

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

	Present:	Absent:	
Pastor	Bridget Flad-Daniels		
Moderator	Lou Norsetter		
Vice Moderator	Jeff Gibson		
Treasurer	Jeff Carels		
Clerk		Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Deb Rose		
Gifts & Memorials	Gary Hassel Marlene Lanoue		
Inreach	Heather Collins		
New Member		Steve Jones	
Outreach	Cathy Putman		
Stewardship	David Thie		
Worship	Sandy Polarek		
Communications Coordinator		Shaun Shouldeen	
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)	Sylvia Garrido		Advocacy Team rep

<p><u>Important Dates:</u>            11/6 Pledge Sunday and Memorial Sunday            11/13 New Member Sun. / Remembering Veterans            12/5 Women's Advent Evening            12/18 Christmas Pageant            12/24 Christmas worship at 4:30pm and 9pm / 12/25 at 10am</p>	<p><u>Next Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 13</u>            Fellowship Room, 6:30 p.m.            Shared Reflection: Lou Norsetter            Treats: Heather Collins</p>
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Jeff Carels provided "yum-delicious" treats.

Moderator Lou Norsetter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Shared Reflection:** Marlene Lanoue shared a reflection from St. Therese.

**Senior Minister's Report :**

Headway is being made with strategy groups.

Adult Ed Small Groups – Shana Espinosa: Living the Questions, book group in spring to read "good fiction"

Advocacy Group – Sylvia Garrido: Immigrant Welcoming Study (see below)

Small Group Connections: LGBTQ potluck/game night, Advent prayer partners, Service Sunday - > 70 people involved. Childcare provided. Parents filled out forms for cell numbers and permission to treat. Thank you notes have been received from those served.

Bridget will be participating in a UCC Pension Bd Continuing Education activity November 16-22.

**Clerk's Report**

No report

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeff Carels distributed his report. October was a good month with receipts exceeding expenses.

Heather Collins motioned acceptance of his report, David Thie, second. Motion carried.

Jeff distributed draft budget for 2017. Youth coordinator eliminated, 25% of annual associate pastor cost included. Utilities budget lowered due to reflect energy efficiency and lower energy costs.

Ministry chairs need to review their sections of the draft budget and get back to Jeff with any proposed adjustments.

### **New Business**

- **Advocacy Strategy Team – Sylvia Garrido**

- Have been meeting since August to discern an issue to encourage the church to advocate for – safe harbor, economic and social justice, and childhood poverty were all considered. Proposed that Union accept the WI Conference UCC encouragement to become an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation. Conference needs 66 congregations to commit to studying this topic by March 2017 in order to bring it to a vote at the Conference Annual Meeting in June.

Steps: Engage in a Wisconsin Council of Churches prepared study, initially 4 sessions of 45 minutes each. The Conference is also looking for 12 congregations that would assist in resettlement or other direct work with immigrants. That could be a future consideration for Union.

- Deb Rose moved and Heather Collins seconded to accept the recommendations of the Advocacy Team to engage in a study, perhaps during Lent, a week night and/or a Sunday night. Motion carried.

Materials can be found at [www.wcucc.org](http://www.wcucc.org), Resource Center, Justice Ministries, Immigration.

- **EPH devotional book**

Marlene shared that we're selling a \$10 (minimum donation) for a book which includes several Union authors to support the work of EPH. The book cost EPH \$8 and is meant to be a tool to gain more exposure for EPH and the need for service in the community...not a fund raiser.

### **Continuing Business**

- Deb Rose reported that the Associate Pastor Search Committee is still working on updating the church profile.
- Dave Thie reported that the Every Member Canvass has 82 pledges so far returned and \$217,000. Hoping for at least 160 donors.
- Jeff Gibson reported that the cable to install the sanctuary wireless access point has arrived and Tom Towill is leading a team to install it in the near future. Heartland's quote to update our firewall and include internet content filtering on our system has been updated. DRS is now reluctant to configure and install the access points they had recommended because of their concern that they are not familiar with Heartland's installed network. Jeff will contact Heartland to strategize a solution.

### **Ministry updates (information not already included in minutes)**

#### NEW MEMBERS / MEMBERSHIP

Signup for New Member Sunday potluck distributed by Bridget.

#### EDUCATION

No additions to distributed report.

GIFTS/MEMORIALS

Mayflower request received. G&M will meet to discuss.  
A request for the Memorial Garden has also come in.

INREACH

Nothing new, working on 12<sup>th</sup> night.

OUTREACH

George's Secret Elves collection is going well. Good news – new member prospects have stepped up to help with Howe and NEW Shelter activities.

STEWARDSHIP

No additions to distributed report.

WORSHIP

Sign up for Advent Prayer Partners.

TALENTS/GIFTS

COMMUNICATIONS

Nominating is still looking for someone to succeed Shaun.

**Adjournment**

David Thie moved, Deb Rose seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Gibson, Substitute Clerk

APPROVED