

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 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	Nicole Polarek	Phil Enscoe	
Inreach	Heather Collins		
New Member		Nicole Kinjerski	
Outreach	Lou Norsetter	Christie Reese	
Stewardship	Jammie VerGiesen		
Worship	Kathy Baldwin	Virginia Riggs	
Communications Coordinator			
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)			

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda:

Motion to appoint Kathy Baldwin as Vice Chair of Worship and Nicole Kinjerski as Chair of New Member was approved. (Heather/Jammie)

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Jammie shared a nautically themed prayer.

Open Forum: None.

Ministers' Reports:

Bridget: We are back into the swing of the fall schedule. Bridget has been working mostly on things that will be reported on later, but noted that she and Winnie are continuing to consolidate and simplify banking. Jon being here finally gives her time to work on things like staff reviews.

Jon: Jon continues to enjoy the opportunities for ministry at Union and is delighted with the good spirit of the congregation. Faith Formation is underway. Cleaning out the youth room will be a priority for the September 22 work day. We will learn if we received the Lilly grant in October. He has been working with Pat Shafer on a Neighbors in Need application for the dyslexia clinic and a Catalyst grant to help with space repurposing. He is appreciative of our understanding that work as theologian and scholar is a part of his unified vocation which requires some time flexibility. Jon will be out of town for 2 weeks in October.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of August 14 were approved. (Jammie/Jeff C.)

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. August was (as usual) slow for income. Pledge income vs. budget is at 97%. Non-pledge income is down quite a bit. Expenses are at 95% pretty much across the board. YTD expenditures are almost \$3,500 higher than income. Jeff's report was approved. (Kathy/Jeff)

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New Business

- Stewardship/Pledge Campaign for 2019: The team has had several meetings. The campaign will start September 30 and end November 4 with the theme “Giving from My Heart to the Church of My Heart.” Testimonials and a color brochure are in process, recognizing the importance of sharing our story and capturing people’s hearts. If you have good pictures, please send two or three (not all) to Bridget to consider using in the brochure. Clay Reese, Cady Kinjerski, Jammie VerGiesen will do testimonials, and Jammie is lining up more. Bruce Shafer is leading the follow up team. Bruce will be asking Common Ministry members to participate on the follow-up team. The campaign goal will be similar to that of this year. There are rumors that the shared funding aspect of the Wisconsin Conference health insurance program is going away, which might mean a decrease in our premiums. A sustainable budget means every pledging household needs to raise pledge by 5%. Given that will not be possible for some households, the pledge group will ask those who can to increase by 10%. The campaign will also include “Union Budget by the Numbers” to give people an idea what the Church spends its money on as well as a reminder that our budget/expenditures have increased with inflation over time. It will also show how many members donate at various percentage levels and encourage folks to move up a level either this year or next. Jon shared some information about Network for Good which can help with fundraising effort in future years. His course on philanthropy will also coincide with the pledge campaign.
- Jazz & Jesus: Outreach Events set for 10/4, 12/1, 12/17. Same musicians as Ellington service. We have gotten a gift to fund the musicians and we will split the collection with them. Themes will be The Four Seasons in Jazz on 10/4; he would love to have choir participate on 12/17. There will be a reception following the December dates. Discussed appropriate interfacing of this program with the ministries of the church.
- Visitation Team: Lou mentioned she is working with the pastors to create a small visitation team under which members of the congregation would supplement Bridget and Jon. Participants would need some sort of training and guidelines. The idea is very much in the germination stage. Stephen Ministry is very expensive and time-consuming, but those who participated in it in the past might be interested. Heather asked that Inreach be included in the discussion as this type of effort has been on their radar.

Continuing Business

- Music Director Search Update: The search process continues. The team consists of Sandy Polarek, Virginia Riggs, Denise Olson, Kathy Baldwin, Bob Richter, Chris Goodner, Ray Thompson, Jon and Bridget. Until a candidate is hired we will work with interim folks to fill in.
- Quarterly Meeting Recap of August 19 & Next Date November 4: 8/19 went well. Discussed the organ campaign. Nominating, Worship, Gifts & Memorials are on tap for the November 4 session.
- Organ Campaign: A couple of larger gifts have been pledged. Pledges total \$19,002 to date. Letters with pledge cards will go out this week.
- 2018 Budget Fundraising Updates: Heartland Pizza day and Amazon Smile are underway. The group working on Christmas trees is meeting this Thursday. Auction signups are upstairs. We need service and item donations.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: The team met this week. Looking toward a March 30 advocacy training on immigrant issues with other organizations. The Big Read will be Wednesday, November 14th. The group is experiencing a leadership challenge. There is some thought to incorporate the team into within Outreach, but they already have a lot on their plate. Is there sufficient interest to provide leadership?
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: Jeff reported he is still working on getting audio from the sanctuary to the Nursery and English Room. Has gotten a contact from another church who was able to help and will help Jeff solve the issue. They also may donate some equipment.
- Memorial Garden Update: No change.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

EDUCATION

Sunday went well. The supplies closet has been cleaned out.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

INREACH

65 were served at the potluck. Thanks to Scott Daniels for the pulled pork.

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

Sign-up sheet passed around NM Sunday will be 10/14 with a traditional pot luck lunch.

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OUTREACH

Working with sponsoring a classroom at Howe (treats during the year). Depression Bipolar Support Alliance is hosting a dinner co-sponsored by Outreach Ministry on November 9 at the church. Habitat work day will now be on 10/6. The leaders are still working on work crew development.

STEWARDSHIP

Fall work day 9/22. Plan is to clean the sanctuary for a while and then move to other parts of the church.

WORSHIP

There was discussion about serving alcohol at the Auction. If the organizers wish to do so, they are encouraged to make a proposal and Common Ministry will make an email vote.

Communications: No Report.

Adjournment

Thank you to Jeff C. for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned. (Jammie/Bridget)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: October 9, 2018 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

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

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