**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**April 27, 2021**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:08 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Judy Carte

Elaine Coffey

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Linda Elkins

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 2/25/20 meeting** were approved in a motion by Ingrid Dickson, seconded by Sally Herzog.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 4/27/21:** Sharon Heinrich**— Beginning balance on 2/25/2020** (last Official Board meeting before shut-down) **$7,935.94 Income:** Pork Dinner Ticket Sales--$1,856.00; Pork Dinner Sale of Leftovers--$146.50, Interest--$13.93,Sale of 1 Pictorial Directory--$5.00 **Expenses:** Pork Dinner Expenses--$788.65; To Strongsville UCC--$3,000.00; Flowers for church (Kathie Paul)-- $137.11; Embroidery for shirt for Cathy Hawk--$ 9.00; Worship Online sign--$ 60.00Total **Ending balance on 4/27/2021: $5,961.07**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer sent a report that nothing is planned and suggested not issuing a release announcing in-person services, since they are by reservations only for now.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Sally Herzog reported that the church finances are in pretty good shape. Checking Account balance is $30,170.93; Savings is $38,962.23 ($20,000 of which is the PPP loan); Rental Property is $8,231.62.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that they discussed the two services at 9am and 10:30am. Linda Ponstingle is heading the "to go" communion bags for this Sunday. Sarah Hawk got our "Wing Night" deposit carried over to a future date which will be determined at another time. Barb Camp who has been overseeing the Graduates Board every year has talked to Irene about doing something digitally. A few people brought up the idea of an outside Pavilion and how nice it would be to have one. A special capital campaign would probably be the best way to raise funds for such a project.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig sent a report thanking Cathy Hawk for running the dishwasher weekly so we don't have a back-up and smell in the kitchen. Hopefully dinners and lunches can resume at some time in the future.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported the group has been on hiatus due to a crazy little thing called a global pandemic, but we may try to start up in the summer with outdoor walks.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Heidi reported that the signs are up for re-opening for in-person worship. She will have a Children’s Message at both services. She mentioned that we learned so much in the 57 weeks of recorded worship services. On June 13th, Pastor Heidi would like to have “Recognition Sunday,” when we celebrate our graduates, honor our latest 50 year member, and recognize our departing Financial Secretary.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte had a handout with Mission/Outreach guidelines. Mission Outreach Committee has been inactive during this quarantine, except for a Veterans project last November. Judy and Pastor Heidi had a meeting with Eric Schibley, elementary school counselor for Strongsville City Schools about a pilot partnership to help with families in need as identified by the schools. Also, Judy and Pastor Heidi discussed ways of applying for and utilizing the Deaconess Foundation grant even though we are not yet offering the Free Lunch program.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson extended heartfelt thanks to Tom Foley and Mike Elkins and all of our talented musicians for sustaining our high quality program during the shutdown. We so appreciate all of Irene Joyce's organizing the music, coordinating the talent, and researching all the copyright info necessary for presenting recorded music. We also must extend our gratitude to Doug Thorn for his indefatigable dedication to the sound, editing and presentation of our music. Tom and Mike have music and guests lined up through May, including Sharon Heinrich, Satori Winds and more. The Bell Choir began practicing on April 15th and is planning to play at the May 9th services and again in early June. The Bell Choir is in need of a C#7 bell. The cost is approximately $250. We are hoping to start back with the Chancel Choir in the Fall. The Praise Ensemble is looking for a guitar and or bass player. Kids will sing with Tom during Sunday School time, splitting into two groups: older and younger.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** No report.

**Stewardship Committee:** No report.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Curriculum has been purchased for combined classes in Pilgrim Hall. Sunday School will be offered during the 10:30 a.m. service. Rachel and Linda will put together individual, labeled supply bags for the students.

**Thrift Shop:** Cathy Hawk sent a report that the shop is up and running strong with an abundance of donations. They’ve been opening one Monday evening a month, as well as Thursdays. Our snow birds are slowly returning and have jumped back in to help out. We will try to clear out the nursery in time for the re-opening of church. We have offered to pay for the patio project which the trustees are working on. They have also discussed getting round plastic tables for Pilgrim Hall.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported welcomed Tracy Seneff as our new Financial Secretary. We are blessed to have her! Adria Bond has graciously agreed to serve through May as Tracy is training. Various projects Trustees are as follows: New parking lot striping, working with our landscaper to find a suitable surface for the muddy area outside the kitchen. Safety projects include emergency lighting, new step stools with handles. Locks were changed during the shutdown. The Hawks have donated a washer and dryer which will be installed in the basement.

**Women's Fellowship:** Elaine Coffey reported that Sharon emailed all ladies of Women's Fellowship and they will be meeting on May 4th to plan activities and programs.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

During shutdown, the Official Board voted to transfer $3,000 to church operating expenses in 2020.

During shutdown, the Board paid $137.11 for flowers that Kathie Paul planted around the grounds and purchased an insert for the monument sign (“Online”).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sally Herzog moved to appoint Linda Elkins and Serena Abruzzino as Sunday School Co-Superintendents, filling the balance of the vacant term after Kristen Clotworthy’s resignation. Jen Barry seconded and the motion was approved.

An idea to have a Plexiglas panel for sound system operators was brought up. Rachel will talk to Jim Heinrich.

Our church’s website domain hosting was changed from FusionCorp to Go Daddy. It’s cheaper and is now a secure site. Thanks to Ryan Heinrich, Sally Herzog, and Doug Thorn for getting the switch done.

Greg Dickson brought up that safety forms are available and should be completed and kept on file for our volunteers.

Our Equity Line of Credit is coming due on May 1st. Greg is going to contact Cornerstone about the $500 renewal fee and see about reducing that amount. Irene Joyce moved to renew our line of credit; Sally Herzog seconded and the motion passed.

The Official Board will plan to have a Garage Sale at the end of summer. Date is to be determined.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:16 p.m. (via phone), seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary