**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**May 25, 2021**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:07 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer.

Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Adria Bond

Judy Carte

Greg Dickson

Ingrid Dickson

Linda Elkins

Cathy Hawk

Sarah Hayes

Sharon Heinrich

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 4/27/21 meeting** were approved in a motion by Sharon Heinrich, seconded by Ingrid Dickson.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 5/25/21:** Sharon Heinrich**— Beginning balance: $5,961. Income:** Interest--$ .73, No expenditures. **Ending balance on 5/25/2021: $5,961.80**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer sent a message that there was nothing new to report.

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Adria Bond mentioned that the church is in good shape financially. Mayor Tom Perciak donated $600 to the church for our 200th Anniversary and we still have it. The Board thought it would be appropriate to spend the money toward a Nativity figure for the outdoor scene. We received $1,800 from a member to paint the upstairs Sunday School. Linda Elkins and Irene Joyce will look at the bids we had gotten two years ago and try to plan.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that they voted as a committee to reopen the nursery to interested parents that may want to use that service. We also discussed the upcoming June communion and Recognition Sunday. Lastly, I reported back that I did bring up the Pavilion and a few members were going to go take pictures of a few local pavilions and we are very informally exploring the idea of what would be needed / wanted. On June 11th, members of the Diaconate are going to come and clear out the Pilgrim Hall balcony storage area and divest us of some of the clutter.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig sent a report that Strongsville will have the rib burn off and the homecoming and was wondering if there is a group to sit and get donations for parking, as she had done in the past. Homecoming is July 14-17 and Rib Burn-off is August 12-14.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that outdoor walks are being scheduled for the summer months. Opera at the movies may resume next year, depending on theaters and The Metropolitan Opera.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Heidi presented a letter from the Heartland Conference on reopening protocols. She has had several people stop in during her office hours. June 13th is “Recognition Sunday.”

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte mentioned that this committee will start a project in the fall. May’s Penny Sunday will be donated to Church Street Ministries, which provides assistance to Homeless Veterans.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson reported that we received a donation for music ministry, to be used for soloists or music.

A new bell, C#7, was purchased in memory of Bill Fraunfelder; the Bell Choir will conclude its season by playing for the service on June 13th. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the music for worship services, vocalists or instrumentalists are still needed for Sundays in June, July, and August. The Chancel Choir is expected to return in the fall.

**Organ Preservation Committee:** No report.

**Stewardship Committee:** No report.

**Sunday School/Christian Ed:** Linda Elkins reported that Summer Sunday School started on May 2. Sessions have been held each Sunday since then. There have been as many as 7 children attend, and as few as 2. Currently the curriculum being used is called The Illustrated Earth. It uses Bible stories to help children understand the need to care for our precious resources. Special thanks go to Rachel Zielinski, Lora Rung, Mary Densmore, Irene Joyce, Sharon Heinrich, Elaine Coffey and Cathy Hawk who have signed up to teach. Sunday School will not take place on July 4th. The carpet in the large open area of second floor was cleaned on May 16 with the help of Herb Hampson, Sharon Heinrich and Mike Elkins. Before Rally Day in September, the two carpeted classrooms and the stairs will hopefully be cleaned. Planning for Sunday School starting on Rally Day will begin soon. And as time and comfort permit, hopefully adult Bible study will commence.

**Thrift Shop:** Cathy Hawk reported that donations continuously being received. Sales are great. They are currently boxing up items for the church Garage Sale. Trying to clear out the nursery and were \*this close\* when a huge donation filled up the room again. They are thinking of a possible “Sidewalk Sale” to help clear the deck without carrying everything downstairs.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson reported Tracy Seneff had to resign and the church needs a new financial secretary. Thank you to Adria Bond for continuing to serve. On May 27th, our landscaper will meet us at the church to discuss options and answer questions about the outdoor area outside the kitchen of Pilgrim Hall.

**Women's Fellowship:** Elaine Coffey sent a report that Women's Fellowship held our first in-person meeting on May 4th and spent the time getting our programs lines up for each month. The following is the 2021 tentative schedule. Unless otherwise noted, Women's Fellowship meets in Pilgrim Hall, the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00am. As we planned, it became evident that spending time together is most important!! June 1 – Linda Ponstingle's Power Point presentation, "The Great and Not-So-Great Churches of Europe", and Sally Herzog provides devotions. July 6 – Socialize with Friends, while you sit and relax -or- bring your own craft and chat with friends. August 3 – Judy Carte gives tips on Aging Gracefully. September 7 – Picnic and Walk in a park (venue TBD). October 5 – dress for Halloween or wear your pj’s, and view the movie, “Young Frankenstein.” November 2 – prepare for our Christmas Tea and make centerpieces with Joyce Reed. Sunday, December 5 – Christmas Tea (time TBD) and ring tonechimes with Barb Fraunfelder in Pilgrim Hall. As always, all ladies of the church are welcome to all events. It was mentioned at the meeting that there are, and may be more, women that would like to participate but do not transportation. This was addressed and we have several members already signed up to pick up and take home. If you know someone that would need transportation to take part, please let me know.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Date for the Garage Sale will be Friday, July 23rd from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, July 24th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. We will start accepting donations on June 25th. Lots of volunteers will be needed.

Greg Dickson brought up that we have to advertise for a new Financial Secretary. We will put notices in the newsletter and weekly bulletins and maybe the Living Water Association newsletter to try to find someone. Applicants must be familiar with financial software and have some bookkeeping experience.

Safe Church volunteer forms were distributed. Each committee is asked to follow up with their members and have them complete the forms to keep on file at the church. Rachel will research the logistics/cost of fingerprinting people who directly work with children and youth.

The Thrift Shop has offered to pay for round tables in Pilgrim Hall. Greg has begun researching prices.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Annual Winter Retreat will take place at Templed Hills February 18-20, 2022. Cost structure has changed and the deposit must be put on a credit card. Either Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski will charge the amount. Cathy Hawk moved, and Greg Dickson seconded, to reimburse either Irene or Rachel for the Retreat deposit amount.

By consensus of the Official Board, we will continue with current COVID protocols and reevaluate at our next meeting. In the meantime, we will request that members and friends wear masks when moving about the church building. Those who are fully vaccinated may remove their masks when seated for worship, but those who are not yet fully vaccinated should wear masks at all times.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 8:35 p.m. (via phone), seconded by Pastor Heidi. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary