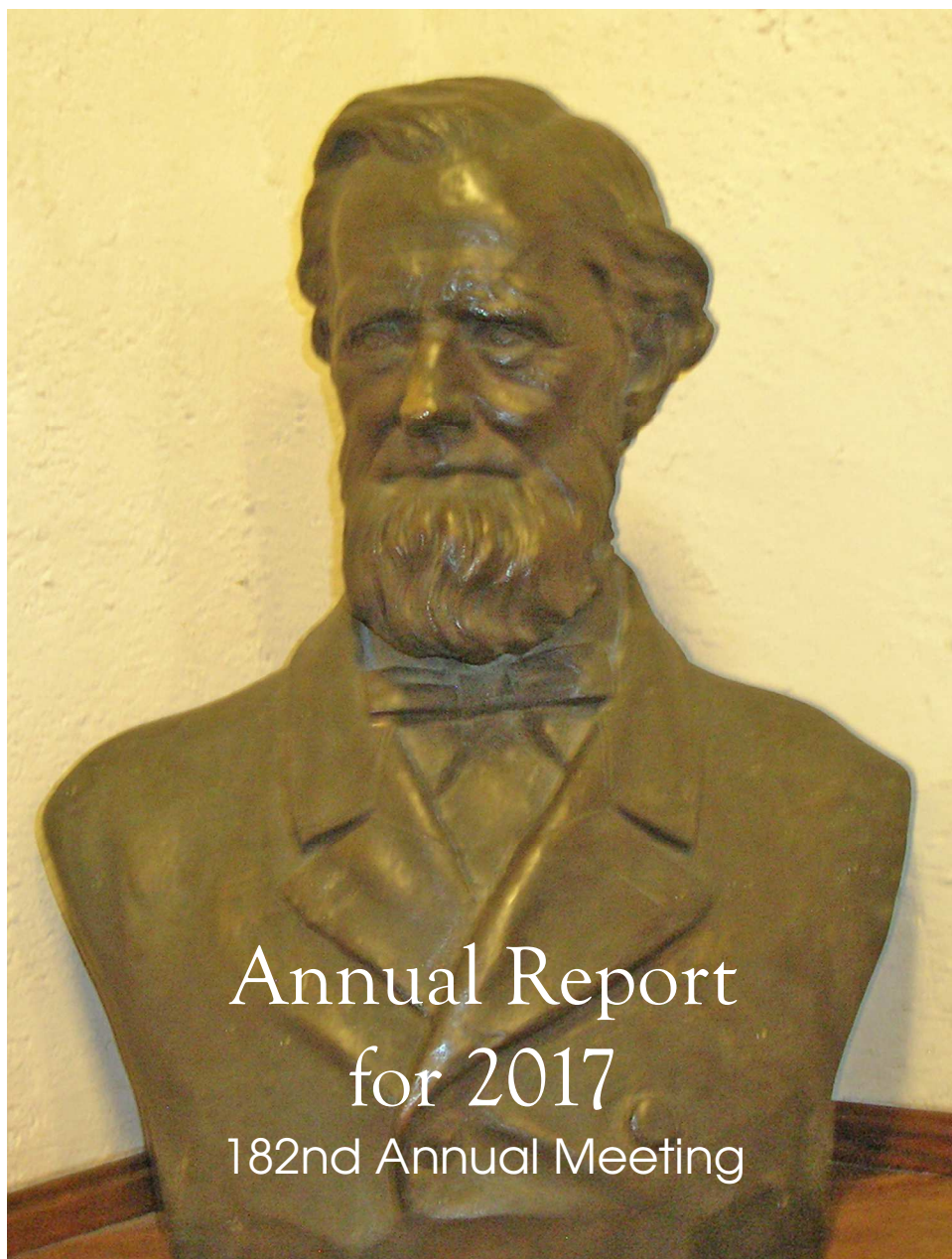

Union Congregational United Church of Christ



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Annual Report
for 2017

182nd Annual Meeting



Our Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2018

The 182nd Annual Meeting of
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
will convene immediately following worship
on Sunday, January 28.

- Reports will be received, retiring Ministry chairs and vice-chairs will be recognized; elections will be held for new leaders of our congregation.
- The 2018 budget will be proposed, discussed and adopted.
- We will vote to renew our membership in JOSHUA for 2018.

Please bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert for the common table.
Common Ministry will provide the meat, drinks and table service.

On the Cover

The bronze bust of the Rev. Jeremiah Porter is a familiar site to those attending worship at Union Church as it has resided in the southwest corner of the church's south transept for many years. The bust was made by Leonard Wells Volk in 1883 when the Rev. Porter (minister at Union Church—then known as First Presbyterian Church—from 1840-1858) was 79 years old.

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UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Green Bay, Wisconsin

182nd Annual Meeting
Held in the Sanctuary following the Worship Service
Sunday, January 28, 2018

NOTE: Please review the reports in this booklet *prior* to the Annual Meeting.

Call to Order	Sandy Polarek Moderator
Constituting Prayer and Memorial Moments	Bridget Flad Daniels Senior Minister
Declaration of Quorum	Gail Hohenstein, Clerk
Opening Remarks	Moderator, Pastor
Approval of Minutes	Clerk
Annual Reports: Highlights, Questions	Ministry Chairs
Presentation of the 2018 Budget	Jeff Carels, Treasurer
Associate Pastor Search Committee	Ben VerGiesen
JOSHUA Membership for 2018	Sue Exworthy
Recognition: Retiring Ministry Chairs	Moderator
Nominating Committee Report	Heather Collins
Litany for Commissioning: New Members of Common Ministry and Committees	Moderator, Pastor, Congregation
Other Business	Moderator
Benediction	Bridget Flad Daniels Senior Minister

The Clerk's Report

The minutes of the monthly meetings of the Common Ministry have been recorded and approved. Copies of the minutes have been filed in the Minutes book in the main office and posted on the bulletin board across from the office and on the Church website for public access.

The minutes of the 181st Annual Meeting of January 29, 2017 have been reviewed by the Common Ministry and are included in this Annual Report for approval at the 182nd Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail A. Hohenstein, Clerk

MINUTES OF THE 181st ANNUAL MEETING **January 29, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: The 181st Annual Meeting of Union Congregational United Church of Christ of Green Bay, Wisconsin was called to order by Moderator Lou Norsetter at 11:05 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

CONSTITUTING PRAYER AND MEMORIAL MOMENTS: Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels led the congregation in prayer that included remembrance of the following members and friends who died this past year:

Madeline Barnes	Mary Metoxen	Jean Volletz
Austin Bush	Marshall Moss	Al Walden
Robert Hoffmann	Donald Pamperin	
Irene "Billie" Kress	Helen Patterson	

OPENING REMARKS: Moderator Norsetter commented on this year's return of the meeting to the Sanctuary, which provides the availability of a better sound system and more importantly, the recognition that the work of the Annual Meeting is sacred work. She expressed thanks to Michael Lukens for serving as our Parliamentarian.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM: According to the Constitution, as amended, a quorum consists of 6% of the active membership of the congregation. As of December 31, 2016, Union Congregational United Church of Christ had 525 active members. Clerk Gail Hohenstein declared that by visual observation the necessary quorum to conduct business was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Kathy Baldwin moved and Steve Jones seconded that the minutes of the 180th Annual Meeting be approved as written in the Annual Report. Jeff Gibson moved and David Thie seconded that the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 10, 2016 be approved as written in the Annual Report. Both motions carried by a voice vote.

ANNUAL REPORTS, HIGHLIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

Education – No additions to the Annual Report.

Inreach – Heather Collins noted the omission of the Spring Fling from the list of Social Events organized by the Inreach Ministry.

Outreach – Cathy Putman added the Ministry's desire to focus on community partnerships for charity and advocacy. She made specific mention of Kathy Johnson's work with the Church Nursery, Mayflower Nursery School and the YMCA on George's Secret Elves, which this year distributed 415 baskets of food for school children while on Christmas vacation.

Worship – No additions to the Annual Report.

Stewardship – No additions to the Annual Report.

New Member – No additions to the Annual Report.

Gifts & Memorials – No additions to the Annual Report.

2016 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2017 BUDGET

Larry Rose distributed a summary of the budget which Common Ministry approved for presentation at this meeting. A detailed budget is available on request. We entered into this year with some carry-over surplus. The 2017 budget provides use of about half of the surplus along with a previously approved contribution from Gifts & Memorials to cover the salary and benefits of the Associate Pastor for the second half of the year. However, based on current pledge giving, we still face a deficit of about \$35,000. The proposed budget includes a 2nd Mile Campaign to raise the funds to cover the deficit, at a minimum. David Thie moved that the Congregation approve Union's 2017 Budget as proposed in the 2017 Budget Summary that has been distributed at this meeting, and that the Congregation agree to support a Spring 2017 2nd Mile Pledge Campaign to cover the \$35,000 deficit shown in that summary. The motion was seconded by Bruce Shafer. Julie Harder questioned why the Treasurer's report showed a surplus of about \$5,000 when the proposed budget showed a surplus of about \$55,000. Larry clarified that the Treasurer's report showed a 1-year surplus, while the budget reflected a surplus accumulated over several years. He also added that the surplus arose due to a higher than anticipated amount of non-pledge income, as well as lower spending in 2016, which primarily arose from not hiring an Associate Pastor in 2016 as well as lower utility bills. Judy Larmouth asked why operating expenses were reduced in the 2017 budget from actual expenses in 2016. David Thie responded that there were several expense overages in 2016 which we do not expect to repeat in 2017, so those lines were retained at 2016 levels. Gary Gierczak asked about the status of the Capital Campaign. Larry responded that the capital projects list has been completed, but that pledges are still being completed. The Gifts & Memorials Fund has to date been repaid about 75% of the funds loaned to the operating budget for tuck-pointing done prior to 2012. After discussion closed, the motion was approved on a voice vote.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: Ben VerGiesen, Chair of the Search Committee, reported the Committee has worked diligently on the Church profile. They are finishing up on some suggested edits, and plan to present the profile for approval at Common Ministry's February meeting. After approval by the Associate Conference Minister, it will be posted in accordance with UCC Guidelines, and we will then be accepting applications for review. Other members of the Committee are Todd Kane (Secretary), Deb Rose (Chaplain), Liz Gregg, Barbara McClure-Lukens, McKenna Stueck and Julie Harder (Theological Advisor).

JOSHUA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

Sue Exworthy, who represents Union on the JOSHUA Board, described several of JOSHUA's current statewide social justice and advocacy emphases, including prison reform and environmental (mining) issues. She moved that Union continue to support JOSHUA with a \$1,000 membership. Jeff Gibson seconded the motion and it was approved.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING MINISTRY MEMBERS: Retiring members of Ministries and Chairs and Vice-Chairs were thanked for their service:

Julie Thiel (Education)	Shaun Shouldeen (Communications)
Cathy Putman (Outreach)	Larry Krueger (Inreach)
Mary Kay Bishop (Outreach)	Barbara McClure-Lukens (Nominating)
Gary Hassel (Gifts & Memorials)	Lloyd Schaefer (New Member)
Jeff Zahn (Stewardship)	Katie Klaus (Personnel)
Sandy Polarek (Worship)	Lou Norsetter (Moderator)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Barbara McClure-Lukens gave the Nominating Committee Report, expressing that the Church is grateful for the quality of its lay leadership. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, she moved the following nominees be elected for two-year terms:

Sandy Polarek: Moderator	Christie Reese: Chair, Outreach
Gail Hohenstein: Clerk	Lou Ann Norsetter: Vice-Chair, Outreach
Jeff Carels: Treasurer	Jammie VerGiesen: Vice-Chair, Stewardship
Helen Krueger: Vice-Chair, Education	Virginia Riggs: Chair, Worship
Nicole Polarek: Gifts & Memorials	Joann Broskey: Vice-Chair, Worship
Betty Bienash: Vice-Chair, Inreach	

and that the following nominees be elected for the terms shown below:

Julie Harder: Pastoral Relations Committee – 4 years
Denise Olson: Personnel Committee – 3 years
Judy Larmouth: Mayflower Nursery School Liaison – 1 year
Nicole Kinjerski: Communications Coordinator – 1 year

Ben VerGiesen seconded the motion and it was approved.

