

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 8, 2018**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels, Jon Pahl	
Moderator	Sandy Polarek	
Vice Moderator	Jeff Gibson	
Treasurer	Jeff Carels	
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Helen Krueger	Nancy Gibson
Gifts & Memorials	Nicole Polarek	Phil Enscoe
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 6:32 p.m. She welcomed Jon and we made introductions.

**Additions to the Agenda:** None.

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

**Gathering Prayer:** Jeff G. gave the gathering prayer for justice and mercy.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Ministers' Reports:**

Bridget's focus this month has been onboarding Jon. Also working with the Religious Leaders Board for Connections for Mental Wellness, which has received a grant to improve mental health of Brown County. They are launching a website to allow access to mental health and wellness service providers and related information, such as how to access mental health services in Brown County and the Fox Valley. She noted that close to 80% of people who have mental health concerns access a church or religious organization as the first step in addressing those concerns, so getting good information to the churches is critical. Good gathering last week with colleagues to roll out. She expressed thanks to Heather and Gail for their help with the Association Annual Meeting, and to those who helped out with the quarterly meeting on Sunday. The dates of a number of ministry meetings being shifted for June. The dates will be published in the newsletter.

Jon expressed his joy to be here. He hopes to discover the wealth of engagement and strong ministry that already exists. He observed that Faith Formation seems to be working well. They are looking at a new curriculum for next year. Over the long term he hopes to connect Faith Formation to a national organization, Search Institute, which works with congregations in conjunction with area schools. Youth

Sunday went quite well; the young folks did a great job. He has been working on establishing YCA/PF adult leadership for the coming year. There are two upcoming adult education events of note. Darlene Denney from the Oneida Nation will speak on May 13 on Oneida Spirituality and Mother Earth. On May 20, Jon will speak on Community Engagement. In Fall, he plans a multi-session on philanthropy. He attended fundraisers for CASA and EPH, and met with the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat. He continues to communicate with Partners for Sacred Places, which helps congregations with historic buildings maximize building use and partner those assets with people with need in the community. Last, he continues work on submission of a grant to start a Lilly Pastors' Professional Network, which would partner pastors with mentors and consultants in higher education and area social ministry organizations. If successful, the grant will be awarded in October.

#### **Clerk's Report**

Minutes of the meetings of April 10, 2018 were approved. (Steve/Heather)

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. YTD expenses are at 99% of budget. Income exceeds expenses by \$28K. Jeff's report was approved. (Jammie/Steve)

#### **New Business**

- Pride Alive July 14: Bridget working in collaboration with Christ Comm Lutheran and St. Anne's Episcopal for a shared booth this year, to show different churches that are welcoming.
- Summer Family Program—Faith, Family, Fieldtrips: Ideas were discussed to have two gatherings this summer.

#### **Continuing Business**

- St. John Homeless Shelter Overnight Housing Update—June 7-17 & October 21-31: Bridget reported that the dates have changed. Christie will communicate with people who have volunteered to provide water/food for the sessions.
- 2018 Budget—Deficit Budget Fundraising Update: Jammie will be surveying the congregation as to their interest in purchasing a tree/wreath if we were to do a Christmas tree sale. Or would they be willing to work on it?
- NE Association Meeting Wrap-up: Bridget shared participants' comments that the food, service and music were all wonderful. Thanks to all.
- Alcohol Policy Discussion: Discussion continued as to whether, if at all, events including alcohol should be permitted on Church property, and if so, under what circumstances. Thanks to Jammie who drafted for consideration the policy Common Ministry requested at its April meeting. As Common Ministry did not seem to have much movement on this debate, Bridget and Jon agreed to have an education plan through which Common Ministry can educate itself further on this issue to propose for consideration at the June meeting.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: Continuing to meet.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: No report.
- Memorial Garden Update: No report.
- Goal #2 Update: On the Mark Clinic is well on its way, starting in June. Outreach efforts include the May 20 Time Before Church when Jon will share his vision and also the revival of Habitat work. Immigration Advocacy continues to meet. Common Ministry will continue to work on Goal #4.

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

Bridget clarified the timing and procedure for distribution/publication of Ministry minutes.

#### EDUCATION

Helen noted the Safe Sanctuary (now called Safe Church) policy committee has met and is progressing. Moon Beach Work Camp is May 20-26.

#### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report

INREACH

Heather reminded us that June 3 will be our annual worship and picnic lunch in the park. Please talk with your ministries (other than Education and Worship) who will be needed for setup and cleanup beginning at 8:30 AM and send Heather the names of the folks who will be helping out. (Education will provide games, and Worship will organize the service, including Communion).

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

No report.

OUTREACH

Christie provided an update on Habitat volunteers progress. All 6 slots for June 14 are filled. There are still openings for May 31, and there are already 2 volunteers for September 8.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship moved to allow Jon to continue with the Lilly grant process discussed above. Approved.

WORSHIP

Virginia reported that Kevin has resigned as vice chair. Bridget is working on finding a person to manage Communion until the position is filled. Bridget added that the Pageant will be 12/23. Jon added he has an Ellington worship service which he may offer during the summer, probably on July 1.

**Communications:** Nicole K. discussed plans to have a brochure for the picnic and rummage sale. Materials on hand will be used until new materials are available.

**Adjournment**

Thank you, Nicole K., for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. (Steve/Jeff G.) After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein  
Clerk

Next meeting: June 12, 2018 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
June 12	Bridget	Sandy
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