

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 8, 2021**

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>	
Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels	Jon Pahl
Moderator	Tim Harder	
Vice Moderator	Heather Collins	
Treasurer	Jeff Gibson	
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Nancy Gibson	
Gifts & Memorials	Paco Espinosa	Phil Enscoe
Inreach & Membership	Denise Olson	
Outreach	Achim Siefert	Christie Reese
Stewardship	Clay Reese	
Worship	Betty Bienash	
Communications Coordinator	Ruth Homrighaus	Mary Ann Hudson
Guest(s)		

Meeting held via Zoom.

Moderator Tim Harder called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He reminded us that the work the church members do makes a difference in the community.

Gathering Prayer: Betty shared a poem and a prayer.

Additions to the Agenda:

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Ministers' Reports: Bridget appreciated having a few lovely days of rest after Easter. Holy week activities went well. She noted that a technology glitch on the Palm Sunday FaceBook stream affected the "viewership" numbers, but that participation for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were comparable to those of last year. She expressed thanks to those who delivered Easter flowers to folks we have been praying for or who are isolated. She shared the good news that our new hires have been phenomenal. She has gotten great feedback about Christopher's work from On The Mark and The Brain Center as well as from our other staff and members of Stewardship. Katrina is putting in some new best practice checks and balances and working well with our existing team. Bridget and the Personnel Committee will be working on some proposed revisions to Personnel Policy. She expressed thanks to Jeff Gibson for working with Heartland Business Systems to have the digital firewall replaced, although the change has resulted in a need to re-integrate the alarm system with the internet. The fire panel is now malfunctioning and it may need to be replaced.

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meetings of March 11 were approved. (Betty/Heather)

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed a preliminary financial report (attached). Non-pledge giving is right at budget, and pledge donations are higher. Expenses are well under control. The Treasurer's report will be approved/accepted next month when we have confirmed numbers. Jeff will continue to provide a giving report to Bridget to communicate the congregation's financial picture in This Week at Union.

New Business

- Quarterly Congregational Meeting: Bridget reviewed the purpose of the quarterly meetings with new Common Ministry members. It was agreed to hold a meeting April 25 after worship via Zoom. Jeff will do a financial report. Achim will report on Outreach giving. Ruth and Mary Ann will talk about Communications efforts. Nancy will address the need for Faith Formation volunteers.
- NE Association Meeting Delegates: Lou Norsetter and Steve Jones will represent us.

Continuing Business

- Reopening the Building Task Force Updates:
 - Outside Use: Voting went OK. On the Mark is starting in-person tutoring next week for a month with all the previously approved protocols.
 - Worship/Internal Use and Activities: Betty said they carefully reviewed training procedures for volunteers to have everything in place when the time comes when it is healthy to move forward to in-person worship. The plan is to begin reaching out for volunteers when the community reaches “medium” risk. They continue to work on fine tuning details.
 - Technology: There is a plan for Shaun to come back to finalize the installation of streaming equipment.
- Generosity Teams: Bridget noted that a couple of people have expressed interest in participating. The team will begin to meet after the end of April, when the Cultivating Generous Congregations course will be finished. The May 16 service will feature the Conference Annual Meeting and will focus on generosity
- Space Ministry Task Force: The team has met once. It is a diligent group, currently focused on visioning and strategizing with current users of the building, as well as with church groups and other outside organizations.
- New Member Session Sign-up: Sign-ups for Common Ministry members attendance at the new member sessions were finalized.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

Looking for staff for next year. All positions are available. Adult programming is set through May.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

New Member Sunday will be May 9. Virtual coffee hours are scheduled for April 11, May 2 and June 6. They are evaluating ways to have a church picnic depending on COVID.

OUTREACH

Stock the Box drive is this Saturday, 9-12. The call to the congregation to re-fill the Souper Cooks account resulted in generous donations which will provide for 7 to 8 months' worth of hot meals. 2 sub committees are working on planning for a volunteer fair and rummage sale, both contingent upon COVID levels.

STEWARDSHIP

No report as Stewardship will not meet until next week. Clay noted that Christopher has been great. Jeff Gibson added that Christopher is very proactive in getting the right thing done and has a great attitude.

WORSHIP

Lenten services were strong and meaningful, as were the Wednesday night services. Heather added thanks to the music staff and choir for the Easter music.

JOSHUA Report:

Jeff noted that WISDOM, the state-wide organization of which JOSHUA is a part, is conducting its Madison Action Day next week. There are meetings scheduled with all local legislators. If interested in

participating, please let Jeff know. Because of Union's reputation, Jeff has been asked to give a short talk on radical inclusion in the plenary session. JOSHUA also has a fundraiser coming up.

Communications:

Ruth provided a written report (attached).

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: May 13, 6 pm
Prayer: Heather

Approved

Union Congregational UCC
(Preliminary) Treasurer's Report March 2021

<u>Income</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Budgeted</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>
January	\$58,360	\$74,522	\$80,947
February	\$25,898	\$26,095	\$23,476
March	\$54,392	\$31,841	\$29,563
April	\$0	\$0	\$0
May	\$0	\$0	\$0
June	\$0	\$0	\$0
July	\$0	\$0	\$0
August	\$0	\$0	\$0
September	\$0	\$0	\$0
October	\$0	\$0	\$0
November	\$0	\$0	\$0
December	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$138,650	\$132,458	\$133,986

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>(thru March 31)</u>
Actual:	\$122,634
Budget:	\$136,157
Last Year:	\$116,797

Comments:

After three months revenue exceeds the budget by about \$6,200. YTD expenses are under budget by about \$13,500. Pledge income in March showed significant improvement, to the point where YTD pledge income exceeds the budgeted amount by about \$5,000. Non-pledge income continues to be about even with the budget projection. Strong giving and controlled expenses have improved cash on hand to about \$16,000. Hopefully pledge and non-pledge income will continue to remain strong.
(Since the CM meeting is so early in the month, this report is preliminary and may need to be updated pending review.)

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Gibson

Union Congregational UCC Green Bay Communications Ministry – Minutes – March, 2021

Attendance: Ruth Homrighaus and Mary Ann Hudson

The Communications Coordinators met with Michael Louis Vinson to establish a framework and plan to launch a podcast after discussions with Pastor Bridget Flad-Daniels. The intent is to create an accessible and engaging communications mission to expand UCC's relationships with our greater community. Michael will creatively develop a short interview/theme format with guests from our Green Bay community who are doing work that aligns with UCC's mission, and/or is of interest to our community. For example, we discussed Michael interviewing the director of We All Rise. This kind of interview creates interesting content and engages listening audiences of both UCC and We All Rise, connecting us through conversation.

Michael is enthusiastic, committed, and experienced in communications, journalism, and broadcasting. Mary Ann and Ruth will serve as producers, reaching out to potential guests, handling the tech, reaching out to our community, and supporting Michael. Our first tasks are organizing the technical requirements and preparing a very short (3-5 minute) podcast for Pastor Flad-Daniels' review and to work out any tech issues or larger concerns. From there, we'll begin booking for a twice-monthly, 25 minute podcast that will be accessible on any device.

So far, we've met our goals creating and maintaining a social media posting schedule on both Facebook and Instagram. Our next task is Pastor Flad-Daniels' requested updates to the UCC website and a digital welcome packet. Our overarching goal for the year is to attract 2-3 people to attend services or express interest in New Member classes through our Communications efforts.

In response to a question from Heather, Ruth noted that our primary focus with social media will be "outward," in the sense of spreading Union's message to the community and world, versus sharing information about what is happening at the church that is already in the newsletter, e-newsletter, on the website, and elsewhere. However, we are happy to post about Union events, fund-raisers, etc., upon request, and requests can be emailed to Mary Ann and Ruth at mainbrain@brainmillpress.com.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Hudson and Ruth Homrighaus