

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 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		Phil Enscoe, Nicole Polarek	
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 6:03 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

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

**Gathering Prayer:** Bridget shared a litany.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Ministers' Reports:**

Jon: A good PF team is in place for the fall. The Adult Ed theme is the Green Gospel. The 8/18 Lunch & Learn will feature Mark Wallace, a professor of Eco Theology. The Wednesday Adult Ed will have Donna Leicht with a series "Bookworm Yoga" in which she will explore yoga's ethical practices. Safe Church training is scheduled for 8/14 and 8/18. The Faith Formation and Youth Group calendar will be distributed to parents next week. Habitat relationship is going well. There was a great response to the giving calendar. On the Mark is getting national attention with Pat being interviewed on the UCC website. Jazz Ministry calendar for the year has been published. Feedback from the Ellington service was passed around. Jon made a trip with David Hassel to Calvin College for a meeting of Vital Worship Grants recipients. The Jazz Ministry is planning some services outside of the church. The grant also subsidizes other things such as the website, which will include a manual of best practices, links to other churches who are doing this, and a section for hymns written by jazz musicians. Brain Center fundraising is underway in earnest. It has a strong board. There is a potential brain health summit in May. It would be organized by the Brain Center Board to be held here in the Church building. Jon has met with a representative of Howe School regarding a Sister Family project in which 3-5 families from Union would "partner" with 3-5 Howe families. Jon's book tour begins with a trip to Australia and New Zealand 8/22-9/6.

Bridget: Worship Ministry has discussed having a more organized and intentional response to national and world events. She and Jon have collaborated on the August newsletter article on this subject. We will pilot inviting spoken prayers from the congregation as a part of the prayers of the people to invite congregants to share what is in our hearts and souls. We will also sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" for

at least the next 4 weeks at the end of the service. The Sacred Conversation on Gun Violence will be re-convened. Casa Alba has asked us to co-sponsor or offer space for a speaker on Monday 8/26 at 5:30, a Psychologist from Milwaukee who has been doing work at the border. YCA and Confirmation will be a hybrid this year. Confirmation will be some Sundays before worship and some Wednesdays as a part of YCA. Ed Tucker, Tim Harder and Bridget will be confirmation leaders. A representative from the UCC Pension Boards will be at the next Common Ministry meeting to discuss its capital campaign responding to the needs of more and more retiring clergy with financial need. A professor at St. Norbert who has been studying the early African experience in Brown County has included in her study Union's archives at UWGB. She will be the presenter at the November 10 Adult Ed, and she is working on getting Union registered on the National Underground Railroad Registry. Bridget has been connecting with colleagues on best practices on church governance. The UCC is encouraging inclusion of a "behavioral covenant" in Church Constitutions which would encourage active involvement in church activities by members. Lastly, a huge thank you to Deb Rose, Julie Harder, Ed Tucker and Tim Harder for the re-claiming of the Chapel Classroom.

### **Clerk's Report**

Minutes of the meetings of June 13 were approved. (Heather/Jammie)

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeff reported that income continues to be under budget, although expenses are also somewhat under budget. Jeff will put an article in the newsletter. Accepted (Jeff/Heather).

### **New Business**

- Quarterly Meeting: August 25. Jammie will report on finances in Jeff's absence. Outreach and Worship Ministries will also report. Other potential topics were discussed.

### **Continuing Business**

- Repurposing Update: Thanks to everyone for voting quickly and affirmatively on the funding proposal for the repurposing. After the vote Ben worked with the contractor who agreed to start work the end of August with a goal of being done by October. Gail was asked to send a note of appreciation to Ben.
- ONA 20 Years Event: Friday October 18. A team is working on this. Shaun will DJ. Chris Davies (UCC Church redevelopment office) will speak on the future of ONA churches.
- Parking Policy: Jammie moved that we adopt the parking policy as distributed at the last meeting. (Gail to include with the minutes.) Approved.
- Sex Offender Policy Update: Progress continues.
- Pictorial Directory Update: Heather reported she hopes to have the final proof next week, with a goal of distributing the final directory on ReUnion Sunday.
- Fundraising – Auction – Please start working on gift certificates for baskets or other goods/services for the auction. Jammie will follow up with Achim and Jeff regarding the Christmas tree sale. We made \$111 and some change from our Happy Joe's day. Stacie will contact Chipotle and Gail will contact Heartland for dates of potential future events.
- JOSHUA: The Block party date was cold and rainy which resulted in smaller attendance. Jeff reported on the prison reform group activities. There are a number of significant concerns.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: Progress being made. Equipment on order.
- Memorial Garden Update: No Report.

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

#### EDUCATION

Things are going fairly well. Still need one teacher. Moving all the classrooms. Emails are out for volunteers for painting classrooms.

#### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No Report.

INREACH/NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

Reunion Sunday September 8. Common Ministry needs to plan to handle clean-up. New Member Classes will be 10/9 and 10/17 with New Member Sunday set for 10/27.

OUTREACH

No Report. Need to decide on a Giving Tree candidate for this year.

STEWARDSHIP

We have a proposal from Kauffman Const to repair the garage roof. Date to complete TBD. Bubbler has been replaced.

WORSHIP

Worship would welcome suggestions for how to respond in times of tragedy. What would be meaningful to you?

**Communications:** Working on new banner.

**Adjournment**

Thank you to Betty for treats tonight!

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein  
Clerk

Next meeting: September 12, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

<b>Common Ministry Meetings</b>	<b>Gathering Prayer</b>	<b>Treats</b>
September 12	Betty	Jammie
October 10	Heather	Nancy
November 14		Christie
December 12	Sandy	Achim
January 9		