

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2017**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

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

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

**Additions to the Agenda:** No Additions.

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

**Gathering Prayer:** Bridget led us in prayer.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Senior Minister's Report:** Bridget is working to schedule ALICE training for church leaders, especially ushers, teachers and youth advisors. Ministry Chairs are asked to invite their Ministry members also. She continues to work on finalizing a rainbow design for the Church sign.

**Clerk's Report**

Minutes of the meetings of November 14, 2017 were approved. (Steve/Jeff C.)

Correspondence: Two thank you notes were read.

**Treasurer's Report**

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. November income was lower than anticipated (now at 96% of budget) although December is usually a good income month. Expenses continue at 97% of budget excluding Associate Pastor. YTD balance is negative \$24,251. Income statements have been sent out. Jeff's report was approved. (Steve/Heather)

**New Business**

- **Safe Sanctuary:** Our Safe Sanctuary policy has not been updated in some time. Bridget asked that a group be convened to review and revise our policy. (E.g., the policy has no mention of the digital world. There is coverage for training adults, but no training for youth on what actions to take if there were an issue affecting them.) Suggestions were offered for people who might be good for the team. Bridget will convene a group of 3-5 church members to start their review/revision in January.
- **Proposed Budget:** Jeff distributed a summary of the proposed budget. Full budgets are available upon request. Bridget reported we are currently about \$90,000 short on the EMC goal. Common Ministry will review the budget in January and determine whether to recommend it for approval to the Congregation.

## Continuing Business

- Assessment of Visioning Goal #2 (cont'd): After discussion, the consensus was to continue to focus our advocacy goal on Immigration at least until Outreach conducts its brainstorming session in the first quarter. The recommendation is: “Continue to support the Immigration Advocacy Team.” Next meeting: Discuss #4.
- EMC Update: See above. \$285,000 has been pledged so far this year versus a goal of \$375,000. 44 people who pledged last year have not yet responded. There is the potential of a need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile or some other vehicle to encourage additional giving. One possible step is very direct testimonials from Common Ministry and the Finance Team in worship and via other communication methods regarding status of campaign. .
- AP Update: The Search Team continues to meet, review profiles and interview candidates. Candidate interest has been quite steady.
- Nominating Team Report: We are still looking for chair for Education and a Vice Chair for Stewardship.
- NE Association Meeting Update: April 28. Planning work to commence.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: See above. Heather suggested the team make some sort of communication to those who offered support via the fall survey.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update – No report.
- Memorial Garden Update: No report.

## Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

### EDUCATION

No additions.

### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No additions.

### INREACH

Remember 12<sup>th</sup> Night January 5.

### NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

New Member Sunday will be April 29...

### OUTREACH

Thanksgiving at Veterans Manor went very well. We were invited to come back next year. It was a good experience for the volunteers, also. The Church response was heartwarming, having more volunteers than were needed. Outreach plans to thank those who participated and convene a group to explore Thanksgiving ideas for next year.

### STEWARDSHIP

No additions.

### WORSHIP

Pageant will be this weekend. There are still a few more roles to be filled.

Communications: The Communications Team will meet on Monday.

Thanks to Deb for the treats tonight!

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved (Steve/Deb). After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45. p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein  
Clerk

Next meeting: January 9, 2017 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

| Common Ministry Meetings | Gathering Prayer | Treats           |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1/9/2018                 | Sandy Polarek    | Nicole Kinjerski |