

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

Pastor	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator	Sandy Polarek		
Vice Moderator		Jeff Gibson	
Treasurer	Jeff Carels		
Clerk	Deb Rose – Pro-tem	Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Deb Rose		
Gifts & Memorials	Nicole Polarek		
Inreach	Heather Collins		
New Member		Steve Jones	
Outreach	Christie Reese	Lou Norsetter	
Stewardship	Jamie VerGiesen	David Thie	
Worship	Kevin Sheier	Virginia Riggs	
Communications Coordinator	Nicole Kinjerski		
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)			

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda:** One under Continuing Business.

**Congregational Joys and Concerns:** Joys and concerns were shared.

**Gathering Prayer:** Bridget shared a reading on thanks and gratitude from *May I Have This Dance?*

**Open Forum:** None.

**Senior Minister's Report:** Bridget shared that she is working on scheduling ALICE Training for all members of Common Ministry, vice-chairs, ushers, and others will be offered in 2018. Annual reports of Ministries are due to Eric in the church office by December 29. The rainbow symbol for outdoor sign on Madison Street is in transition. Bridget is investigating the possibility of Union providing space on Thursday evenings to Proud Theater, an arts initiative for LGBTQ youth and allies.

**Clerk's Report**

Minutes of the meetings of October 12, 2017 were approved. (Heather/Jeff C)

Correspondence: None.

**Treasurer's Report**

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. Last month was fairly typical. Expenses at 97% of budget (excluding AP). YTD expenses exceed income by \$12,971. Approved. (Nicole P/Kevin). Reminder to ministries to notify Jeff if your ministry budget needs adjustment.

**New Business**

- Nominating Team reported by Bridget. The team has been working very hard. Search continues for Education Ministry chair, and Stewardship vice-chair.
- Gifts and Memorials requests. Co-chair, Nicole Polarek, presented a comprehensive overview of the work and money management responsibilities of Gifts and Memorials. She moved Common Ministry accept the committee's four recommendations from October 29, 2017:
  - Farmory: \$5,000 in 2017; \$5,000 in 2018 with invitation to reassess at end of 2018
  - COMSA: \$2,500
  - On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic: \$8,000

- Mayflower Nursery School: \$4,000  
[Add this note from Nicole's minutes: Note: \$150,000 is committed over 3 years for Associate Pastor (upon hire) and roughly \$8,800 to fund the assessment for the reconstruction of Madison Street.]

Vote unanimous for all four items. It was suggested to have the Church members who sponsored the grant requests compose an informative article for *Still Speaking*.

### **Continuing Business**

- Coffee Hours on the Eves – agenda item added this evening  
Sunday, December 24, 10am service – Nicole P, Nicole K, and Kevin S volunteered to coordinate along with the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday conveners.  
Sunday, December 31, 10am service – New Year's Eve – Bridget will include a note in the weekly email, encouraging people to bring holiday treats. .
- Assessment of Visioning Goal #2  
*Our church promotes societal transformation, welcomes and supports those who seek a safe harbor and reaches out to those in need.*
  - *Create a team to present a proposal to Common Ministry for a dyslexia clinic.*  
Update: Union supports On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic by promoting, volunteering, and committing space within the church.
  - *Develop two new hands-on mission projects that have multiple levels of time commitment.*  
Update: Outreach will convene a brainstorming session in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018 to develop two new hands-on mission projects that have multiple levels of time commitment.
  - *Create a team around one new advocacy issue.* – Discussion tabled to 12/12/17 meeting
- EMC Update: Jammie reported that \$228,345 from 90 pledges received to date - 60.9% of the goal. An e-mail blast is set for November 15 to encourage pledges. Larry Rose will facilitate the follow up calling team.
- AP Update: Deb reported the Search Committee has a second interview with a promising candidate scheduled for the week of November 20.
- NE Association Meeting Update: None.
- Thanksgiving Veterans' Dinner Update: Heather and Christie were happy to report that servers and food are set thanks to Common Ministry members who volunteered this evening. There is great participation, including some monetary donations.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: Per Bridget, Barbara McClure-Lukens has handed over convening to Bryan Lipke. Survey responses/participation were good. The 1:1 meetings are set to begin.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: Jammie shared Jeff's update that the task force is looking at an alternative way to solve a minor issue with headphone jacks in the balcony.
- Memorial Garden Update – Tabled

### **Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)**

#### EDUCATION

No additions.

#### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No additions.

#### INREACH

Reminder of Twelfth Night event at Union: Friday, January 5, 2018. Childcare provided.

#### NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

New Member Sunday welcomed seven new members, six of whom participated in Service Sunday, November 5.

#### OUTREACH

No additions.

STEWARDSHIP

Leak in the roof above the northwest stairwell is fixed. Will wait through the winter and spring thaw to ensure that seal is good before repairing drywall.

WORSHIP

Kevin shared Sunday, November 19 will be Memorial Sunday. A church member will accompany individuals to light the candles. During the offertory, anyone who suffered a loss this past year will be invited to come forward and place a white ribbon on a tree at the front. December 3, Communion will be in the pews. December 17 Christmas Pageant – No Faith Formation classes. December 24, 10am service will be family focus, and 10pm will be candlelight service. December 31, New Year’s Eve, may be a Taize service.

Reminder: Thanksgiving Service, November 21, 7pm at Congregation Cnesses Israel. All are welcome.

**Communications:** Nicole K announced the next meeting is set for November 20

Thanks to Christie Reese for treats.

Motion to adjourn (Jammie/Jeff C) was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Rose  
Clerk, Pro-tem

Next meeting: December 12, 2017 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
12/12/17	Lou Norsetter	Deb Rose
1/9/2018	Sandy Polarek	Nicole Kinjerski