**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**November 29, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Sally Herzog at 7:05 p.m. Kenn Oerkfitz led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Ted Bickley Betty Craig Sharon Heinrich Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce Kenn Oerkfitz Linda Plain Cheryl Sobek

Jack Stephenson Rev. R. Stephenson Claire Wills Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 10/16/16 meeting** were approved with a motion by Betty Craig seconded by Cheryl Sobek. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 11/29/16**: Balance of $2,193.95. Income: $ .27 in interest; $467.00 in cookbook sales; $2,501.00 from Turkey Dinner ticket sales; $203.00 from Turkey Dinner food sales; $40.00 from 200th Anniversary/Miscellaneous. Disbursements: $723.97 for new dishes; $789.61 for Turkey Dinner expenses; $550.00 for Nativity animals; $1,500.00 to the church’s Operating Fund. Betty Craig moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Jack Stephenson. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Jack Stephenson reported that they are scaling back ads to save money, but Christmas ads have already been placed using Technology money.

**Christian Education Committee/KFC**: The Moonrock Bowling outing had 12 attendees. Thanks to Kelly Bickley for organizing this fun outing and to the donor who paid for it, so that it would be free for the participants. The Journey in Faith class wraps up December 1st, with new members being welcomed on December 4th.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich and Barb Fraunfelder sent detailed financial reports. Kenn Oerkfitz thanked the Diaconate and the Official Board for their donations to the Operating Fund. January will be another big month for bills, but December has traditionally been a good month for donations. The “$3 Project” monies will go to the Operating Fund. Giving statements have been distributed. The Finance Team is working on a church budget for 2017.

**Dinners:** Betty Craig reported that the Turkey Dinner’s profit was $2,006.60, of which $200.00 will go to the Free Lunch Program. This year marked the lowest number of people served at the Turkey Dinner in a long time. More careful scheduling of events should be considered in the future. Volunteers on the day of the dinner were terrific, but more help is needed for food preparation/set-up on the day before.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that the Diaconate is researching purchasing new altar cloths and will look toward the Memorial Fund for the funds. The Blue Christmas service will be on Friday, December 9th at 7:30 p.m.

**Mission Outreach:** Pastor Becky reported that several Strongsville churches met to try to organize a coordinated local disaster response plan.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that the new choir robes and stoles have already been purchased to take advantage of Cyber Monday sales and free shipping. Donations will be accepted for a couple more weeks. The committee will meet November 30th to determine a course of action for upcoming staff changes in the Music Ministry. The Bell Choir played on November 27th, with several guest ringers. There will be a Jazz Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16th.

**Organ Restoration Committee**: $1,000.00 was made on the Pancake Breakfast.

**Search Committee:** Pastor Becky, along with the committee, discussed whether or not to move forward with the search process. Youth and families are important to the life of the church. In light of the time of transition our church is going through, Betty Craig moved to put this search process on hold until a settled pastor is called, at which time the church can reevaluate. Irene Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

**Stewardship Committee:** Linda Plain reported that the campaign is underway and pledge cards have been distributed. The goal is to get 125 returned by January 15th, when the campaign winds up.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that the Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 18th at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck coordinated by Sharon Heinrich and Rachel Zielinski. Elena Joyce is writing a pageant with Aimee & Charles Jannsohn serving as Mary and Joseph and the children singing with Elena Taylor. The visitor from the North has been secured and each child will receive a special ornament. The Sunday School is sponsoring a child from the National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) through their Giving Tree program. Irene Joyce will teach a combined class on Christmas Day.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Harvest Party and the Pumpkin Decorating Party.

**Thrift Shop:** No report.

**Trustees**: Rachel Zielinski reported that a 5 year lease is being signed with new Pearl Road tenants. They signed a contract with Palmer’s Landscaping for yard work and snowplowing. The Trustees thank the church’s organizations for helping with the Operating Fund during a numbers crunch time. Kenn Oerkfitz mentioned that we are paying interest only on the equity line of credit for the time being. The Trustees are hoping to make a presentation to the congregation at the Annual meeting about the restroom plan.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills reported that the ladies are on hiatus until April. They will not be making Christmas candy this year.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Becky reported that she has been very busy, especially as twins Trevor and Cooper Bell are welcomed into the world.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Team met with Bonnie Bates from the U.C.C. and the transitioning process will begin with the selection of a Transition Team of 6 – 8 members to guide the congregation prior to the Pulpit Search Committee’s work. Several names were suggested as the board went into executive session.

A Vice-Moderator is still needed; please contact Sally with suggestions for filling that position.

Fit Club’s free yoga class had 19 participants.

Thank you to everyone who made the Open House such a huge success.

Irene Joyce moved to pay $41.42 to cover the overspending on plants. Betty Craig seconded and the motion passed.

Serving on the Nominating Committee are Rachel Zielinski, Dianne Maringer, Sharon Heinrich, and Sally Herzog. So far the Audit Committee has Sarah Hayes, Rosemary Bechtel, and Sally Herzog. A few more volunteers are needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ted Bickley presented a 2017 budget for the Official Board, which was approved in a motion by Cheryl Sobek and seconded by Rachel Zielinski.

The Adult Social Club has moved their meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. They are planning a Game Night at the church on Saturday, January 14th.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 9:18 p.m., seconded by Claire Wills. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at 7 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary