

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

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>		
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	Christie Reese	Lou Norsetter	
Stewardship	Jammie VerGiesen		
Worship	Virginia Riggs		
Communications Coordinator		Nicole Kinjerski	
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)			

Vice Moderator Jeff Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Heather Collins read a poem.

Open Forum: None.

Senior Minister's Report: Much of Bridget's report will be handled in agenda for the rest of the meeting. She expressed deep gratitude for the work of the Search Committee.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2018 were approved. (Heather/Steve)

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. There was not a lot to report as it is early in the year. Income was \$25,867. We had a lot of pre-pledged income probably because of the tax law changes. Expenses are at 95% of budget. Expenses exceeded income by \$4,215. Approved. (Jammie/Steve)

New Business

- St. John's Homeless Shelter Request: St. John's is allowed to be open 180 days, which leaves 185 days without an emergency shelter. NEW Community Shelter limits its population based on staffing so it cannot cover the needs when St. John's is closed. Also, St. John's turns no one away; as long as one is not violent or using while in shelter, St. John's will take them. As of April 30, there is often nowhere in the city where a person can shelter. Bridget noted that last year she gave out a significant amount of funds from Parsons Purse for housing needs in the summer. St. John's has asked 13 churches/organizations to each provide shelter for 2 weeks (1 at a time) for overnight housing for what is expected to be about 12 people from May 1 through October 31 during the hours of 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. This would only involve providing space. Shelter personnel will staff. No meals would be involved. St. John's will provide insurance and indemnification. If we were to go ahead with this

Bridget would try to schedule the first week after Mayflower is done for the school year. Christie expressed that the Outreach co-chairs happy to help educate the Congregation if we were to go ahead with this. There was discussion about how to provide a suitable space to minimize risk/liability issues for the Church. Christie moved that we participate in this program. It was seconded by Nancy and approved.

- Lakeland University Concert/Meal: Bridget reported that the choir needs no housing, but there is a need for people to feed them and attend the show. Bridget will put the request out to the Congregation.
- Alcohol Policy: Bridget reviewed the history of the alcohol policy. Common Ministry has to approve any instance of alcohol being served on the premises. We have allowed for 12th Night, the JOSHUA Wine & Cheese Fundraiser and the Freedom House Fundraiser. Some Congregation members have raised concerns to Sandy about allowing alcohol on the church premises. There are really two questions. First, how do we decide when and why we allow alcohol for internal events, and second, whether or not we should allow other organizations to serve alcohol when they use the building. Stewardship is willing to work on getting appropriate liability agreements if we agree to continue the policy. Discussion continued on both the philosophical aspects and the practical aspects of this issue. Bridget will discuss it with the insurance company. We will discuss at the next meeting. Jammie will ask Eric to distribute the current building use policy to Common Ministry.

Continuing Business

- 2018 Budget—Deficit Budget Fundraising: Bridget said the suggestions that have come in:
 - CD featuring our music staff/choir/others
 - Silent arts & crafts auction
 - Auction
 - Brat/Burger Sales
 - Spring yard cleanup for neighbors (with donation requested)
 - Christmas Tree SaleVarious ideas were discussed. Bridget will contact Stacie Christian to explore the possibility of an antique sale. We want to appoint teams to start working on an auction/variety show/dinner and a possible tree sale. Jammie will talk with Ben VerGiesen to explore the possibility of a Variety Show and Silent Auction. He will also talk with Achim Siefert about the idea of the Christmas Tree Sale.
- NE Association Meeting Update—4/28—8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.: This event, to be held at our Church, will involve a service about 9 a.m. with Communion in the pews. Continental breakfast and lunch for the approximately 125 attendees. We will need greeters and ushers, as well as folks to setup and cleanup. There will be sign-ups available right after Easter.
- Minister of Faith Formation and Community Involvement: Inreach will provide the coffee hour on Sunday. Need help with serving and cleanup.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: No update. They are looking forward to the new Minister.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: No Update.
- Memorial Garden Update: No Update.
- Review of Goal #4, Continued: Tabled.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

EDUCATION

No updates.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No updates.

INREACH

Church picnic will be June 3 after service in the Park. There will be no Spring Fling this year.

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

Steve asked Ministry Chairs to sign up for the New Member sessions. Steve announced he is going to be moving out of the area this summer, but is working on a transition plan for the Ministry.

OUTREACH

No update.

STEWARDSHIP

Jammie reported we are looking at a hefty repair for water damage to the organ. We are investigating insurance coverage.

WORSHIP

No update.

Communications: No report.

Adjournment

Thank you Virginia for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: April 10, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
April 10	Jammie	Nicole P.
May 8		Nicole K.
June 12	Bridget	Sandy
August 14	Christie	Jammie
September 11		Jeff C.
October 9	Jeff G.	Christie
November 13		Heather
December 11	Steve	Steve
January 8		Nancy