

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2018**

Present:

Absent:

Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels, 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	Lou Norsetter	Christie Reese	
Stewardship	Jammie VerGiesen		
Worship	Virginia Riggs		
Communications Coordinator		Nicole Kinjerski	
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)			

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

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Bridget shared a poem.

Open Forum: None.

Ministers' Reports:

Bridget: Please sign up to volunteer at Pride Alive on July 14. It would be great to have church leadership participate. The plan is to offer glitter blessings and invite people to write prayers on different colored pieces of paper, thus creating a "Rainbow of Prayer." Our booth will be shared with St. Anne's Episcopal and Christ Community Lutheran churches. She passed out a schedule of her planned time out of the pulpit and how it will be covered:

June 24-Friend's Wedding: Jon preaching

July 29-August 6-Vacation: Jon preaching; Jan Davis presiding over Communion

September 16-All Church Retreat: Rev. Jane Helgevold preaching.

After last meeting, Bridget and Jon were tasked to put together an info session on the "Spirituality of Spirits". They are developing the session and working on a venue and scheduling (perhaps a Tuesday in July).

Jon: Jon said he is discovering a rhythm to work life here. He is very much enjoying what he finds to be a vibrant and healthy congregation with all kinds of potential. Of late, his primary focus has been the Lilly grant proposal which has now been submitted. He recognizes receiving the grant to be a long shot, but its preparation was a valuable learning process. He has met with the YCA staff. He will be leading PF with a focus on non-violence. He had a good meeting with the Education Ministry and discussed new initiatives to be piloted including new groups and curriculum. The hope is to bring nonparticipating families back into activity. Education is contacting all the teachers and aides and recruiting for next year. Our Grant Station subscription is active and has 3 possible requests. One is for the dyslexia clinic to support tutors and provide rental income to the church for use of the space. A second is a grant to Casa Alba and a third for the PrayGround. Jon will be away this coming Sunday for his grandson's baptism. June 24 is Habitat for Humanity Sunday, including a time before church. Jon is encouraging Church members to go as a group to the Oneida PowWow on June 29. There will be a sign-up sheet at Union

Central. It will dovetail with some education later in the year dealing with native cultures. There will be a special Duke Ellington service on July 1.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of May 8, 2018 were approved. (Heather/Lou)

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. May income was quite low, which may be due to some May income being reported in June due to Winnie's vacation. Expenses are at 100% of budget. (Jammie/Jeff G.)

New Business

- Report from the WI Conference Annual Meeting: Bridget, Jon, Steve Jones, Lou Norsetter, and Jan Davis attended. Lou reported there were motions approved on (1) studying the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, (2) changing the leadership structure [reduction of leadership positions from 3 to 1], (3) 2019 budget and (4) reelecting Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert to another 4-year term. There was discussion of a bylaws change involving coming into partnership with UCC of Canada. She attended workshops on white privilege and peacemaking and brought back materials from the white privilege and Doctrine of Discovery workshops. Bridget and Jon will be working with Adult Ed to determine how they will be utilized. Lou also went to the Lay Academy recognition and noted that there was excellent music at the meeting. Bridget added that we will be recognizing Lou's two years in Lay Academy in church on Sunday. Bridget attended workshops on African American Music in Worship and Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (which reported a belief that 25% of the population is sensitive to mold, which may be an issue for some church buildings). Jon attended the Three Great Loves workshop which collects stories about love of neighbor, love of children and love of the earth. He found it quite valuable to be at the conference and meet people.
- Quarterly Meeting in August: Scheduled for August 19. Bridget and Jeff will work on financials. Education and Outreach will present. We will try to keep it to a half hour.

Continuing Business

- Summer Family Programs/Faith, Family Field Trips Update: June 29 PowWow, potential rafting trip in July, Bay Beach dinner Date TBD.
- St. John Homeless Shelter Overnight Housing Update—June 7-17 & October 21-31: Seems to be going well. Between 6-24 clients participating.
- 2018 Budget—Deficit Budget Fundraising Update: Jammie reported on the response to the Christmas tree sale questionnaires. There were 28 respondents. 11 would buy a tree, 19 a wreath. 9 households would participate on the committee. The next goal is to meet with the committee, determine who will chair and consider next steps. A member of the Congregation has offered 30 trees, which might be a place to start. Moving forward with the wreath sale idea involves contacting the vendor and discussing how to get on board with the program. It looks like a good option as it does not involve financial risk to the Church and is not particularly labor intensive. The Auction/Dinner is scheduled for October 19. Plans are being developed. Bridget mentioned other possibilities such as eating establishments which offer a portion of proceeds for one evening. Gail agreed to check that out.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: Meeting next week.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: Still in progress.
- Memorial Garden Update: No update. There are 3 new crypts installed.
- Goal #4 Review & Additions: Goal 4 was "Our church develops ministries of comfort and fellowship that build and strengthen relationships". The Strategy Team broke that into the following bullet points:
 - Create a team whose task is the creation of small groups where people interact who otherwise do not interact.

Accomplishments include the LGBTQ and Ally game night, Valentines for Veterans, Lenten movies, Living the Questions small group discussion series.

- Create a team to develop opportunities for families to talk together about how best to teach the faith to their children. Include in this program a virtual component so parents can talk to each other via a list serve or other online tool.

Accomplishments include the Parent to Parent monthly gathering during adult education time, which ended up with very limited participation, the establishment of the Union Parents' FB page which as of yet gets little or no traction, a weekly email to all the parents of children age 4-18 about what happens in Sunday School, donation of children's Bibles and Christian books that people were no longer using to be set out with the activity bags, newsletter articles written by various church members about the importance of raising kids in the faith. Jon mentioned that the resources available from the Search Institute may be helpful in furthering this strategy.

After discussion, this strategy was revised to read “Create a team to develop asset-based learning opportunities for parents to teach to faith to their children.

Bridget will engage with the folks who worked on those strategies to get some feedback from them.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

EDUCATION

Starting to work on teachers and assistants for classrooms for fall.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Two families took advantage of camp scholarships. The Estate of John Staton named the church in his will.

INREACH

Inreach met jointly with New Member and will continue to do so through the end of the year. It seemed to work well this month. Thanks to all the Ministries for their help with the Church picnic. Nicole Kinjerski is going to leave Communications and step into the New Member Ministry.

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

No separate report.

OUTREACH

On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic is starting up. Training will begin the beginning of August. There will be a collection in August to support the clinic. Love Life diaper collection will also happen in August. Heather Collins, Joanie Delwiche and Joan Dudeck will lead Heifer Sunday this year. Outreach is considering the potential of a “blessing of the animals” and will have further conversation with, among others, the Worship Ministry. There is a full slate of Habitat volunteers for June 14. To date, only three have volunteered for September 8. Volunteers are needed for lunches on two other dates. Jubilee house cleanup is July 14.

STEWARDSHIP

Clean-up is July 14. We have a summer helper for Scott for 15 hours/week for 10 weeks.

WORSHIP

Thanks to Kathy Baldwin for agreeing to take care of Communion through the end of the year. The pulpit substitute, Rev. Gary Straughan on June 10 was excellent.

Communications: Nicole Kinjerski was not able to attend. Bridget distributed drafts of new brochures and asked for input. Discussion followed.

Adjournment

Thank you to Sandy for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. (Heather/Nancy)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: August 14, 2018 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
August 14	Christie	Jammie
September 11	Jammie	Jeff C.
October 9	Jeff G.	Christie
November 13	Lou	Heather
December 11	Steve	Steve
January 8	Sandy	Nancy