

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2018**

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 | Betty Bienash | Heather Collins | |
| New Member | | Steve Jones | |
| Outreach | Christie Reese | Lou Norsetter | |
| Stewardship | David Thie | | |
| Worship | 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:

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Sandy Polarek

Open Forum: None.

Senior Minister's Report: Bridget observed that the Christmas services went off beautifully. The Pageant was wonderful; both services on 24th went well. The New Year's Eve Taize service was well received. She expressed gratitude to the Church staff who helped make things go smoothly with extra bulletins, snow and ice removal, and extraordinary music. Next Monday's ecumenical Martin Luther King Jr. GIFT (Gathered in Faith Together) service will be at 7 pm at Union, and will include a pick up choir. Common Ministry members volunteered to usher and host the post-service reception. Bridget reminded us of the upcoming A.L.I.C.E. training.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of December 12 were approved. (Jeff/Dave)

Correspondence: Several thank you letters were read.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. The Church's financial year finished well. December income was strong, and the year's income was over budget by \$894. Expenses ended \$469 below budget (excluding expenses intended for the Associate Pastor). Jeff reviewed the budget lines which were both most above and most below budget. Report approved (Deb/Dave).

New Business

- Annual Meeting: Bridget reminded Ministry Chairs that Eric really needs our annual reports. Plans were finalized for the Annual Meeting with sign-ups for set-up, clean-up, etc. The meeting will be in the sanctuary and lunch will follow.
- Prayer and Treats Signup for 2018: The list was passed around.

Continuing Business

- Assessment of Visioning Goal #4: “Our church emphasizes the central importance of personal transformation through grace.” Examples of implementation of this goal include:
 - Parent-to-Parent FaceBook page (not being widely used).
 - Parent to parent group for conversation on parent support.
 - Weekly email blast regarding the current Faith Formation topics.
 - Moon Beach Retreat
 - PF and YCA.
 - Family Faith Field-Trips (co-sponsored with First Cong. De Pere to replace Vacation Bible School)
 - Living the Question sessions. Some offerings did not get much participation.
 - Lent Movies were well attended.
 - Seminary Secrets classes, both on Wednesdays and Sundays.
 - “Splash” – curriculum sent out periodically for birth-3 ideas e.g. prayers to do with a toddler, songs to sing, ideas of how to deal with questions and talk to your children about faith.
 - Immigrant book study.

We agreed to contemplate this goal and these offerings and assess the goal at our next meeting.

- EMC Update: David reported that pledges received through Monday totaled \$336,718 (143 pledges) which is below the \$375,000 goal but better than where we were at this time last year. The follow up teams have pretty much completed their work.
- Budget: Jeff: passed around a proposed budget for 2018. Common Ministry discussed potential ways to approach the \$20,000 deficit. Bridget proposed a quarterly congregational information meeting. The Treasurer’s motion to offer the proposed budget for adoption at the Annual Meeting was approved.
- AP Update: Deb reported we are close. A neutral pulpit is scheduled in January. Assuming that goes well, the Search Committee will recommend a call to Common Ministry and assuming Common Ministry agrees, it will then propose to recommend a call to the congregation.
- Safe Sanctuary: Common Ministry approved the establishment of a committee to review our Safe Sanctuary policies comprised of Nicole Polarek, Kevin Sheier, Betty Hartmann and Helen Krueger.
- Nominating Team Report: Bridget shared the slate of nominees for open leadership positions. The good news is that we have a full slate!
- NE Association Meeting Update: No Change.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: Meeting regularly and doing 1/1s.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: Jeff not available tonight. Progress continues.
- Memorial Garden Update: Gail reviewed her notes from the meeting among herself, Heather Collins, Phil Hauck and Bob Fahres. She and Heather will work on proposed recommendations.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

INREACH

12th Night. Attendance was about the same as last year. The Ministry has a concern that although those who attend have a nice time, the event is not bringing in many new participants. Inreach is open to new ideas.

EDUCATION

No additions, except to thank Deb for her service as Chair.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

No report.

OUTREACH

The response to the Giving Tree for COMSA was wonderful.

STEWARDSHIP

No additions. Thank to David for service as Chair.

WORSHIP

Virginia expressed appreciation for Kevin Sheier’s contributions as Vice Chair. Please let Kevin know if you are interested in serving Communion (even if you are already on the list). Worship’s next meeting will be February 6.

Communications: Nicole Kinjerski reported that the Communications Team has met and is looking for additional members. They will be focusing on social media and the website. They are planning to have bumper stickers for distribution at Pride Alive and other events.

Adjournment

Thank you Nicole K for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: February 13, 2018 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

| Common Ministry Meetings | Gathering Prayer | Treats |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2/13 | Jeff Carels | Gail Hohenstein |
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