Strongsville Food Bank. Other projects are ongoing. Each banquet attendee will receive a commemorative pin and ornament.

The date of the Garage Sale has been set for July 8th, but in light of the current personal concerns of the people in charge, they will be approached to confirm or postpone prior to the collection of items.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Greg Dickson mentioned that the purchase of flowers for the church grounds will need to be approved and a form submitted before allotting funds for this project.

The future use and untidy state of the Parlor was discussed. The board agreed that this room should be returned to a conference room/sitting room. A new pastor will require an office and refurbishing the former minister’s office adjacent to Pilgrim Hall was suggested for this purpose. Currently, the pre-school class is held in that room, but that class can be moved upstairs in the fall. Each member was asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting regarding making these two rooms presentable and usable.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Judy Carte. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

**Our love and healing prayers were extended to Moderator Rachel Zielinski, who was hospitalized at the time of this meeting.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary