**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**October 24, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:03 p.m. Rev. Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Rosemary Bechtel Ted Bickley Adria Bond Judy Carte Betty Craig Greg Dickson

Tom Gaumer Sharon Heinrich Irene Joyce Pam Keenen Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall

Joyce Reed Bill Schneider Cheryl Sobek Claire Wills Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 9/26/17 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Judy Carte, with the addition of: posting of Official Board events on the outdoor sign takes precedence over other events/activities for up to 4 weeks prior to the event. Motion carried. Special thanks to Sharon Heinrich for taking the minutes last month.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 10/24/17**: Balance: $3,944.61. Income: $ .10 in interest; $58 from Cookbook sales; $2,430 from the 200th Anniversary Banquet. Disbursements: $2,822.56 to Special Moments Catering for the 200th Anniversary Banquet. Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that he recommends running the same ad in the *Strongsville Post* as last year with a few minor updates for the Open House. Irene Joyce moved to accept his recommendation to spend $539.60 from their budget for the ad. Betty Craig seconded and the motion was approved. The technology budget is being allocated for some new sound equipment and possibly computer updates.

**Christian Education:** No report.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond reported that all bills are paid. Kenn Oerkfitz will retire as Treasurer at the end of 2017. Because the Treasurer is an elected position, Official Board needs to appoint a replacement—hopefully prior to November, so Kenn can train his replacement.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that the Free Lunch Program continues and volunteers are very much needed. The Turkey Dinner is November 4th, and a sign-up sheet for helpers will be posted. Rachel Zielinski is coordinating a time for maintenance on the stove. She will use our credit at Dubick’s Restaurant Supply to acquire lighter dishwasher trays and scrap or donate our old metal ones.

**Diaconate:** Cheryl Sobek reported that Diaconate purchased gifts for children at the Open House and will spend up to $125 for candy canes, cider and cocoa for the event. November 5th is All Saints Sunday with a remembrance of people who have passed away within the past year. They will decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 18th. Hanging of the Greens service will be on November 26th and Blue Christmas will be on Friday, December 15th. The Diaconate will not have a cookie sale this year. Greg Dickson mentioned dedicating the memorials on All Saints Sunday.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that their basket auction will earn around $500, which will be used towards Veteran’s Day projects. Judy made a display board detailing these projects, including transitioning of homeless veterans to housing and offering support to those dealing with emotional issues related to their past service.

**Music Committee:** Pam Keenen reported and Ingrid Dickson sent a report that the Bell Choir needs a director and more ringers, although Linda Ponstingle and Eli Manos have been ringing with us. Thanks to Elena and Ken Mehalko for providing music at the 200th Anniversary Celebration. The Jazz Christmas Concert will be on Friday, December 8th and volunteers and donations for the reception would be appreciated. We will have special music on November 12th because of the ORC Pancake Breakfast. Kids’ Choir is on hiatus until children are able to attend, most likely in December.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** ORC will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Tickets will be sold at the door. The ORC wants to finish the pipe organ’s restoration, which has one phase left. Part of the work of that phase is already, done, and James Leek will advise the remaining work and cost. About $6,700 is in the fund now, which includes about $3,000 in gift cards.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog sent a report that the committee has met with Rev. Gary Halstead from the U.C.C. assisting churches with the search and call process. He provided more insights into the process and the pool of potential ministerial candidates as well as learning about our needs. Rev. Halstead will forward profiles for their review.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the 2018 campaign is underway through November 12th and has been well-received so far.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that September’s Penny Sunday collected $136.86 for Hurricane Relief (plus a $10 check for the Strongsville Food Bank). The Sunday School added $100 to that total. The Sunday School students voted that October’s Penny Sunday will go to victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. The Pumpkin Decorating Party will be on October 29th during class time. We will soon start planning the Christmas Pageant. Children will be asked to bring in donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets and the Mitten Tree.

**Thrift Shop:** Rosemary Bechtel reported that the Thrift Shop is once again accepting donations. They have made room for furnace work and have paid the bill for the new furnace. Thanks to these hard workers.

**Trustees**: Greg Dickson reported that memorials were received for Shirley Weinhold. Ken Mehalko’s Interior Improvement Committee: Jim Dettmer has painted the room across from the parlor. It is now Rev. Heidi’s office. Jim will paint the Confirmation Room next. Bids are being reviewed for carpeting in the sanctuary as well as painting the sanctuary. Work would not begin until after the Christmas season. The men’s restroom near the Gathering Area needs to be repainted also. The furnace will be installed this week after an unexpected delay due to illness. Thanks to Eddy Bond, Jim Heinrich, and the Thrift Shop for coordinating the furnace installation. 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. Bids are being gathered for winter snow removal and ice melt/salt. Eddy Bond is researching selling the large tent.

**Women's Fellowship:** The ladies will meet Wednesday, November 1st, at 10 a.m. and will tie-dye silk scarves. They will have a Cheese Ball fundraiser, with 2 different recipes. Tasting and ordering is November 26th; delivery is December 10th.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that she is getting grounded in this new position. She has reached out to the Strongsville Ministerial Association and the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be at St. John Neumann on Wednesday, November 22nd. On November 9th, Rev. Heidi will travel to Canton to complete her licensure and will be able to lead all aspects of our worship. She will eventually begin to discern about ordination.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**200th Anniversary** Joyce Reed reported that we will continue to collect $5 adult gifts through November 19th. Mementoes will be delivered to our shut-ins. Thank you notes were sent to the speakers and guests. Mayor Perciak donated $500 from the Perciak Family Foundation and $100 personally. Betty Craig moved to place this money in a designated fund until we determine an appropriate use. Cheryl Sobek seconded and the motion passed. Please bring your ideas for a tangible project for this donation to the next meeting. Councilman Jim DeMio also donated $50. Joyce also collected $100 from sales of the centerpieces.

Irene Joyce moved to allot up to $650 for Open House expenses, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion approved. $99 has already been collected for the Live Nativity animals. Sign-up sheets for volunteering at the Open House are going up.

A portion of our old mailbox unit has been moved and is now in use in the parlor. No cost was involved. Thanks to Jim Heinrich for moving the mailboxes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rachel Zielinski received the contract for the 2018 Annual Winter Retreat, to be held at Templed Hills. Irene Joyce moved to pay the $643.30 deposit, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Cheryl Sobek. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7 p.m**.

Irene Joyce, Secretary