

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

<u>Present:</u>		<u>Absent:</u>	
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	Virginia Riggs		
Communications Coordinator			
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)	Bruce Shafer		

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda:** There will be a Gathered in Faith Together (GIFT) Thanksgiving Service St. Matt's on 11/20 at 7:30 p.m. Casa Alba Melanie will receive the offering.

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

**Gathering Prayer:** Lou provided a prayer.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Ministers' Reports:**

Bridget: It has been a busy month. Extra projects include activity in the pledge campaign, which has had more of her involvement than in prior years. People report that they have found the campaign's messaging helpful. There has been sufficient financial support to make the organ project a "go". Down payment was sent Monday. The organ chests should be here in early January. In June the tuck pointer and one of the roofers found a large crack in the copper seam which they re-soldered. The plan is for it to be inspected twice a year to make sure there are no leakage issues. Bridget also spent a good amount of time on the vigil of solidarity with the synagogue. The synagogue was grateful for the support of about 500 people in attendance.

Jon: (via written report) We received a \$2,500 Catalyst grant from the WI Conference to help us repurpose the YCA room. Have not heard about the Neighbors in Need grant. He is working on a Calvin College grant for best practices in Ministry and a Sister Family project with Howe School.

**Clerk's Report**

Minutes of the meetings of October 9 were approved. (Heather/Jeff)

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeff Carels distributed his usual report. Income for the month was in line with expectations and budget. Expenses are at 97% of budget. YTD expenses are \$4,777 higher than income. Accepted (Jeff/Heather)

### **New Business**

- Opening prayer and treats for December: Gail will do treats; Heather the opening prayer.
- Personnel Committee Recommendation: (Note: As she is an employee of the Church, Bridget excused herself for this discussion.) Bruce Shafer attended on behalf of the Personnel Committee. (Other committee members are Joyce Anderson and Denise Olson.) He distributed copies of the current handbook, noting that the current policy does not deal with Family Leave, and that Paternity Leave and Adoption Leave have become more common in workplaces. Bruce reviewed a draft policy proposed by the Personnel Committee. After discussion, several changes were recommended. Bruce will incorporate the suggestions and re-submit to Common Ministry for approval.
- JOSHUA Block Party Celebrating 15 Years: JOSHUA plans to celebrate its 15-year anniversary with a street fair on Madison Street in front of Union on Saturday, June 15. It will include food trucks and a kids' zone. They would welcome a rep from Union on the planning committee. Common Ministry asked Bridget to communicate to JOSHUA the need for insurance on behalf of JOSHUA.

### **Continuing Business**

- EPH Christmas Dinner December 10: The committee (Christie, Heather and Judy) are asking people to bring food, and if out shopping, pick up an extra turkey and put it in the freezer while they are on sale. The dinner will include cookie decorating, and family photos. EPH will serve food family style. We will need door greeters, setup and cleanup help.
- Stewardship/Pledge Campaign Update: Have heard from 76 families, which is slightly down from this time last year, but we started a week later this year. \$235,000 has been pledged so far. Still have to hear from about half of the households. Bruce is coordinating follow-ups.
- Quarterly Meeting Review November 4: People seem to appreciate hearing from Common Ministry at these meetings. Bridget advocates for continuing them.
- Organ Repair Update: See above.
- 2018 Budget Fundraising Updates: Heartland Pizza fundraiser raised \$275 and the auction \$3,400. Next year's auction is tentatively set for Saturday, September 28. Tree/wreath sale is coming up beginning the Friday, Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. Wreaths will be decorated on November 17 at 9 a.m.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: The Team has moved under the outreach umbrella. Working on a workshop to go from compassion to action.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: No update.
- Memorial Garden Update: No update.

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

#### EDUCATION

There will be a movie for kids the Sunday after Thanksgiving. One more teacher is still needed.

#### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

None.

#### INREACH

#### NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

Meeting next Monday.

#### OUTREACH

Bake/Soup sale made over \$300. There were lots of over-payments and donations. Food ran out by 3 p.m. Funds will go to Souper Cooks.

STEWARDSHIP

No report.

WORSHIP

Ben VerGiesen, Nicole Kinjerski, and Christie Reese will be directing the Pageant. There will be a Longest Night Service geared toward those not feeling the Christmas spirit on December 20 at 7 p.m.

**Communications:** We are having trouble with website as we can't get into the Admin page to update. **Shaun Shoulddeen is working on this for us.**

**Other:**

Jeff G. shared he had joined the Joshua Prison Reform task force which is looking at the Allouez prison closing and bail reform.

**Nominating Committee** reports that a Treasurer and a Chair and Vice Chair for Worship are current openings.

**Adjournment**

Thank you to Heather for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. (Nicole/Jammie)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein  
Clerk

Next meeting: December 13, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

<b>Common Ministry Meetings</b>	<b>Gathering Prayer</b>	<b>Treats</b>
December 11	Heather	Gail
January 8	Sandy	Nancy