**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**September 27, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Sally Herzog at 7:06 p.m. Pastor Becky led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Rosemary Bechtel Denise Bell Madison Bell Ted Bickley Betty Craig

Barb Fraunfelder Sharon Heinrich Sally Herzog Irene Joyce Lori Kovatich

Jack Stephenson Rev. R. Stephenson Claire Wills

**Minutes of the 8/23/16 meeting** were approved with a motion by Betty Craig seconded by Denise Bell, with a correction of a final balance on the treasurer’s report of $6,111.66. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 9/27/16**: Balance of $2,546.26. Income: $ .46 for August & September interest. $1,504.00 from Cookbook sales. Disbursements: $659.40 for the Winter Retreat deposit; $2,000.00 for the Women’s Retreat; $1,036.20 to the Operating Fund; $839.30 for Cookbook payment; and $534.96 for Parade supplies. Irene Joyce moved to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising Committee**: Jack Stephenson reported the usual ads for the Open House and for Advent/Christmas worship will be placed in the *Strongsville Post*. This committee’s yearly budget will be exhausted after these ads are funded.

**Christian Education Committee/KFC**: Sharon Heinrich reported that Family Fun Day was a success, with better attendance than last year and plenty of volunteers. In addition to the bounce house, hot dogs, and games, we had a dance leader and professional face painter. The Harvest Party on Saturday, October 29th, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., is being planned.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich and Barb Fraunfelder distributed detailed financial reports and answered questions. Kenn Oerkfitz sent a report that quarterly bills that are due in October will put a strain on the church’s finances and asks for people to keep up with their pledges. Each committee will be given a template of last year’s figures so that they may submit proposed budgets for 2017. The Finance Team will be meeting in early October.

**Dinners:** Betty Craig reported that the Turkey Dinner is on November 5th. Volunteers are needed and a sign-up sheet will be available. Thank you to everyone who helped clean the kitchen; another clean-up day will be scheduled. In the meantime, please be mindful when using the kitchen. Betty submitted a bill for $723.97 for new dishes. The outdoor sign can be set up to accommodate both the Turkey Dinner and the Pancake Breakfast.

**Diaconate:** Denise Bell reported that the Diaconate is planning the 200th Anniversary Kick-Off Brunch for Sunday, October 9th. Decorating of the sanctuary and Pilgrim Hall will be on October 1st and help will be needed. Cheryl Sobek will take over for Denise as the delivery of her twin sons looms.

**Mission Outreach:** This committee needs a chairperson. Reminder: Penny Sundays are on the last Sunday of each month.

**Music Committee:** Elena Taylor will perform the duties of choir director with Sharon Heinrich as choir accompanist through the remainder of 2016, then they will assess the status in January. The Music Committee, in conjunction with the Memorial Fund, is sponsoring a choir robe drive. Each robe is $50 and can be given in honor/memory of a loved one. The Bell Choir is planning to play the fourth Sunday of each month.

**Organ Restoration Committee**: The next Pancake Breakfast will be October 23rd.

**Search Committee:** They are interviewing a candidate. Currently, $4.493.00 is on hand for an Associate Pastor for Youth and Families.

**Stewardship Committee:** This committee does not have a chair but should begin the Fall Stewardship Campaign soon. Barb Fraunfelder volunteered to contact the members of the committee to offer guidance.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that the Box Lunch Auction earned $1.243.00 for Sunday School/KFC programs.

40 lunches were auctioned. Thanks to Charles Jannsohn for serving as the auctioneer. Confirmation Class has been postponed until next year. Upcoming events include Horse riding on October 8th, Harvest Party on October 29th and Pumpkin Decorating Party on October 30th. Rally Day offering brought in $710.50 for curriculum and supplies. We are working on a Kids’ Cookbook to distribute to families for the Church’s Anniversary.

**Thrift Shop:** Rosemary Bechtel reported that bag sales were a success. The ladies need some display hooks installed.

**Trustees**: Rachel Zielinski sent a report that they are working on getting bids for windows for the Pearl Road property. The income is sorely missed. They will be signing a 2-year agreement with the Royalton Road tenants. They will be making a final recommendation for the handicap restroom project and making a decision on the landscaping/snowplowing service. Gina Gigliotti is starting her Gold Award Project on October 8th and volunteers will be sought. The Trustees are looking to seal the parking lot without an outside contractor to save money.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills reported that they will be meeting on Tuesday, October 4th. They are still planning on making candy for Christmas. More ladies are needed to attend these meetings.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Becky announced her intended retirement date has been moved up to April 23, 2017. The last Journey in Faith class is underway and a Tuesday Bible study has started. Pastor Becky has some weddings and baptisms planned for the near future and will be available to conduct the weddings she has already scheduled beyond her new retirement date. Pastor Becky explained that she has contacted Rev. Rita Root from the U.C.C. and gathered information on the transition process for a new settled pastor. Options have changed since the last time and the Executive Team will be scheduling a meeting with Bonnie Bates from the U.C.C. to prepare for Pastor Becky’s imminent departure.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Cookbooks are now on sale. Photo taking for the Pictorial Directory continues. The Official Board has declined to write, produce, and perform a play for the 200th Anniversary.

Jack Stephenson moved to accept the donation from Zion U.C.C. of kitchen equipment, a portable steam table, and a warming cabinet. Rosemary Bechtel seconded and the motion carried. Trustees are expected to do so also.

Irene Joyce moved to change the prices of the Turkey Dinner tickets to $12 for adults and $6 for children 6 - 12. Betty Craig seconded. Betty Craig move to change the price of the Swiss Steak Dinner to $15 for adults and $6 for kids, seconded by Claire Wills. Both motions were approved.

The Adult Social Club will have a clambake on Sunday, October 16th at the Stephensons’ home. Cost is $20.

The Tuesday Bowling Club continues and Fit Club also continues on Wednesdays. All are welcome!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rachel Zielinski has reserved the animals for the Open House. The DFS Singers will once again perform.

Ken Mehalko has scheduled Sunday, January 22nd, Sunday, March 19th, and Sunday, May 7th for the Concert Series. A free will offering will be collected at each and the Music Committee will coordinate receptions following each concert.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 11:15 a.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary