

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2021**

Present:

Absent:

Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator	Tim Harder		
Vice Moderator	Heather Collins		
Treasurer	Jeff Gibson		
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Nancy Gibson		
Gifts & Memorials	Paco Espinosa		
Inreach & Membership	Denise Olson		
Outreach	Achim Siefert	Christie Reese	
Stewardship	Mark Smith	Clay Reese	
Worship	Betty Bienash		
Communications Coordinator		Ruth Homrighaus Mary Ann Hudson	
Guest(s)			

*HOW DOES WHAT WE AS COMMON MINISTRY ARE DOING AFFECT THE
CHURCH'S RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK?*

Meeting held via Zoom.

Moderator Tim Harder called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Gathering Prayer: Tim shared a prayer.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Minister's Report:

- Banking - Bridget has worked with Associated Bank to give Jeff Gibson and Tim Harder authorization to make transfers from one account to another, and to make Katrina's permissions read only.
- Offering Counters - Bridget is working with Heather to tighten up our practice regarding how the Sunday offering is processed, and asked for suggestions of 5-7 people to recruit for this role.
- JOSHUA Religious Leaders are initiating a pattern of praying at the site of violent bloodshed shortly after it occurs. We had a service two weeks ago on University Ave., and I preached a more "general" service to pray for peace and build community on Wednesday, June 2 at 6 p.m. at Seymour Park.
- The St. Norbert College campus parish has invited us to participate in an ecumenical PRIDE worship and cookout on July 18, and we need volunteers. (No N.E.W. Pride Alive this year.)
- Resuming pastoral visits already, Office Hours - afternoons starting mid-June

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meetings of May 13 were approved (Jeff/Denise).

The attached recommendation of the Resuming In-Person Worship Task Force was unanimously approved by Common Ministry by email vote concluding on May 21.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed the regular financial report (attached). The report was approved (Achim/Heather). Jeff will work to include financial report information each month in either the newsletter or email Blast.

New Business

- Rummage Sale: Achim reported that the Volunteer Fair (a new initiative to bring in about a dozen charities to allow an opportunity for Congregation members to become acquainted with and learn from the leadership of those charities) will likely be held on September 26, and the Rummage Sale will be scheduled once we've determined when Heifer Sunday will be.

Continuing Business

- Reopening the Building Task Force Updates:
 - Outside Use: The Brown County Housing and Homeless Coalition met in Pilgrim Hall pre-COVID, and has now asked to resume meeting there. After discussion, it was agreed that in the future, Bridget has the authority (without Common Ministry involvement) to approve use of the building by outside groups wishing to meet here (Gail/Heather).
 - Worship/Internal Use and Activities: We are ready to go for our first in-person worship on Sunday. Hopefully we will be able to loosen restrictions over time. Bridget expressed deep and abiding thanks to Jeff Gibson, Clay Reese and Shaun Shouldeen for stepping up the work on technology to make last Sunday, this coming, and future Sundays happen.
 - Technology: No further report.
- Generosity Teams: Tim reported the team has met once and is working to expand its membership.
- Space Ministry Task Force: B reported the Task Force has determined the 3 users central to Union's mission that need space (Faith Formation, On the Mark and the Brain Center) will get priority. The Team is interviewing those groups to determine their needs, synergies in space utilization, how we can work on improvements and how we expect them to renumerate the church. Next step includes basic schematic analysis, which may require some professional assistance. At a very minimum, bathrooms on the lower level need to be addressed.
- CM Prayer Sign-up: See chart below.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

Still looking for Faith Formation volunteers for Sundays and Wednesdays.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Coffee hour will resume starting 7/4 if weather permits gathering in the courtyard. The next date will be 8/8. We're hoping to host a picnic to coincide with Reunion Sunday. Help with Wednesday meals and Sunday coffee hours is needed.

OUTREACH

Looking for a replacement for EPH liaison. Please contact Achim if interested.

STEWARDSHIP

No additions. Heather expressed thanks to Stewardship and Christopher. The church is ready and looks good as lots of cleaning has been accomplished. Bridget shared that Blindauer assessed the copper roof over organ, and soldered and re-caulked a crack. We will continue to have them inspect each year, but a more substantial project will be needed to ensure we have no future water leaks.

