

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF February 13, 2018**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

Pastor	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator	Sandy Polarek		
Vice Moderator	Jeff Gibson		
Treasurer	Jeff Carels		
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Nancy Gibson		
Gifts & Memorials	Nicole Polarek		
Inreach	Heather Collins		
New Member	Steve Jones		
Outreach	Lou Norsetter	Christie Reese	
Stewardship	Jammie VerGiesen		
Worship	Virginia Riggs		
Communications Coordinator		Nicole Kinjerski	
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)	Barbara McClure-Lukens, Deb Rose, Julie Harder, Ben VerGiesen		

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. As this is the beginning of a new Common Ministry term, she reviewed some housekeeping items. A snack and prayer sheet was passed around. She asked Chairs to please ask their Vice-Chair to attend Common Ministry meetings in the event the Chair are unable to attend. Please review and comment (or respond that you have no comments) as soon as possible after the draft minutes are received. This will allow for earlier posting for the Congregation. Regarding Ministry minutes, please provide them to Bridget by the Thursday after the meeting if at all possible. Relative to the Ministry Reports section of the Common Ministry meetings, please do not re-hash your minutes; rather, point out anything special we should know or need to discuss as an issue.

**Additions to the Agenda:** It was agreed that the Recommendation of the Associate Pastor Search Committee would move to immediately follow the Gathering Prayer.

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

**Gathering Prayer:** Jeff Carels shared the lyrics of the song, The Prayer.

**Recommendation of Associate Pastor Search Committee:** Ben VerGiesen presented the recommendation of the Search Committee with input from Barbara McClure-Lukens, Deb Rose and Julie Harder. Other members of the Committee were Todd Kane, Liz Gregg, and McKenna Stueck. Ben, on behalf of the Search Committee, made the following motion: "With great excitement, the Search Committee unanimously recommends Jon Pahl, Ph.D. for the position of Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement." The motion was seconded Steve Jones. Ben shared it has been an 18-month journey during which they talked to many, many candidates, and involved the dedication of a significant amount of time by the Committee. Ben said he feels blessed to have received the interest in the open position from Jon Pahl, Ph.D., the candidate the Committee is recommending. Dr. Pahl is very intelligent, widely published, and his neutral pulpit was phenomenal. Although he is not ordained, he has a significant theological education. The Committee feels he will be excellent in working with people of all ages, appearing very creative and engaging. They feel he will meet all congregants where they are and be able to articulate his message and understand and guide them, as well as to articulate the message of our church to the broader community. He is choosing us as much as we are choosing him. Assuming approval of the motion, the next steps in the process will include distribution of written introductory materials to the Congregation followed by a Saturday "meet and greet" open house, and a Sunday sermon followed by a Special Congregational Meeting to recommend his hire. (Note that given that this is not a call, Bridget has the authority to independently make the hire

decision, but she feels getting the Congregation's recommendation is appropriate.) Hopefully, he would start in early April. One potential request would be that he become "licensed" by the UCC, which means the Association and Conference would have a more formal connection to him and he would be subject to a fitness review in the unlikely event something went wrong. As well, he would have a more direct connection to sister churches and would be able to celebrate the sacraments. During the discussion which ensued, it was confirmed that although he came to us as a result of a posting through the Wisconsin Council of Churches, not through the Association search process, the Committee worked with Association Minister for due diligence to make sure the search process was followed and we have her blessing. Although he lives in Clintonville, and will do a portion of his work for us from home, it is expected he will be very engaged in the community. His passion for social justice is powerful. It is expected he will be able to definitely hit the ground running. Although his background and training has been in the ELCA, he sees himself as ecumenical, and he is currently a member of a UCC (ONA) church in Clintonville. Common Ministry recalled that the original conception of this position allowed for it to be filled by either an ordained or non-ordained person—we were looking for the best person for the job (The job description will be made available to Congregation members who wish to review it.) We are progressive and we embrace change, it is believed he will be good for our future, helping us to move forward. Bridget has spent a good deal of time with him and believes they will have a good working relationship. Motion approved with a huge thank you to the Search Committee for the tremendous amount of effort they have expended in this task.

Heather moved (second Jeff C.) that we approve the following plans for onboarding Dr. Pahl:

- Send informational flyer regarding Dr. Pahl to the Congregation
- Open House opportunity for Congregation to meet him March 17, 2-4 p.m.
- Dr. Pahl preaches March 18
- Special Congregational Meeting regarding recommendation to hire Dr. Pahl March 18 after worship
- Reception following the Congregational Meeting
- Require that Dr. Pahl become licensed with the UCC.

The motion was approved.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Senior Minister's Report:** Bridget reminded us that St. John's Homeless Shelter has been working with other entities in the community to find emergency shelter for the homeless during the months its shelter is not open. They are asking various churches in the community to host an emergency overflow shelter (9 p.m.-7 a.m.) for one week on two occasions during those months. All staffing and insurance would be the responsibility of St. John's. The shelter staff would bring in cots and other materials necessary. There is no expectation of meals or showers. At this point this is informational only. We are not being asked to make a commitment at this time.

### **Clerk's Report**

Minutes of the meetings of January 9, 2018 were approved. (Steve/Jammie)

Gail distributed copies of the draft minutes of the January 29, 2018 Annual Meeting for Common Ministry review.

