

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2020**

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>	
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 6:00 p.m. She reminded us of the question:
How does what we as CM do affect our racial and social justice work?

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Heather shared a prayer.

Open Forum: None.

Ministers' Reports: Bridget reported that our new financial secretary (Katrina Cattericcia, Advantage Bookkeeping) has begun her second week of work. She and Winnie seem to be working well together. Bridget has worked with The Brain Center on a renewed lease for 2021. She noted that the new Common Ministry will be asked to work during the first half of 2021 on visioning for most mission-aligned way to use the space previously utilized by Mayflower Nursery School. The GIFT (Gathered in Faith Together) virtual Thanksgiving service had better participation than previous in-person services. She hears comments of appreciation for our virtual worship services from many folks, and is thankful for all those who make them happen. She is working with a group representing both the Personnel Committee and Stewardship Ministry on hiring a new maintenance person and is hopeful that the position will be posted soon. Thanks to those who are working on the Christmas card project. She noted that she is taking a much-needed couple of days off after Christmas (12/30-1/3) except for pastoral care needs.

Jon noted he has been having some health challenges and appreciates the expressions of concern he has received. Community engagement efforts have included the Thanksgiving GIFT service and three Mauthe Center GIFT events this fall, which he hopes will continue through the spring. A team is working on a new Calvin Institute grant which will focus on a variety of music and arts to engage our worship focus on enhancing our racial and social justice. Jon will be writing grant but the effort will be led by members of the Congregation. The Brain Center is growing and he anticipates there will be opportunities to volunteer, as well as educational sessions. He has interacted with one of the Packers who is dyslexic. Jon suggested

that On The Mark may want to be in touch with him. The new Faith Formation curriculum has been purchased and distributed. Teachers have been doing awesome jobs. PF participated in the Heifer service and will be participating in the pageant. YCA has some good momentum. Adult Ed is continuing its focus on anti-racism. Thanks to Jill Thiede who has helped coordinate the adult ed sessions. In January Michael Lukens will be leading sessions on a series of Bonhoeffer essays.

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meetings of November 12 were approved (Heather/Jeff).

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed the regular financial report (attached). Non-pledge income has been almost double what was budgeted. There was discussion on the status of a couple of maintenance work billings. Jeff's report was accepted (Clay/Nancy).

New Business

- **None**

Continuing Business

- Nominating Update: Bridget shared the current status of the Nominating Committee's work.
- Pledge Campaign Update: Bruce Shafer is doing a great job managing the follow up team. We are about where we were last year at this time.
- Reopening the Building Task Force Updates:
 - Outside Use: No report.
 - Worship: Betty reported that at its last meeting the Task Force put together a Communal Responsibility Covenant which will be used when we resume in-person worship. No questions or concerns were raised. They will meet again in January.
 - Technology: Clay shared that the new equipment is in the building but needs to be installed. Running the cable for this project hopefully will be completed within the next week. Jeff reported that we have converted to Spectrum phone and internet, which will result in a substantial cost savings. We are in process of negotiation our contract cancellation with the prior carrier and have engaged David Hassel as legal counsel, as this process is not going smoothly. Bridget noted that Jeff has been spending considerable time getting this accomplished and voiced her appreciation.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

Faith Formation is going well. Eight bibles were distributed to 3rd graders 2 weeks ago. Ed Tucker has reached out to several families with children who may not routinely participate in Faith Formation which they seemed to appreciate.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No Report.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Christmas cards are going out. All else is pretty much on hold.

OUTREACH

Outreach has been busy with the Giving Tree. Please look at the on-line Giftster list. Heifer was successful. We were over \$4,000 last week, and we hope to still reach \$5,000 so that we will again donate an Ark.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is looking for a snow removal service for the sidewalks and steps. In the interim, they are seeking volunteers to help with shoveling and salting. Some new outlets were installed in the sanctuary.

All service on HVAC system is complete. We may be changing to a different waste disposal service. Bill Johnson and Tony Baldwin are representing Stewardship in process of hiring a new maintenance person.

WORSHIP

There are many great Advent services coming up. Sincere thanks to Seong, the various musicians and Tom Towill for recording and to Ben VerGiesen for decorating for the Christmas services. There will be a baptism on January 10.

JOSHUA Report: Jeff reminded us of the JOSHUA Fundraiser (From Love to Justice) February 14-20. He (along with 2 other members of the Prison Reform Task Force and a representative of the Police Department) participated in training in strategies to reduce gun violence. The Environmental Task Force has been working more closely with the Oneidas on agricultural practices with reverence for the environment. Bridget shared that on December 22 at 5 p.m. at Imperial Park a peace vigil and walk in response to the increase in local shootings has been scheduled.

Communications: No report.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved (Jeff/Clay). After prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: January 14, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – Via Zoom (Gathering Prayer: Nicole)

**Union Congregational UCC
Treasurer's Report November 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	45,099	43,372	35,531
December	-	-	-
Total	\$382,085	\$374,139	\$349,834
 G&M Cont.	 \$45,833	 \$45,833	 \$45,833
 Total Revenue	 \$427,918	 \$419,972	 \$395,667
 PPP	 \$77,833		
 Revenue w/PPP	 \$505,751		
 <u>Expenses</u>	<u>(thru November 30)</u>		
Actual:	\$441,868		
Budget:	\$467,043		
Last Year:	\$447,078		

Comments:

Accounting for fundraisers has been changed so that revenue and expenses can be seen. Fundraising revenue for November is listed as \$6,836. A new line for Fundraising Expense has been added and shows \$2,645 for November. The year to date net fundraising revenue is \$4,923. Additional revenue from tree sales in December should take the net over our budgeted goal of \$5,000. YTD pledge income is about \$3,300 lower than budgeted, but December is typically a high month for pledge income. YTD non-pledge income exceeds our budgeted estimate of \$27,500 by approximately \$23,900. Overall General Fund revenue exceeds our estimates by \$8,200. Due to an unexpected receipt of a Prior Year Pledge of \$2,700, that revenue line now exceeds budget by \$1,400. YTD expenses are about \$25,000 below expected.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Gibson

Communal Responsibility Covenant

As a community, we the people of Union covenant to strive to do the will of God. That is the context in which we come together to worship.

As Union resumes in-person worship (considering the guidance of local, state, and federal authorities, as well as Wisconsin Conference UCC and Wisconsin Council of Churches), it is through personal agreement and mutual accountability to the established safety protocols that we agree to protect each other.

Paying careful attention to how our actions impact the safety of others is one way we can all work together to fulfill the vision of our church to make the Christ spirit dominant in all human relations.

In all things, practice kindness, patience, and love. In a time of fear and uncertainty, Christians will be recognized by the way we show love to those around us (John 13:34-35).

Our collective, resilient effort and sacrifice will be what distinguishes this community from others, and is the foundation for Union to emerge stronger than ever.