

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 9, 2017**

Present:

Absent:

Pastor	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator	Sandy Polarek		
Vice Moderator	Jeff Gibson		
Treasurer	Jeff Carels		
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Helen Krueger	Deb Rose	
Gifts & Memorials	Nicole Polarek	Marlene Lanoue	
Inreach	Heather Collins		
New Member	Steve Jones		
Outreach	Christie Reese	Lou Norsetter	
Stewardship	David Thie		
Worship	Joann Brosky	Virginia Riggs	
Communications Coordinator		Nicole Kinjerski	
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)			

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Nicole Polarek shared a prayer from Fred Rodgers.

Open Forum: None.

Senior Minister's Report: Bridget gave thanks for the support from the Common Ministry and the Congregation surrounding her father's death. Her work has centered on Easter. Pastoral Relations will meet soon. She continues to work on the "rainbow" sign. Union will host the NE Association meeting on April 21, 2018. Our biggest responsibility will be hospitality, including a meal (funded by attendance fees). Bridget will convene a group in the fall to work on hospitality at the meeting. She is meeting with the Imam next week to continue the ongoing dialog about opportunities to offer aid to the Somali-Muslim community.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of April 11, 2017 were approved. (Jeff G./Steve)

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed his usual report. April income was significantly higher than normal. We received \$15,000 in 2nd Mile contributions in the last two months. Expenses are at 92% of budget. Utility costs have been a big savings this year due to moderate weather and not a lot of snow removal. Ministries have been good about not spending money YTD. Approved. (Heather/Steve)

New Business

- None

Continuing Business

- Getting to Yes: Discussed pages 1-41 of the book. Next meeting we will discuss pages 42-95.
- Delegates' Report for Northeast Association Meeting: Steve and Lou attended. It was held in a beautiful church. The meeting focused on SHIFT. They told the story of 3 churches (2 UCC and 1 Presbyterian) in Manitowoc working together and sharing staff. The meeting was very informative. About 150 people attended. Steve reported that our per capita dues will increase from \$4.25 to \$5.00 per person.
- Wisconsin Conference Meeting – June 9-11 (Green Lake). Bridget, Steve Jones and Sandy Polarek are attending.
- EMC Second Mile Update – David reported pledges received to date total \$37,175 with 86 giving units responding as of today. He expects more to trickle in. Unlikely we will hit \$50K. He noted that we received the amount originally anticipated to be needed for the Associate Pastor position and made a dent in the unexpected street assessment.
- Associate Pastor Search – The need for more frequent communication with the Congregation regarding status of the search was noted. Bridget reported that Barbara McClure-Lukens is the “communications liaison” on the Search Committee. Sandy will contact her to write a newsletter article about the status. The Search Committee met on Sunday to discuss the applications they had received. They met tonight to practice Skype interviews and to work through proposed questions. It was heartily agreed that fit is much more critical than quickly filling the position.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update – Jeff Gibson reported progress. Replacement equipment should be available in 60-90 days. The extra switch for wireless application points to allow the launch of the wireless network will be installed on June 12.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

EDUCATION

Helen reported that Faith Formation classes are changing next year. There will be 3 groups—Age 4-1st grade, and 2nd-4th grade and 5th grade and up. They are working on curriculum for all 3 levels for next year, and have been recruiting for teacher/aide positions, as well as youth advisors & cooks for Wednesday nights. Bridget reported that due to a number of factors, there will be no traditional Vacation Bible School this year. Instead, we are collaborating with First Congregational UCC (DePere) on 3 Faith Family Field trips—(1) “Earth” at the Wildlife Sanctuary on June 15; (2) “Water” at Joannes Park on July 20; and (3) “Fire”, a Bonfire at the DePere church on August 17.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

INREACH

Heather asked for feedback on several questions on the June 4 Church picnic. It was agreed it be held upstairs this year due to a number of factors, including uncertainty about the timing of the street reconstruction. She also mentioned that May 21 is Confirmation Sunday. Inreach will provide punch & refreshments.

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

Eight new members joined the Church two weeks ago. A good number of folks have been visiting in the last few months. Our next New Member Sunday (October 29) will feature an ice cream sundae pot luck. New Member will be working to communicate Church events and opportunities with new members to help them acclimate.

OUTREACH

Christie reported they are working to get Jubilee House ready for another family to move in. Marty Thiel is working hard on coordinating this effort, and Common Ministry is deeply grateful for his work, especially as he had asked before this latest turn over that we work on recruiting his successor. We need to fill the coordinator position. They have been talking that outreach is not just giving financial contributions—they want to provide opportunities to do outreach. Based on the feedback at the meeting, they will be working to set up another Service Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP

Dave expressed thanks to the folks who came to the work day on April 29th. Those present got a lot done.

WORSHIP

Joann asked for feedback on the Lenten services. It was expressed that the Good Friday evening service was very moving, and that the movies on Sunday evenings were great and got more participation than prior book discussions. Altar decorations were nice. We discussed Christmas Eve services, given that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. It was agreed there will be a more family-focused service at 10 AM and no 3 PM service. The 9 PM service will continue. The Christmas Pageant will be December 17.

Communications: Nicole Kinjerski sent a report. They are working on website review. She asked that each ministry review their section on the website and give feedback to Bridget and/or Nicole. She also reported that they are working on bumper stickers and asked for feedback on design.

Other: Thanks to Nicole P. for treats. Next meeting will be at the Metreau Apartments Community Room, hosted by Deb and Larry Rose. Parking on the street and the ramp will be free. Significant others are also invited.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. (Jeff G./Steve)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: June 13, 2016 – 6:30 PM
Metreau Apartments Club Room
115 E. Walnut St.

Future Schedule:

CM Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
6/13/17	Steve Jones	Steve Jones
8/8/17	Jeff Gibson	Heather Collins
9/12/17	Heather Collins	Jeff Carels
10/10/17	Marlene Lanoue	Jeff Gibson
11/14/17	Bridget Flad Daniels	Christie Reese
12/12/17	Lou Norsetter	Deb Rose
1/9/2018	Sandy Polarek	Sandy Polarek