COMMISSIONING NEW MEMBERS OF COMMON MINISTRY AND COMMITTEES

Moderator Norsetter invited newly elected members of Common Ministry and Committees to come forward. A Litany for Commissioning of the new members was conducted and closed with a prayer led by Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kathy Johnson, who has been the Nursery Director for 13 years, expressed thanks to the Congregation. She invited us to greet our new nursery staff member, Jenna Stevens, as well as to thank Sylvia Garrido who is also there with her beautiful personality. She also thanked the Congregation for its support of the George's Elves project.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels gave the benediction. Jammie VerGiesen moved and Sue Whittemore seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail A. Hohenstein
Clerk

Moderator

“Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good; try to use ordinary situations.”

I found this quote by Jean Paul Richter and thought it summed up many of the things we have been doing as a congregation. Throughout the year we have cooked and served food to people at New Community Shelter, Howe School, and the Veterans Manor. We made blankets, sent cards, raked leaves, had conversations and meals with new members of the Green Bay community from Somalia. We built another Ark for Heifer International. We collected diapers, school supplies, clothing, food, and money for various organizations around us. We welcomed new people into our church community. We celebrated as the children and teens of the church shared their talents with us. Our hands, minds, and hearts have been busy. I am very proud to say I am a member of Union Congregational UCC and that I have the privilege of serving as Moderator.

In my first year as Moderator, I have enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know and to work with Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels. I appreciate the time, commitment, and faith it takes to lead us as we seek to make the “Christ Spirit dominant in our lives.” Rev. Steve Hartman continues to serve us ably in his role as Pastor of Visitation. We are grateful to have his gentle and caring presence in this important role.

Our church is fortunate to have an experienced, talented, and dependable lay staff. We are thankful for the work of Eric Goska, Winnie Hutmans, Scott Ingram, Courtney Sherman, Ray Thompson, Linda Cook, Melissa Heffernan, Sylvia Garrido, Kathy Johnson, and Jenna Stevens. This year, we celebrated the gifts of Ruth E. Baker and Cheri Frusher as they retired from their positions of Youth Choir Director and Handbell Ensemble Director, respectively.

Members of Common Ministry have worked well together this year, and I appreciate their willingness to take on any task asked of them. We worked hard and had many interesting and thought-provoking discussions. I want to especially thank Deb Rose, Education chair, and David Thie, Stewardship chair as they complete their terms. The work they accomplished is so appreciated. We are also thankful for the work of Marlene Lanoue, Gifts and Memorials and Ecumenical Partnership for Housing, and Joann Broskey, Worship Vice-Chair who stepped down before the end of their terms. Thank you also to Gary Hassel who completed his term on the Pastoral Relations Committee.

It is with excitement and anticipation that I look forward to the new year as we complete the process of searching for a new Associate Pastor. The search committee has worked long, hard, and faithfully to find the right person for our community. Hopefully, their work will be fruitful and we will be able to welcome someone very soon.

We certainly did a lot of “good” in 2017. Imagine what we will do as we continue to work together to “strive to do the will of God.”

Peace,
Sandy Polarek, Moderator

Senior Minister

One of the graces of a longtime pastorate is that one really gets to know people's stories. Three years isn't long by any stretch of the imagination, yet year by year, congregants slowly share the intricacies of their lives – how they were raised, the joys and sorrows of family life, the triumphs of careers, the ends and beginnings of dreams. When we celebrate Communion, as the servers are distributing the bread and cup, I often look out at those gathered and reflect on the mind-boggling assertion of the Apostle Paul that we, the community of believers, make up the Body of Christ. I offer prayers of gratitude for all of the stories of the lives gathered around the table, and ask God's blessing, that the Holy Spirit may work through these lives as we move forward.

And work through us God does!