WORSHIP

Betty shared plans for a project to offer an opportunity for Congregation members to reflect on the pandemic and celebrate our return.

JOSHUA Report: Fundraiser coming up 7/27 at Zambaldi's. Raised over \$700 at last fundraiser. Electronics recycling this Saturday at St. Matthews Church.

Communications: No report.

Other: As this is our last Zoom meeting, Bridget expressed thanks for all of us being faithful and keeping the ship afloat during the last 15 months.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: August 12, 6 p.m. Chapel Classroom

Future Meetings:

Date:	Prayer:	Snacks:
August	Bridget	Heather
September	Jeff	Gail
October	Denise	
November	Achim	
December	Clay	

May 18th, 2021

Resuming In-Person Worship Task Force Recommendations to Common Ministry

Task Force members: Betty Bienash (chairperson), Dr. Gail Carels, Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels, Jeff Gibson, Rev. Steve Hartman, Dr. Sherry Warren

In light of the most recent CDC COVID-19 guidance, the Resuming In-Person Worship Task Force recommends that Union Church resume in-person worship on June 13th along with basic guidelines that are meant to protect the most vulnerable among us as we worship together. The task force will continue to make recommendations that will lead us to more robust worship practices as the COVID guidance evolves from the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health for Brown County.

Guidelines:

- We will resume in-person worship allowing for full capacity while maintaining social distancing.
- Services will continue to be live streamed. For your health, vulnerable and unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to follow CDC and State recommendations to avoid large gatherings and to worship with us from home.
- As a community which holds central the tenet of care for the vulnerable, people over 2 years of age will be expected to continue to wear masks at all times while in the building. Masks must cover both your mouth and nose, and your fellow worshippers will be encouraged to remind those whose masks slip.
- Social distancing will continue to be required as households seat themselves in the sanctuary. We will rope off pews to make social distancing easier to maintain.
- Ushers/greeters will welcome members of the congregation, hand out bulletins, answer questions, etc.
- A cantor and instrumentalists will lead us in our musical worship; the congregation will not be invited to sing.
- The congregation may proclaim our prayers and our litany responses aloud while wearing their masks.
- Pre-packaged Communion elements will be available at the doors leading into the sanctuary on Communion Sundays. Alternately, you are welcome to bring your own elements of choice, just as you have done while we have been worshipping virtually. Those worshipping online may obtain pre-packaged Communion elements at the church office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., if they so choose.
- We recommend that the Membership and Inreach Ministry host a couple of coffee hours outdoors this summer so members of the congregation have opportunities to reconnect with one another.
- We encourage **everyone** who can be vaccinated to do so! If you need transportation or support of any nature to make this possible, please contact the church office (920-437-9266). This is how we will accelerate our journey to a healthy, safe, robust worship service when we will all be back to singing our praises to the Lord aloud and together.

**Union Congregational UCC
Treasurer's Report May 2021**

<u>Income</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Budgeted</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>Surplus Remaining</u>
January	\$58,360	\$74,522	\$80,947	
February	\$25,898	\$26,095	\$23,476	
March	\$54,392	\$31,841	\$29,563	
April	\$38,632	\$48,375	\$48,007	
May	\$21,582	\$23,503	\$23,955	
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 Giving	\$198,864	\$204,336	\$205,948	
From Surplus	\$23,391	\$21,124		\$38,863
Total Revenue	\$222,255			
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>(thru May 31)</u>			
Actual:	\$222,255			
Budget:	\$225,460			
Last Year:	\$200,479			

Comments:

After five months, revenue is under budget by about \$5,500. YTD expenses are under budget by about \$3,000. Pledge income in May was close to budget, and YTD is about \$5,500 less than budget. Non-pledge income in May was \$752 or 20% below budget and YTD is about 5% below budget. For the first time this year, YTD revenue has fallen below actual expenses. Since March budgeted revenue has trailed budgeted expenses. This is due to the fact that we budgeted "revenue" of \$62,254 from our surplus for 2021. I've added a line to indicate how much from the surplus we have used YTD. The budget anticipates expenses around \$3,800 per month for the Associate Pastor for each of the remaining months in 2021. Going without a new AP for a few months will help. The biggest areas contributing to the expansion of expenses is additional Financial Secretary costs and building maintenance costs with several thousand dollars from 2020 being invoiced in 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Gibson