**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**February 25, 2020**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:02 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Adria Bond

Eddy Bond

Judy Carte

Kristen Clotworthy

Elaine Coffey

Betty Craig

Ingrid Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Sally Herzog

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Doug Thorn

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 1/28/20 meeting** were approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sally Herzog with a correction that the Lenten Bible Study will commence at 1 p.m. rather than 1:15 p.m. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 2/25/2020:**  Sharon Heinrich— **Beginning balance:  $8,681.74.** Income:  $0.30 interest of 12-21-19, $0.48 interest of 1-18-20, $3,635 retreat payments from attendees, $293.00 sale of leftover food and donations from Swiss Steak dinner. Expenses:  $965.11 Swiss Steak dinner expenses, $100.00 to reserve nativity animals for holiday open house 2020, $3,609.47 retreat payment to UCCR. **Ending balance: $7,935.94**. Irene Joyce moved to accept the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion was approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** No report.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that The Strongsville Post is planning to run an Easter church directory and recommended that we be in it as we have the past few years. Judy Carte moved to allot up to $200 for an Easter ad, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond and Sally Herzog reported that the bills are up to date and that the church has started the year in a good place. Checking account has $11,552.22. Judi Pavisich is now serving as a teller.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that they welcomed the new appointees on diaconate and talked about the different "jobs" the Diaconate oversees.  We also looked at what needs done for Holy Week and tentatively assigned people to assist.  Gina was going to check on the price of Easter lilies and will let us know on the price that they will be sold for.  Lastly, we discussed our upcoming Wing Night and decided to begin selling tickets after the Pork Dinner. Rev. Jim Longsworth has agreed to lead us in worship on March 15th.  He will need someone to do the Children's Story for him.  He also asked that he be given some time to decide on what he would like to preach about.  Jim will use a liturgist and said that he will call Irene approximately one week ahead of time and let her know what readings he would like the liturgist to read.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that the Roast Pork, Kielbasa & Kraut dinner is March 7 and help is needed.

Free lunch program doing very well. We got a bunch of paper products and food from the abandoned Bar Louie at Southpark Mall to use at the church. Betty used $203 by using GFS “Go Points” for the Swiss Steak Dinner. We are going to remind folks to mention Strongsville United Church of Christ when they make any purchases at GFS. GFS gift cards are also available.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported the group went to see *Porgy & Bess* in February and have plans to go to see *The Flying Dutchma*n in March. In the meantime, everyone is invited to exercise with us on Wednesday evenings, except for Ash Wednesday, when we will be attending the worship service.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Heidi reported that Ash Wednesday is February 26th. There is a memorial service for Joseph Trill on Saturday, February 29th and a baptism for Ember Schneider on March 8th. The Lenten Study “Living in the Light” begins March 4th. A Stewardship seminar will be held in Kent on April 25th. Irene Joyce moved to allot $100 to pay for attendees from our church. Jen Barry seconded and the motion carried.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that they met February 23 and scheduled the dates for their activities and special collections. March is One Great Hour of Sharing. They are still collecting tissues and cough drops for Laura’s Home.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that we are very happy to have Richard Densmore play the hymns whenever the Bell choir plays. A new D#7 bell is being added to our ranks in memory of Karen Morgan. Lenten music is being planned beginning with the chancel choir is singing on Ash Wednesday and "Song of the Shadows" on Good Friday at Columbia UMC. We are also working on the Easter cantata: "Come to the Cross" Clarence Barber and his timpani have been booked for Easter. Rachel Kovatich has been helping sort new music as part of required volunteer hours. We still need to add many pieces to the Database, hopefully Pam will work on this when Keenens return from their month long vacation. We would like to clean out choir folders of extra music. Concert is scheduled for April 26th. Musicians to be determined and tickets will be sold (in lieu of free will offering).

**Organ Preservation Committee:** No report.

**Stewardship Committee:** To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 75 pledges totaling $155,384.00.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Kristen Clotworthy sent a report that the kids collected $134.20 for United Church of Christ Outdoor Ministries in February’s Penny Sunday. She has found a summer curriculum using superheroes as a theme.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that the Thrift Shop will be closed April 2 & 9 for spring changeover. Winter Hours are 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson sent a report that there is a proposal to purchase 25 new chairs for Pilgrim Hall at a cost of $45.00, approximately $1,125.00 total. Greg has ordered one chair so we can check the quality of the chairs before buying more. Two bids are being received for repairing and reinforcing the step into Pilgrim Hall. Plans to include better hand rails. Church safety was discussed. Safety topics included revisiting the volunteer forms especially those working with minors. Church safety discussions also included replacing unsafe step stools, exit lighting in the kitchen, the Pearl Road rental walkways and front steps. Anyone who finds an unsafe item or condition please alert one of the trustees or contact the church.

**Women's Fellowship:** Elaine Coffey reported that the ladies will meet on March 3rd and will make a bunny craft, make “puppy chow” for people, and have lunch altogether. Elaine had a schedule of the coming year’s monthly activities.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Retreat had 59 overnighters signed up and 9 Saturday visitors. We have already reserved the three buildings for February 12-14, 2021. Next year, we would like to eliminate or at least reduce plastic cups and water bottles at the Retreat.

Ripcho Photographers have been contracted for a congregational photo on Mother's Day. The cost will be

$245.00. The cost for 8” x 24” prints to be offered would be $29.95 each. The cost for an 8” x 24” framed and dry mounted print for the church would be $198.00. Betty Craig moved to pay for the photo shoot and a mounted print for the church, seconded by Elaine Coffey. Motion passed.

Greg Dickson is still researching folding chairs and has procured a sample.

The Strongsville UMC will use Pilgrim Hall for their Confirmation breakfast on Sunday, May 3rd. (Just FYI)

Sign-A-Rama sent some photos of the proposed sign, the idea of which has been approved by the Trustees, funded by the Memorial Fund.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Film maker Melissa Bender would like to film a wedding scene in the sanctuary on June 18th. She is coming to meet with Irene and Pastor Heidi on March 2nd.

Doug Thorn presented a proposal for an electronic sign on the church property. Rachel Zielinski is going to develop a list of project priorities for the church along with leaders of the other boards.

Calendar dates for the upcoming year were discussed. (See sheet)

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Jennifer Barry. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary