

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 10, 2016**

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>	
Pastor	Bridget Flad	
Moderator	Lou Norsetter	
Vice Moderator	Jeff Gibson	
Treasurer	Jeff Carels	
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Deb Rose	
Gifts & Memorials	Marlene Lanoue	Gary Hassel
Inreach	Heather Collins	
New Member	Steve Jones	
Outreach	Cathy Putman	
Stewardship	David Thie	
Worship	Sandy Polarek	
Communications Coordinator		Shaun Shouldeen
Talents & Gifts		
Guest(s)	Shana Espinosa Barbara McClure-Lukens	

Moderator Lou Norsetter called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared, followed by prayer.

Open Forum: None.

Shared Reflection: Heather shared a reflection.

Visioning Team Update: Barbara and Shana gave an update on the visioning process. They distributed materials describing proposed strategies developed with the assistance of the Consultant, John Wimberley, as well as input from the Congregation. Motion to accept the report and begin on the next steps was approved. (Jeff/Steve).

Senior Minister's Report:

Bridget reported she has a pretty solid working job description for the Associate Pastor position. One of the houses in the Waitzmann Condominium Association has been sold without changes to the Association. Closing is set for June 3. Bridget has asked a church member to investigate insurance alternatives for the Association. She asked for prayers for the significant needs evidenced by the increase in Parson's Purse requests, particularly around rent assistance for Church members. The winter drive for warm weather goods went amazingly well.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meeting of April 12 were approved (Steve/Deb).

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed his usual report. Income is above budget and expenses are below budget. Positive income is due to receipt of prior year pledges and non-pledge income. Based on the budget plan, the deficit would have been about \$9,000 at this point, but in actuality we are not in a deficit position. The Treasurer's report was approved (Jeff/Cathy).

New Business

- JOSHUA Request – Wine & Cheese Fundraiser at Union on July 22: JOSHUA has asked to hold a wine & cheese fundraiser at Union. Heather moved that the request be approved provided that they have appropriate controls for age and level of consumption. Deb seconded the motion and it was approved. Bridget will coordinate insurance issues with JOSHUA.

Continuing Business

- SHIFT WI Conference Initiative: Deferred to next meeting.
- Report From Delegates to NE Association Meeting: Steve, Lou and Bridget attended. Lou said this is the second she has attended. The meeting is a lot like our Annual Meeting but with workshops in the afternoon. She attended the session on Alternative Models for Ministry, which dealt in large part with how to use the skills learned in Lay Academy and how to coordinate with members of the clergy. What is mission and can you do all the things you would like to do to accomplish your mission. Some staples of church life may need to end if there isn't the staff or volunteer support to handle. They discussed other models of staffing:
 - Australian Model: Several lay pastors with one preacher.
 - Minister but no traditional building.
 - Multiple denominations sharing a building and resources.

Steve attended the Justice and Witness workshop. He observed there are churches doing many things that we have discussed. One idea was "outside of the office" office hours. Bridget mentioned churches doing "laundry Love" when they take over the laundromat with soap and quarters, bring sandwiches, etc., an example of a great way to reach out. Bridget led the Community Engagement workshop. She mentioned getting out of our 4 walls, for example having office hours outside of the church, and using the building more as a community center.

- Conference Annual Meeting June 10-12: Steve and Sandy are delegates. Others are welcome to attend. There are workshops in the afternoon. The conference website has more information (wcucc.org).

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

INREACH

Heather reported the Spring Fling was nicely attended. They are discussing how to make the event more attractive to younger members. The picnic will be June 5. This is not an Inreach event, but rather is sponsored by Common Ministry. Volunteers are needed for grilling and to receive and set out food on the serving tables. Please contact Heather or Dick/Bev. Common Ministry will be responsible for clean up. The picnic will be kicked off with a bicycle blessing. The annual Retreat is scheduled for September. Inreach is discussing how to reach younger families.

EDUCATION

Deb added that Kids' Day will be on June 24 and we will have a cooperative activity with Mayflower, perhaps with participation from the PFers.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No applications have been received.

NEW MEMBERS/MEMBERSHIP

Steve observed there have been a lot of visitors—they had to make 30 visitor packets. They are working on updating the packets. If you visit another church, please pick up one of their packets to see what they are doing.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship moved that we proceed to complete the sanctuary building tuck pointing, at a cost of approximately \$21,000. (There is work that was bid when the balance of the tuck pointing was done, but the contractor was never authorized to proceed with that portion. This will complete only the sanctuary.)

Other parts of the building may need to be addressed in the future.) The costs will be paid via a loan from Gifts & Memorials, with the repayment method to be determined. The motion was approved.

WORSHIP

May 15 is Pentecost. Rev. Jane Anderson (Associate Conference Minister of the Southeast and Northeast Associations) will preach along with Bridget. Wear Red!

OUTREACH

Cathy requested October 23 be reserved for Heifer Project. Souper Cooks plan to hold a bake sale on one Sunday in August. There will be no rummage sale this year.

Talents and Gifts:

No report.

Communications:

The Team is continuing to work on bumper sticker and T-shirt ideas.

Adjournment

Dave's motion to adjourn was seconded by Deb and approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Hohenstein, Clerk

Next meeting: June 14, 2016 – Chapel Classroom – 6:30 p.m.

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Shared Reflection	Treats
6/14/2016	Gibson	Putman
8/9/2016	Hassel	Rose
9/13/2016	Hohenstein	Shouldeen
10/11/2016	Jones	Thie
11/8/2016	Lanoué	Carels
12/13/2016	Norsetter	Collins
1/10/2017	Polarek	Flad-Daniels