Whenever I write reports such as this, I like to look back at the legacies of my predecessors. This year, I find the chapter on the tenure of Rev. Jeremiah Porter, who was Union's pastor from 1840 until 1858, in Ethel Cady's history of Union to be particularly relevant. It is a picture of the bust of Porter on this report's cover this year. Cady tells us that, while well loved and a dynamic preacher, Rev. Porter's 18-year tenure did not grow the church substantially. The women of the church held their first fundraising dinner, which cost a dime to attend, during Porter's tenure. They even borrowed a piano to provide entertainment (there were only four pianos in town), and a church member picked up attendees in his bob sleigh. Despite these efforts, the dinner only brought in a meager sum, which afforded the church the ability to buy one window shade, which was installed in the sanctuary to block the sun from blinding Rev. Porter as he preached. Despite what by the books may look like a stalled ministry, we also read that this was a time of great social action on behalf of the church. It is Rev. Porter, his family, and other dedicated church members who harbored the runaway slave and his three sons in the church belfry until a boat arrived to carry them to safety in Canada, and numerous other stories tell of harboring black children who were fleeing slavery in members' homes as they awaited safe passage.

These stories remind me so much of the state of our church today. Our attendance and membership numbers remain steady, despite our deeply held belief that our church and the way we understand Christianity is a powerful message people are yearning for. We had to hold a "second mile" campaign in the spring of 2017 to raise funds to balance our budget and once again are facing a deficit budget of



If These Homes Could Talk

Union Church was the first stop on the Brown County Historical Society's walking tour of the Astor neighborhood.

The tour was held Saturday morning, September 23. Ed Tucker gave a short talk on the history of Union Church.

roughly \$20,000 for 2018. Nonetheless, the ministry and scope of the work that this church is doing in the name of the God of love is truly remarkable.

The Immigration Advocacy Team, which grew out of our 2015-16 visioning and goal setting process, has done great work. They facilitated adult education sessions during Lent based on the WI Council of Churches' *Becoming Welcoming Communities* curriculum, held book discussion sessions on Christina Henriquez' *Book of Unknown Americans*, invited in immigrant speakers Maria Leza, Said Hassan, and Mahamed Rage, to share their stories in adult education, invited Mr. Rage and other members of the Somali community to come back to facilitate what we called a "cultural competency conversation," did a survey of the congregation's interests regarding further immigration advocacy, and are now engaging in one-on-one conversations with a number of congregants to further take the pulse of the church. One of the immigrant support organizations we worked with sent this thank you at year's end:

It is with all the love and warmth of the holidays that we find ourselves reminiscing over the past year, and so much of the warmth and love has come from your church, and from those who belong who make it so generous! The inclusiveness you have extended this year to the Somali community has been nothing shy of a complete and wondrous event, showcasing your high regard for friendships, support for your community, empathy, and sincere commitment to your church's mission. We graciously have been the recipients of your support throughout the year, and for this we will forever be grateful. In an effort to bridge cultural divides you offered us space in your home, gave us a platform to share our cultural and religious norms with your community, you have literally granted us the financial means to provide technological skills and women's empowerment opportunities to our community and you have adopted two newly resettled families for the holidays, surrounding them with comfort and security in a way which we are not yet able to do. It is with such fond admiration, respect, and appreciation that we write to tell you how much we wish for you all to have the very merriest and brightest of your holiday season and a very blessed New Year.

Warmest Regards,
COMSA (Community Services Agency, Inc.)

Watch for renewed efforts from the Immigration Advocacy Team in the months ahead, as they put their findings into action.

Another of the bright spots this year for me is how our congregation responded to a request for a Thanksgiving meal. Green Bay Veterans Manor is a new apartment building in town, built to house veterans who are on the verge of being homeless. The social worker there called me one day out of the blue, asking if our church might be able to sponsor a Thanksgiving meal for 40 of their residents. I took the request to Common Ministry, who ran with it. Over the next five weeks, Heather Collins and Christie Reese solicited cooks, servers, and donations, and the congregation's response was overwhelming. In fact, they had to turn away some offers, because you offered more than could possibly be put to use! God was at work through that random call, the faith our Common Ministry has in you, and the outpouring of generosity you showed.

