

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 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	Achim Siefert	Christie Reese	
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 6:01p.m.

Additions to the Agenda:

Gathering prayer volunteers: Heather will do December and Nicole will do January.

Sandy reminded us of the On the Mark fundraiser November 14 at Barnes & Noble.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Sandy offered a prayer.

Open Forum: None.

Ministers' Reports: Bridget: Bridget, Jon and Steve Jones represented Union at the Northeast Association virtual Annual Meeting in October. The speaker was from UCCI and spoke about environmental issues, environmental justice, and COVID, all of which have impacted the camps. They are appreciative of Union's financial support. A group is studying the re-naming of Pilgrim Center. There were not enough churches represented to vote on proposed by-law changes, so the Association is now conducting an e-mail vote. Over 40 households logged on to Union's October 18 meeting on the church finances, which Bridget expressed was remarkable participation. We need to find more opportunities for meeting/participation. At Bridget's suggestion, it was agreed we would do a similar meeting on the first Sunday of December after services, focused on our December holiday offerings, and may continue in future months on a particular topic that we would like to communicate about. Bridget is hopeful that we now have a successor for Winnie as Financial Secretary. She is working on the forgiveness application for the PPP loan. Adult Education has been focused on anti-racism work. About 25-30 people have participated. She suggested that as one way to broaden the Church's anti-racism work, we include in all agendas the question "How does what we are doing effect the church's racial and social justice work?" as a continual reminder to help keep the topic in front of us. Jon shared that Lenny Duncan may be a resource and have some good thoughts.

Jon: Adult Ed has had good participation. The November 22nd service will focus on Heifer. In December Adult Education will be reading Low: An Honest Advent Devotional by John Pavlovitz. He noted that the engagement with The Brain Center continues to grow in dynamic ways. There will be opportunities for volunteering, including a coaching program to meet with family members of clients to help them find resources. The Brain Center has hired an Executive Director. Thursday night is the 3rd Mauthe Center interfaith event on Gratitude. Jon will be on vacation 11/23-30 and 12/14-21. He expressed thanks for all the prayers and support as his folks suffered with COVID-19.

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meetings of October 8 were approved (Jeff/Nicole).

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed the regular financial report (attached). Elevator repair and organ tuning expenses are still outstanding. Approved (Heather/Clay).

New Business

- Gifts & Memorials Grant for Christmas Eve Video Rental: A Christmas Eve drive-in service is planned. It will also be broadcast in the same way as is our normal Sunday worship. But it will be fun for folks to gather together in their cars at the Associated Bank parking lot (provided free of charge by the bank) and watch the service on a video wall. Rental of the video wall will cost about \$4,000. Worship Ministry asked GM to financially support the expenditure. The Gifts & Memorials Distribution group met and recommends the grant be made up to \$4,000 as this is an extraordinary event due to COVID. The recommendation was approved (Nicole/Achim). Bridget added the area will work best for up to 80 cars, but the lot has room for 150 cars. Camera Corner is the video vendor. It was agreed to have one service with music beginning at 7:00.
- Nominating: The Nominating Committee met and is getting good responses.
- Annual Meeting/Annual Reports: Common Ministry was reminded that Eric puts together the Annual Report the week after Christmas, so Ministries should be working on their reports. The Annual Meeting will be January 31 in all likelihood via Zoom.

Continuing Business

- Pledge Campaign Update: Bridget reported that the follow-up team is being organized under Bruce Shafer's leadership. Total pledges are currently within \$3,400 of where they were at this time last year.
- Reopening the Building Task Force Updates:
 - Outside Use: No updates
 - Worship: The team continues to prepare plans to make sure we are ready when the time to re-open arrives.
 - Technology: Equipment arrived today and an installation plan is in the works.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

3rd graders will receive bibles on November 29. Faith Formation is going well. Nicole expressed thanks for all the work and creativity going into the virtual Faith Formation.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No additional report.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Christmas notes and cards will be sent to all church members.

OUTREACH

The Blessing Box is going well. In December there will be a request for financial donations as well as for donated items when folks come to the Christmas tree lot. The Giving Tree will be virtual for the

congregation and also will be physically available at the tree lot. Trees and wreaths have arrived. Wreath decorating will begin this Saturday. Thanks to Sharon Hassel for producing 85 beautiful bows for the wreaths. It was agreed that on Christmas Eve an offering will be taken for the new NEWCAP shelter.

STEWARDSHIP

There is a plan in place to switch phone service. Heather said that Stewardship has been working really hard and putting in a lot of volunteer hours. Special thanks to Bill Johnson who has been doing a lot of the work.

WORSHIP

On November 16 there will be a Zoom meeting to begin a conversation concerning church music, with an aim to involve different music styles with in the church service. The Christmas pageant is well in hand.

JOSHUA Report:

JOSHUA's annual fundraiser, From Love to Justice, will start on Valentine's Day and extend through February 20, which is World Justice Day. It will include an online auction. Annual yearbook in the works. JOSHUA hosted a town hall on homelessness and evictions in Brown County; the video of the session is available on the JOSHUA website, and has had 5000+ views. It is a great way to learn about the problems and what is being done to address them. Bridget shared that the religious leaders caucus (which she co-chairs) is addressing the problem of an increase in local shootings with the police, mayor and others, and plan for prayer vigils where shootings have occurred.

Communications: No Report.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved (Denise/Heather). After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: December 10, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

**Union Congregational UCC
Treasurer's Report October 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	22,812	26,979	22,461
November	-	-	-
December	-	-	-
Total	\$336,986	\$330,767	\$314,303
 G&M Cont.	 \$41,667	 \$41,667	 \$41,667
 Total Revenue	 \$378,653	 \$372,434	 \$355,970
 PPP	 \$77,833		
 Revenue w/PPP	 \$456,486		
 <u>Expenses</u>	 <u>(thru October 31)</u>		
Actual:	\$396,758		
Budget:	\$426,276		
Last Year:	\$414,727		

Comments:

The actual income for October includes a \$2,395 deficit in the Fundraisers account due to the deposit on the tree project. Pledge plus Non-pledge income through October exceeds our budgeted estimate by approximately \$25,200, an increase from last month of \$2,600 and overall General Fund revenue exceeds our estimates by \$6,500, a decrease of \$4,300 over last month. Declines in One-time Gifts, Loose Plate, Church School, Prior Year Pledges, Room Rentals and Fundraisers account for the \$18,700 difference. (We anticipate recouping most if not all of the current Fundraiser Deficit of \$4,413 through the tree sales. Expenses are about \$30,000 below expected for the YTD which is about the same as last month. For the year Building Maintenance expenses are about \$2,100 under our estimate. These figures do not include the PPP revenue impact.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Gibson