

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2020**

Present:

Absent:

Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels Jon Pahl		
Moderator	Sandy Polarek		
Vice Moderator	Heather Collins		
Treasurer	Jeff Gibson		
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Nancy Gibson		
Gifts & Memorials		Nicole Polarek Phil Enscoe	
Inreach & Membership	Denise Olson		
Outreach	Christie Reese	Achim Siefert	
Stewardship	Clay Reese		
Worship	Betty Bienash		
Communications Coordinator		Avonelle Weist	
Guest(s)			

Meeting held via Zoom.

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Jeff shared a devotional.

Open Forum: None.

Ministers' Reports: Most of Bridget's report will be included in the Ministry Reports and other business. She shared that Marge Roshong's memorial service will be tomorrow. There will be a wedding on Saturday. COVID guidelines are being included in the planning of both services. She continues to work with the Wisconsin Conference racial justice task force, including working on a year-long project of developing an educational program for UCC clergy focused on sacred conversations on race. She is working with GIFT on fall Giving Thanks service, intentionally pulling away from the colonial understandings of the Thanksgiving holiday. Alice Wood will be producing the virtual service, which will be go live at 7 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving. Last Sunday she had the joy of preaching at an ecumenical prayer service for Coming Out Week at St. Norbert.

Jon has been working with Alder Barbara Dorff and Mayor Genrich on an Equal Rights ordinance for the City. He spoke at the last Green Bay Common Council meeting where the council voted 9-3 in favor of the ordinance's first reading. He continues to work with GIFT for the Mauthe Center's 3 session series on Rivers of Faith. The white privilege class has been well attended. It will be followed by sessions on Lenny Duncan's Dear Church, including a zoom with Rev. Duncan on Friday, November 13 and Rev. Duncan preaching in worship on November 15. He was a workshop leader for the Northwest/Northeast Association clergy retreat for a session on outreach and engagement in which he discussed The Brain Center and On the Mark.

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meetings of September 10 were approved. (Heather/Clay)

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed the regular financial report (attached). Approved (Christie/Denise).

New Business

- Ministries' Budget Requests for 2021: Jeff will be working on the budget for 2021. He needs input from Ministries as to recommendations/thoughts for the coming year. Please let Jeff know by November 6. He can send each Ministry its information on this year's budget/spending if needed.
- Congregational Quarterly Meeting: A Zoom meeting for the Congregation is scheduled for after worship on Sunday, 10/18 to share the treasurer's financial report and highlight the coming year. There will be an opportunity to promote the Christmas Tree sale and the Blessings Box.

Continuing Business

- Pledge Campaign Update: No current report was available, but Jeff noted that pledges are coming in via many methods. Thanks to Ruth Homrighaus, Mary Ann Hudson, and Shaun Shoulden for creating this year's pledge campaign brochure and to Jon for getting folks lined up for testimonials.
- Reopening the Building Task Force Updates:
 - Outside Use: Brain Center is in the building 2 days/week. Most On The Mark sessions are on-line, but tutors coming in. Narcotics Anonymous is meeting with a small group. The new Executive Director of Brain Center would like to conduct an in-person Board meeting, but this body asked Jon to ask them to continue with virtual meetings at this time.
 - Worship: The Resuming In-person Worship Task Force continues to meet, primarily working through details to prepare so we are ready to go when the time to open up comes.
 - Technology: Still have to run cable and get things set up. Some of the equipment has arrived. There will be a TV in the English Room on Sunday mornings so people who need to leave the sanctuary can still observe the service.
- Finance Secretary Position Update: Bridget had emailed us about the plan to contract with Advantage Bookkeeping for the position. Winnie is working on writing policies and procedures. Bridget is working on a memo of agreement with the contractor. The new person may be starting as early as 10/19.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

No updates.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Denise believes that about 8-11 members will be joining the church on the 18th of October. We will be delivering something to each to welcome them and setting up a "first friends' mentoring for each new member.

OUTREACH

Outreach may be asking for new volunteers to help set up giving tree this year. Thanks to Jon and Bridget for planning to focus on Heifer in the November 22 service, since we will not have a Living Gift Market this year.

STEWARDSHIP

Spectrum internet speeds are increasing. Our current phone provider increased our phone bill by 333%. Jeff and Bridget and David Hassel are working on getting out of our contract and looking for alternatives.

WORSHIP

Worship has discussed how the November 1 Memorial Service will work this year. We will have a “longest night” service on 12/21 which intends to be a comfort and time of prayer and reflection for folks who may not be feeling the holiday spirit. There will be a Christmas Pageant.

JOSHUA Report: The town hall on evictions, low income housing and homelessness is going on at the same time as this meeting. It will be available on the JOSHUA FaceBook page in the future. The aim is to educate on the level of this problem in the community. Many agencies and groups are working on our growing number of homeless people. It was noted that there are many resources to help people but that folks who get a notice of eviction may leave before they get help. The weekly prayer vigil at the prison has been suspended due to the local rise in COVID, but Union Member Mark Smith is working on alternative advocacy opportunities. JOSHUA’s annual fundraising banquet will be a virtual auction and fundraiser this year, and they are discussing other fundraising plans.

Communications: No report.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm (Christie/Nancy).

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: November 12, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
November 12		Nancy
December 10		Heather
January 14		Bridget

**Union Congregational UCC
Treasurer's Report
September 2020**

<u>Income</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budgeted</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>
January	\$80,947	\$91,733	\$103,568
February	23,891	19,039	12,498
March	29,554	21,141	19,535
April	47,819	32,925	30,012
May	22,912	34,399	29,812
June	33,698	16,889	14,696
July	33,623	17,858	14,236
August	21,889	32,708	33,073
September	19,841	37,096	34,412
October	-	-	-
November	-	-	-
December	-	-	-
Total	\$314,174	\$303,788	\$291,842
 G&M Cont.	 \$37,500	 \$37,500	 \$37,500
 Total Revenue	 \$351,674	 \$341,288	 \$329,342
 PPP	 \$77,833		
 Revenue w/PPP	 \$429,507		
 <u>Expenses</u>	<u>(thru September 30)</u>		
Actual:	\$356,352		
Budget:	\$386,712		
Last Year:	\$385,845		

Comments:

Pledge plus Non-pledge income through August exceeds our budgeted estimate by approximately \$22,600, a decrease from last month of \$15,400. and overall General Fund revenue exceeds our estimates by \$10,800, a decrease of \$16,700 over last month. Declines in Loose Plate, Church School, Prior Year Pledges and Room Rentals account for the \$11,800 difference. Expenses are about \$30,000 below expected for the YTD which is a larger gap than last month by about \$8,000. For the year Building Maintenance expenses are about \$1,000 under our estimate. These figures do not include the positive impact of the PPP revenue.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Gibson