**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**November 28, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:09 p.m. Rev. Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Ted Bickley Greg Dickson Tom Gaumer Sharon Heinrich Irene Joyce Rev. Heidi McDougall

Kenn Oerkfitz Bill Schneider Cheryl Sobek Claire Wills Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 10/24/17 meeting** approved in a motion by Bill Schneider, seconded by Cheryl Sobek. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 11/28/17**: Balance: $5,749.25. Income: $ .11 in interest; $45 from the 200th Anniversary Banquet; $2,761 from Turkey Dinner tickets; $181.50 from Turkey Dinner food sales, $35 from the Garage Sale; $729 for Live Nativity donations; $300 uncashed deposit check from the Anniversary Banquet . Disbursements: $330 for lapel pins; $643.30 for Winter Retreat deposit; $75.96 for 200th Anniversary cakes; $447.78 for Turkey Dinner expenses; $76.66 for flowers; $122.27 for the Open House; $550.00 to Spring Mist Farms for the Live Nativity animal rental. Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Greg Dickson. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that he has been accomplishing the functions of this group without formal meetings. It was suggested that advertising for the Open House can be scaled back next year and the money used elsewhere. The technology budget is being allocated for some new sound equipment and possibly computer updates. Irene Joyce moved to use $200 for a Christmas Directory listing in the *Strongsville Post*. Claire Wills seconded and the motion was approved.

**Christian Education:** No report.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Kenn Oerkfitz reported that all bills are paid and distributed financial reports. Kenn will retire as Treasurer at the end of 2017.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig sent a report that the Free Lunch Program is doing well and volunteers will be very much needed in the winter months The Turkey Dinner profit was $2,494.72, of which $249.47 will go toward the Free Lunch Program. The date of the Swiss Steak Dinner is February 3rd and the date of the Roast Pork Dinner is March 10th. All groups using the kitchen are reminded to please return items to their proper places after use. Rachel Zielinski will procure new 18 quart roasters for the kitchen. Irene Joyce moved to allot up to $150 for their purchase, seconded by Cheryl Sobek. Motion approved.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that Diaconate is planning Blue Christmas for Friday, December 15th. They will look for volunteers to assist Amanda Hawk in the Nursery and ask if anyone can donate a flat-screen tv for the Nursery. 300 ornaments were distributed at the Open House. Christmas Eve services will be at 10 a.m. and 11 p.m.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte sent a report that their basket auction made $640. Help for Heroes received $440; Veterans Outreach Pantry received $100; the balance was used to cover earlier expenditures including the outdoor worship area and 2017 membership to Church Street Ministries.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that the search for a Bell Choir director continues, with Elena Taylor being paid to perform those duties. The Swinging Carols of Christmas Concert will be on Friday, December 8th and volunteers and donations for the reception would be appreciated. New handbell music and gloves were donated. We have received positive feedback on our music program. Elena Taylor will be on vacation at the end of December and Eli Manos will fill in for her. Irene Jannsohn has played every performance with the Bell Choir since 1975, but may be retiring.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** The Pancake Breakfast earned $1,068. The ORC wants to finish the pipe organ’s restoration, which has one phase left. The organ will be tuned the first week of December, followed by the piano.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog sent a report that the committee has received several profiles and the members are in the process of reviewing and discussing them.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the 2018 campaign was successful with 67 pledges for a total of $107,588 pledged as of this meeting date. The committee will keep the congregation apprised of the progress. It was suggested that another push be made in January when w2 forms arrive.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that November & December’s Penny Sunday will go to the National Youth Advocacy Program, which assists children in the foster care system in Cuyahoga County. October’s Penny Sunday collected $134.10 for Hurricane Maria Relief (plus a $10 check for the Strongsville Food Bank). The Sunday School added $100 to that total. Christmas Pageant has been written by Elena Joyce. Elena Taylor will conduct the choirs and Eli Manos will contribute music. We have parts for all the Sunday School kids. All the students who were present on November 26th participated in the Hanging of the Greens service. The Potluck will follow the service and Rachel Zielinski will line up volunteers to oversee the meal. On December 31st, we will have a combined class.

**Thrift Shop:** Claire Wills mentioned that sales were brisk the week before Thanksgiving.

**Trustees**: Greg Dickson reported that memorials were received for Shirley Weinhold, William A. Fraunfelder, and Don Babics. Interior Improvement Committee: Thanks to Jim Dettmer, Jim Joyce, Jim Heinrich, and Ingrid Dickson for their work in the Confirmation Room. Bids are being reviewed for carpeting as well as painting the sanctuary. The Official Board recommends painting the sanctuary as a priority, then looking into new windows, followed by flooring. Lloyd Bridle is overseeing parking lot seam/crack filling with Holland Paving. Royalton Road tenants are going to renew their lease for another 6 months. George Love has been contracted for winter snow removal and ice melt/salt. Eddy Bond is researching selling the large tent. Through an e-mail vote, the Trustees approved ~$720 for new lighting in the side room of the sanctuary, pending funding. They also approved placement of a sofa in the parlor/conference room.

**Women's Fellowship:** The ladies will have a Cheese Ball fundraiser, with 2 different recipes. 50 orders have been received so far, with one more Sunday left to order; delivery is December 10th. An informal Christmas Tea will take place on December 6th at 12:30 p.m.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that the new table and chairs look wonderful in her office. Thanksgiving and the Hanging of the Greens are past and she is looking toward Advent. Thanks to everyone for their help and support. Rev. Heidi, Chuck McDougall, and Doug Thorn attended a Faith-Based Security Symposium and will bring us more information at future meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**200th Anniversary**: Outreach gifts have been delivered. The only remaining project is the Directory and photos are still being retaken. Dale Hawk had suggested that an addition to the church’s nativity scene could be purchased with the money donated by Mayor Perciak. Irene Joyce will research prices on additional figures and bring that information back to the board.

The 2018 Annual Winter Retreat will be February 16th – 18th at Templed Hills. Adults will be $70, with kids 6-12 $15 and kids under 5 free. Rachel Zielinski and Irene Joyce will oversee the planning. Sally Herzog will handle the insurance certificates. Sign-up sheets will be posted the first week of December.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Cheryl Sobek moved to spend $509.99 for a sofa in the parlor/conference room. Claire Wills seconded and the motion carried.

Irene Joyce moved to allot up to $100 to Spring Mist Farms for a deposit for next year’s Live Nativity animals. Cheryl Sobek seconded and that motion passed.

A Nominating Committee of Bill Schneider, Sharon Heinrich, Rachel Zielinski, and Rev. Heidi was formed. Rachel will contact people about serving on the Audit Committee.

Cheryl Sobek motioned for adjournment at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Ted Bickley. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 7 p.m**.

Irene Joyce, Secretary