

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2018**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

Pastor	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Associate Minister	Jon Pahl		
Moderator	Sandy Polarek		
Vice Moderator	Jeff Gibson		
Treasurer	Jeff Carels		
Clerk		Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Nancy Gibson		
Gifts & Memorials		Phil Enscoe, 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)			

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. (Meeting was held in the Fellowship Room)

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

**Gathering Prayer:** Christie shared a poem.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Ministers' Reports:**

Bridget reported that she and Winnie have been working on consolidating banking functions and working on implementing more efficient practices. This will make things easier as Winnie is planning to reduce her hours in the future. Bridget has accepted a position as the Wisconsin Conference Racial Justice team leader. On November 15, Union will be hosting a Big Read event using the book "The Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism." The church will be selling the book at half the list price. Author, Drew Hart, will be coming to Madison December 1. We may want to send a contingent to hear him speak. On September 22, Plymouth UCC in Milwaukee will be hosting an event on Racism in Church. Bridget announced that Steve Jones has moved to Los Angeles. Nicole Kinjerski will be taking over as New Member chair. A replacement will be needed for Communications.

Jon should learn the results of his grant application in October. If successful we will need office space for the pastor network staff. Jon is on the board of directors of The Brain Center. They will need office space. The dyslexia clinic will also need space. Jon proposed renovating the YCA room to accommodate these initiatives. PF will be studying Jesus' Non-violent Way. Jon could use more help on Wednesdays and Sundays. Jon would like to start an evening Jazz Vespers series featuring local musicians. The musicians have agreed to work for "the house." This means that the free will offering will go to the musicians who participate. Jon will be on a trip to Italy with his wife from October 7-19. On November 11 he will be in Philadelphia for a speaking engagement. He will also be in Toronto on January 6 or 13 to discuss his soon to be released book on Fethullah Gülen.

**Clerk's Report:**

Minutes of the meetings of July 10, 2018 were approved. Approved (Jeff G/Jeff C).

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. Approved (Jammie/Nancy).

**New Business:**

- **Music Director Vacancy:** Bridget, Jon, Virginia, Sandy, Denise Olson, Ray Thompson, and Paul Gregg are reviewing applications. Once narrowed down and interviewed, the final candidate(s) will conduct a session with the choir in which they will practice two pieces, one familiar and one new to the choir. In the interim, Jason

Pues has agreed to lead choir rehearsals and Paul Gregg will direct the choir on Sundays. It is hoped that the process can be completed by mid-September.

### Continuing Business

- **Quarterly meeting:** Education (Nancy), Outreach (Lou) and Treasurer (Jeff C) will speak.
- **Summer family programs/Faith, Family, Field trips update:** About 10 attended the Pow Wow. It was impressive and it was recommended that we participate again. About 20 attended the Bay Beach event which went very well. The Wolf River Float is scheduled for August 18. The group felt that this program should continue next summer.
- **St John overnight housing update:** Our participation went smoothly. The city decided to extend St. John's permit to 12 months. The authorities felt it would be better for the program to be housed at one site than to have it float. It is unlikely that we will be asked again to provide the service.
- **2018 Budget fundraising updates:** Jeff C is heading up the Christmas Tree project. The team has met and is gathering info. The plan is to use this year as a learning experience keeping it small (55 trees – 30 donated by Larry Krueger and 25 or so from a vendor.) Future of project will be decided after Christmas. Stacie Christian and Ben Vergiesen are working on the Dinner/Auction which will be held October 19. On 9/18 Heartland Pizza in Ashwaubenon will be donating a percentage of it proceeds to Union. We need to encourage families and friends to try out this New York style pizza place and help the church. On August 15, Union will be registered with Amazon Smile. Amazon contributes 0.5% of your purchase to Union if you participate in this.
- **Immigration advocacy team update:** Group will be meet 8/21 at 6:00. They plan 3 activities: a book discussion, a presentation by immigration lawyer Dennis Rader, and a training session on engaging with others who are anti-immigration.
- **Tech/AV Task Force Update:** Jeff G announced that we will be installing a WIFI based audio system that will allow users connected to our WIFI to receive our sanctuary audio feed on a tablet or phone which has an app installed. He is looking at a system called audiofetch.
- **Memorial Garden Update:** The area has been improved. Katie Small's family has agreed to fund landscaping maintenance for a few years.
- **Strategic Plan process:** We will continue with the current process through this program year. In spring Bridget and Jon will investigate a new process to bring to Common Ministry.

### Ministry updates

- **Education:** Aides are needed at 4K-2 and 3-6. A teacher is also needed at 3-6. 7-12 seems to be staffed OK.
- **Gifts and Memorials:** \$1082 in support for Lou Norsetter's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year costs for Lay Academy were approved. (Christie/Jammie)
- **In reach:** Common Ministry help needed for potluck set up and clean up on September ReUnion Sunday. Jeff C, Sandy, Jammie and Jeff G volunteered. Others are welcome!
- **New Member/Membership:** Nicole Kinjerski will take over for Steve Jones who has moved to Los Angeles.
- **Outreach:** Heifer Sunday will be 11/18.
- **Stewardship:** Fall work day will be September 22 from 8 to Noon. A \$35,000 mini capital campaign to repair the organ and the loft space was approved. (From Committee). Jammie, Jon and Bridget will work on developing the messaging. Jeff C will discuss at the Quarterly meeting on August 19.
- **Worship:** Next meeting September 4.

**Communications:** A replacement for Nicole Kinjerski will need to be recruited by nominating.

**Adjournment/Closing Prayer:** Adjournment was approved. (Jeff G/Jammie). The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Next meeting: September 11, 2018 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
September 11	Jammie	Jeff C.
October 9	Jeff G.	Christie
November 13	Lou	Heather
December 11	Steve	Steve
January 8	Sandy	Nancy