

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2019**

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>	
Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels	Jon Pahl
Moderator	Sandy Polarek	
Vice Moderator	Stacie Christian	
Treasurer	Jeff Gibson	
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Nancy Gibson	
Gifts & Memorials	Nicole Polarek	Phil Enscoe
Inreach	Heather Collins	
New Member	Nicole Kinjerski	
Outreach	Christie Reese	Achim Siefert
Stewardship	Jammie VerGiesen	
Worship	Betty Bienash	
Communications Coordinator	Avonelle Weist	
Talents & Gifts		
Guest(s)		

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda:

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Jeff shared a reading.

Open Forum: None.

Ministers' Reports:

Bridget: Bridget attended the Wisconsin Conference and Northeast Association Annual meetings last weekend. JoAnne Thompson, Associate Conference Minister who staffed our last pastoral search, is retiring the end of July. The Conference is going to reallocate territories with the result being that the Associate Conference Minister serving our area will have a smaller territory. Cathy Putman was nominated to the Northeast Association Board of Directors. Bridget continues to work with the Conference boundary training task force and the racial justice task force. She is also working with the UCC national office on a direct social action at Synod in June. Bridget noted with concern lower Sunday attendance this winter, in part to due to adverse weather, but also noted that youth group participation has been good, Seminary Secrets has been well attended.

Jon: No Report.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of March 7 were approved. (Jeff/Heather)

Treasurer's Report

March income was low, about \$25,000 short of budget. Expenses are trailing budget also. Approved (Jammie/Stacie).

Building Insurance: Bridget reported that our insurance has increased a lot since she came. She and Bill Johnson have been working on getting quotes. Shopped through Church Mutual. Now paying 21K/year. CM quote is \$14,400. Motion to change insurance to Church Mutual approved (Heather/Jeff). Many thanks to Bill Johnson for his work on this.

New Business

- Quarterly Meeting Plans: April 28. Agenda will include a financial and fundraising report, and reports from JOSHUA, YCA Repurposing & Community Engagement, and Inreach/Pictorial Directory.
- Chancel Safety and Accessibility: Jammie noted that Stewardship has been working to address concerns about the steps in the chancel. A longer-term issue is whether the chancel should be handicapped accessible. It is important to make the congregation aware that these issues are being addressed and studied, and mobility and ability issues may be a topic at a 2nd Sunday in October.

Continuing Business

- Repurposing the YCA Room Update: Sandy distributed a “what and why” sheet which Jon created. He reinforced that this project is mission driven—more than renting office space. Part of community engagement is synergy between outreach and evangelism. More than renting office space. Safe church policies would apply to the people in the building. This project specifically deals with the use of that particular room. Although not all of the costs have been determined, he believes the financial investment will be recouped in about 2 years. We agreed to discuss these plans at the April 28 Quarterly Meeting.
- ONA 20 Years: October 24, 1999 was the actual vote. An off-site celebratory dinner is being considered. Bridget and Avonelle will work on banner.
- Sex Offender Policy Update: Bridget continues to work on this.
- Pictorial Directory Update: Heather distributed an overview. The vendor will be Lifetouch. The project will roll out beginning 4/28.
- Fundraising – Happy Joe’s Pizza, other: Jeff suggests May 29 or 30.
- JOSHUA Block Party June 15 Update: 11A-3PM. This JOSHUA fundraising event will include food, music, kids’ zone. We have said they can use bathrooms. Scott and Bridget will be here. They continue to wish for a Union Church liaison with the planning committee. Jeff will announce in church. JOSHUA is doing a fundraiser May 13 at Pizza Ranch. Board members will be waiters. Steve Hartmann and Jeff have been very active on prison reform committee. Both went to Madison Action Day where they spoke to our legislators in small groups to talk about priorities, including prison reform. It was an excellent day. They also met with the sheriff to discuss the proposed new jail.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Update: No additions.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: Internet access in the upstairs classroom has been resolved.
- Memorial Garden Update: No update.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

EDUCATION

Looking for teachers for next year.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Gifts & Memorials moved approval of the following grants:

1. Immigration Advocacy Day speaker: \$150. Approved.
2. Immigration Task Force: \$4000 to Shadow Rock UCC Church in Phoenix’s immigrant ministries. We have an evolving relationship with this church and they do a lot of work at the border. Approved.
3. \$2000 to make available for UCC camp scholarships for 2019. Approved.

INREACH/NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

No report. There may be a New Member class in May.

OUTREACH

Strengthen the Church offering will be on Pentecost Sunday. On that day the Congregation may also make an offering directed at youth opportunities for camping or other youth opportunities.

STEWARDSHIP

Spring Cleanup May 18. Will be organizing closet spaces.
Looking at repairing/replacing the garage roof. Have bids.

WORSHIP

Easter is fast approaching. Bridget has prepared a beautiful Maundy Thursday service.

Communications: Avonelle has updated the online calendar. Registration for the Immigration Advocacy event ends on the April 22. (Post-meeting note: Registration deadline extended to May 1.)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. Jeff/Jammie

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: May 9, 2019 – 6:00 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
May 9	Stacie	Jon
June 13	Jon	Bridget
August 8	Bridget	Betty B
September 12	Betty	Jammie
October 10	Heather	Nancy
November 14		Christie
December 12	Sandy	Achim
January 9		