The following resolutions were adopted (Heather//Jeff G):

#### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

*Bridget Flad Daniels, Senior Pastor, Jeff Carels, Treasurer, and Winnie Hutjens, Financial Secretary, of Union Congregational United Church of Christ ("Church") are hereby authorized to make withdrawals from the Church's line of credit account (#87006726001) with Associated Bank, N.A. ("Bank) and all such persons are granted access to all information and records pertaining to such account; and*

*Bridget Flad Daniels, Senior Pastor, Jeff Carels, Treasurer, Sandy Polarek, Moderator, and Jammie VerGiesen, Stewardship Ministry Chair, of the Church are authorized to sign checks and make withdrawals from the Church's checking account (#089510587) and money market account (#2227066251) with the Bank and all such persons are granted access to all information and records pertaining to such account; and*

*Bridget Flad Daniels, Senior Pastor, and either Sandy Polarek, Moderator, Jammie VerGiesen, Stewardship Ministry Chairperson, or Jeff Carels, Treasurer, are hereby authorized to sell, assign and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stocks, bonds, or other securities now registered, or hereafter registered in the name of Union Congregational United Church of Christ; and Winifred E. Hutjens, Financial Secretary, is granted access to all information and records pertaining to such stocks, bonds or other securities.*

#### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

Bridget Flad Daniels, Senior Pastor, and either Sandy Polarek, Moderator, Jammie VerGiesen, Stewardship Ministry Chairperson, or Jeff Carels, Treasurer, are hereby authorized to sell, assign and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stocks, bonds, or other securities now registered, or hereafter registered in the name of Union Congregational United Church of Christ; and

Winnie Hutjens, Financial Secretary is granted access to all information and records pertaining to such stocks, bonds or other securities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Bridget Flad Daniels, Senior Pastor, is hereby authorized to sign checks and make withdrawals from the Church's checking account (#000008015007) with U.S. Bank, and is granted access to all information and records pertaining to such account.

and

**Whereas**, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a church-designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and

**Whereas**, the Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels is compensated by Union Congregational United Church of Christ exclusively for the services as a minister of the gospel; and

**Whereas**, Union Congregational United Church of Christ does not provide the Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels with a parsonage, therefore, it is hereby

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

the total compensation for housing and salary paid to the Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels for calendar year 2018 shall be \$73,542 of which \$31,623 (43%) is hereby designated to be a housing allowance, and

the designation of \$31,623 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2018 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. January income was significantly higher than expected, perhaps as a result of changes in the tax code. Expenses are in line with budget. Approved. (Steve/Jammie)

### **New Business**

- Gifts and Memorials Recommendations: Nicole P. moved, on behalf of the Gifts & Memorials ministry, approval of (1) a donation of \$100 to Lakeland College to support Lakeland students' attendance at an LGBTQ conference, and (2) allocation of up to a total of \$2,000 to support our members' children attendance at one of the UCC camps, which the Gifts and Memorials Ministry would manage through an application process. Approved.
- Delegates for April 28 Northeast Association Meeting, Union UCC Church: Steve Jones is willing to be a delegate. Please contact Bridget with suggestions for the other delegate.
- Delegates for Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting June 8-10, Green Lake: Lou Norsetter and Steve Jones will be delegates.

### **Continuing Business**

- 2018 Budget Shortfall Ideas: A number of possible fundraising ideas were suggested, from bake sales, targeted purpose giving, wild game dinner, fish boil, auction, antique sale. We may need to do several things as different events might appeal to different elements of the Congregation. Nicole reminded us that the Gifts & Memorials commitment to the second staff position need does not need to be allocated evenly over the 3 year period. We also discussed different approaches to handling the pledge campaign. Ultimately, because it was felt that there was significant benefit in having more Congregational input (and thus buy-in and participation), Steve moved (second by Gail) that the Moderator, on behalf of Common Ministry, solicit ideas from the Congregation. The motion was approved.
- NE Association Meeting Update: Plans are in the works.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: One-on-ones are being held.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: No report.
- Memorial Garden Update: Deferred to March.
- Review of Goal #4, Continued: Deferred to March

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

EDUCATION

No report.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Informational session hosted by On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic will be held on Sunday after church.

INREACH

Inreach will host the reception on 3/18, as well as the Easter Breakfast between the two Easter services.

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

Please look at the upcoming New Member Sessions listed on the agenda and let Steve know which you will be attending at our next meeting.

OUTREACH

No report. The collection box for Help for the Homeless will be available February 18-March 11 (hygiene supplies).

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is scheduling a follow-up to the ALICE training which will include a walk through to assess the building and what we can do to improve safety.

WORSHIP

No report.

**Communications:** Nicole Kinjerski was not available, but Bridget reported that rainbow decals for the Church sign have been ordered.

**Adjournment**

Thank you Gail for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein  
Clerk

Next meeting: March 13, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
March	Heather	Virginia
April	Jammie	Nicole P.
May		Nicole K.
June	Bridget	Sandy
August	Christie R.	Jammie
September		Jeff C.
October	Jeff G.	Christie R.
November		Heather
December	Steve	Steve
January		Nancy