

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Present:

Absent:

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)			

Moderator Lou Norsetter called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Open Forum: None.

Shared Reflection: Lou Norsetter shared a reflection.

Senior Minister's Report: Bridget:

- The UCC Pension Boards sponsored a workshop in November for mid-level clergy focusing on their spiritual, vocational, physical, and financial health. Bridget will be sharing more information from the workshop.
- Bridget will be working with Dave Pietenpohl of EPH to pilot program called REACH (Regional Ecumenical Assistance Community of Hope), which aims to help organizations work together to respond more effectively to emergency needs that come to our doorstep. EPH has a grant to fund program for a year. It will provide a data base with contact information at help find the best resources for whatever the individual's need might be.
- Bridget distributed a list of people who are on the strategy teams for the visioning process. There may be others of which she is not aware. She discussed some of the activities that the teams are considering. Intent is that the teams will work with the Ministries most related to their activities, along with Common Ministry.
- Bridget distributed the current Nominating Committee report. Many thanks to Barbara McClure-Lukens for leading the nominating process plus Lou Norsetter, Heather Collins and Betty Bienash.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of October 11 and November 8 were approved. (Deb/Steve)

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed his usual report. November was not a good income month for us. Total giving was down. Expenses were at 90% (consistent with the rest of the year). There was no WPS bill this month, which was nice. Expenses were higher than income, and the YTD deficit is \$23,489. Jeff's report was approved (Steve/Heather)

New Business: None

Continuing Business

- Associate Pastor Search: The Church Profile is going through proofing process and should be done next week. After it is approved by Associate Conference Minister it will go live on the national UCC website. The process of reading profiles may take 3-6 months. First interviews are usually done via Skype followed by in-person interviews.
- EMC Update: David reported that as of yesterday, have \$305,341 in pledges from about 130 pledging units. Budget plan was in the range of \$420,000. It is anticipated that we will top out at about \$340,000. We have 12 new pledgers so far, but we have lost a few as well. Next steps: Follow up with any people who have donated in the last 2 years who have not responded. Also, the Treasurer and Pastor will look at possible budget adjustment options to present to Common Ministry in January. Possible options may include a second mile campaign.
- Advocacy Strategy Team: The team is studying becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation. Bridget reminded us that we voted to study becoming an IWC at the last Common Ministry meeting. She has heard positive comments from many in the Congregation, but please let her know what we are hearing, positive and negative. Team liked the idea of beginning its study in Lent. A 4 session curriculum will be held Sunday mornings and one week night. Also, the small group strategy team is selecting a book on that topic to launch a Union book group.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: Contract with Heartland was signed tonight. The two contractors will work together. Bridget asked if thank you notes could be sent out to the people who contributed to that project. Marlene volunteered to take this on.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

INREACH

Heather: 12th night is on 12th night this year (January 6 at 6 pm at the Church). She asked the New Member ministry to give a personal invites to the new members. Child care will be provided. The Wednesday night dinners are in need of people to help. Inreach is setting up a sign-out process for things people are borrowing from the kitchen, so we can better keep track of where things have gone. They will be seeking a kitchen coordinator after the first of the year—basically someone to keep track of supplies and to be the contact person when supplies are getting low

OUTREACH

No report.

NEW MEMBERS/MEMBERSHIP

Steve: Thanks to everyone for New Member Sunday help.

EDUCATION

Cyndi Pagel will be presenting an adult education series "Love Listen and Limits" on January 15, and 29, and February 5, 19, and 26. They will be encouraging neighborhood involvement.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Gary and Marlene distributed a spreadsheet showing what is available and what we have spent. Gary moved that we approve a grant to Mayflower of \$4,000 for scholarship purposes. Approved. Bridget will work with Mayflower and our Mayflower liaison Judy Larmouth regarding development of a scholarship process.

STEWARDSHIP

David added that Winnie's report indicated that December is looking like a good month for capital fund pledge payments, so it is expected that G&M will get more repayment from the loan.

WORSHIP

Sandy: Pageant is next Sunday (12/18). The next 2 Sundays are Christmas Day and New Year's Day. There will be no coffee hour on the 25th.

Talents and Gifts: No report.

Communications: No report.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: January 10, 2016 – Chapel Classroom – 6:30 p.m.

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Shared Reflection	Treats
01/11/17	Sandy Polarek	Bridget Flad Daniels
02/14/17		
03/14/17		
04/11/17		