

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 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 Seifert
Stewardship	Jammie VerGiesen	
Worship	David Hassel	Betty Bienash
Communications Coordinator		Avonelle Weist
Talents & Gifts		
Guest(s)		

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Gathering Prayer: Sandy shared a reading.

Additions to the Agenda:

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

.Open Forum: None.

Ministers' Reports: Bridget reported that the Visitation Ministry is starting to flourish. She met with and trained 9 people last month, which exactly matches the number of folks on the visitation list. These trained visitors will get together with elderly or otherwise homebound people about once a month to extend the love, support and care we promise in baptism. Union welcomed 16 new church members on New Member Sunday. Bridget has asked Cathy Putman to reinvigorate the talents and gifts program, looking to help connect newer members with the life of the church. The elevator maintenance contract has been renegotiated to include ongoing routine maintenance necessary for an older elevator. Union has been officially accepted on the National Park Service Network to Freedom Registry. We are one of 8 other sites in WI and the only one north of Sheboygan.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of October 10 were approved. (Jammie/Jeff)

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed the budget report for October. Based on the current income and expenses, it looks like will use about \$34,000 of the \$55,000 surplus this year. Approved (Heather/Christie). Jeff is working on next year's budget. He asked that Common Ministry members review their current budget lines and let Jeff know any thoughts for the 2020 budget.

New Business

- Quarterly Meeting: November 24. Jeff will present financials. Gifts & Memorial, Education, and Membership will each provide a short update on activities. Jammie will report on building projects.

Continuing Business

- Nominating Committee Update: The Committee work is progressing well. Positions still open are fill Stewardship and Inreach/New Member chairs. Options for staffing the Stewardship Chair were discussed.
- Retention and Roll Review: Gail and Helen Krueger are working on a list of people who might benefit from retention calls.
- Love Over All Pledge Campaign: We are right on track for the number of pledges based on the progress of the last few years. Bridget believes our communications have been effective. 96 pledges have been received to date. The usual annual total is 135-140. Bruce Shafer has started the follow up call process.
- Repurposing Update: We are still on track to finish by the end of the year.
- ONA 20 Years Gala Recap: It was a lovely night and raised \$700 for the Pride Center.
- Sex Offender Policy Update: No Update.
- Fundraising – Christmas Trees: Wreath decorating will be on November 23rd. Tree sale starts Thanksgiving weekend.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update: The new digital sound board is installed and in use. The next tasks are to enable a remote control for the sound board, then to get the sermons delivered to English Room and Nursery. The software will also archive the sermon vs. now creating a cd. System will be able to do video if we would choose to do so in the future. Need an audio coordinator to back up Tom.
- Memorial Garden Update: No update.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

EDUCATION

Christie and Heather are heading up the pageant, and planning is going well. Rehearsal will be 9 AM on 12/21. Gail Carels and Bev & Dick Lathrop will coordinate costumes.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

The following Gifts & Memorials proposed grants were approved:

1. Santa Cruz Valley Border Issues Fair: Subsidy for registration and meal costs for four Union members to attend January 2020 conference as part of their work as Union's Immigrations Advocacy Team of \$200 per person for a total of \$800.
2. Mayflower Nursery School: \$4,000 to support need-based scholarships for the 2020-21 school year.
3. Copier. \$7,300 for the purchase of a new copier for the church office.
4. Computers for church staff: G&M loan of up to \$4000 for purchase /lease of computers and associated labor to migrate data with the church to reconcile loan when the final financial results for 2019 are determined. If the 2019 financials cannot support repayment, G&M will not ask for

the loan to be repaid. (Note that original G&M motion was to “purchase” the equipment. Jeff amended the motion to “purchase/lease”. Jammie seconded motion to amend and the amendment carried.)

INREACH/NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

No report.

OUTREACH

No additional report. Heifer Sunday this Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP

Garage roof was repaired. Insurance claim for water/wind damage was denied. David Hassel helping with continuing discussions with the insurance company. Getting bids on work to get the fellowship room functional again. Bill Johnson is working on the blessing box.

WORSHIP

December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent. Bridget’s email tomorrow will be about JOSHUA Prison Reform discussion at St. Matthew’s next Thursday.

Communications: Bridget is working with the banner creator and Jones Sign to get the banner installed.

Other: Pastor Bridget announced that she and her husband will be welcoming a baby in May. Her intention right now is to take Parental Leave for the month of May, with the remaining four weeks allowed in Union ’s personnel policy scattered throughout the summer and fall. She will work with all appropriate committees, teams, and individuals to assure coverage of her duties. Jon Pahl will be lead staffer while she is gone.

Adjournment

Thank you to Christie for treats tonight!

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

(Heather/Stacie)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

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

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
December 12	Bridget	Achim
January 9	Jeff	