Our Associate Pastor Search Committee continues to work diligently. We have titled the position "Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement," and the committee created a dynamic

profile of our church and the position which has garnered steady interest in the eight months it has been posted. They have had phone, Skype, and in-person interviews with numerous candidates, and by the time of our Annual Meeting will have gone to observe a very viable candidate preach and lead worship. If all goes well, they hope to recommend a candidate to Common Ministry, who will in turn recommend the candidate to the congregation, yet this winter/spring.

As I wrap up I would like to offer a few words of thanks. There are countless people who have done the work of God in this congregation over the last year, and the names that stand out to me now are Helen Krueger and Jeff Carels who traveled to Back Bay Mission in Mississippi just after Thanksgiving for a weeklong mission trip, and Sylvia Garrido who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the fine-grain details of our child and youth ministry are taken care of while we search for an Associate Pastor. Union, and the people of God, are grateful for your service and leadership.

Parson's Purse — 2017

Donations Received	\$10,330.77
Assistance Given*	\$16,074.79
Ending Balance	\$1,403.34

*rent, transportation, medical, food, utilities, insurance

As in the time of Rev. Jeremiah Porter, I am honored that the work of God is being undertaken today in such profound ways as it is in the name of Union Congregational United Church of Christ. We are the Body of Christ, and the world is better for it.

Thank you, and God bless,
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

Pastor of Visitation

Dear Union Church Family:

As your Pastor of Visitation, I am fortunate to visit those in our church who are homebound or unable to travel for worship every week. The ministry of visitation also brings me to see some of our church family who have been admitted to care facilities and hospitalizations. I enjoy the privilege of a part-time ministry at Union Church in coordination with Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels. Although the list of people visited fluctuates from time to time, the current list for rotation includes about 20 of our members and friends in addition to hospital visits. Beyond the sheer enjoyment in the visits, I share developments and programming within the everyday life of Union Church. In our conversations, we share words of hope, inspiration, consolation and good news reports from the church and what God is doing in our midst. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this ministry of caring. Finally, if you know of homebound individuals or others who should be included for a visit, please notify the church office or speak to me directly.

Pastor Steve Hartman

2017 Annual Report

Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

Dear friends in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ,

I am pleased to share the ongoing vision and mission of our Conference Ministry with you. Our essential purpose is to equip leaders and congregations with resources, guidance, ecclesiastical care and innovative ideas for the promotion of healthy and vital ministry.

Over the past few years we have encouraged congregations to dare to dream creatively, focusing on the Gospel imperative to which God is uniquely calling your church. While maintaining budgets and buildings is important, cultivating community-connecting ministries is transformational! When your congregation provides a food pantry, medical equipment, elder transportation, tutoring to children, earth care, or justice advocacy, you extend the compassion of Christ to your neighbors. Such servant ministry inspires spiritual passion and deepens our sense of purpose.

During the 2017 Annual Meeting we highlighted exciting and innovative ministry shifts! Many of our congregations are exploring new ways to BE THE CHURCH in our communities, through ecumenical, civic and non-profit partnerships. Our congregations are increasingly engaging in collaborative initiatives around mission and faith formation, and many have embraced shared pastoral models. Your Conference staff continues to prioritize the support of congregations and clergy. We invite you to peruse our new website (www.wcucc.org) which also serves as a digital resource center for networking, highlighting innovative ideas and best practices.

Our common life remains rooted in relationships – connecting, convening and cohort learning together. Many clergy and educators participate in Communities of Practice, where shared trust promotes ministerial support and accountability. Our justice working groups harness the collective energy from across the Conference, and challenge all of us to action. Our Lay Academy provides a solid biblical foundation and inspires theological reflection, and our Camps invite all into the faith, renewing us and fostering fresh patterns of thinking as we are surrounded by nature's sanctuary.

In less than two years the Wisconsin Conference will host General Synod 32 in Milwaukee! In addition to providing warm, Midwest hospitality, we hope to offer a bold example to the Wider Church. We know the difficult national challenges we face also exist right here in Wisconsin, and we wish to host with the integrity of a people who are doing their own work. Let us commit, together, to the ongoing work of racial justice, to the wider inclusion of the LGBTQ community, to the bold welcoming of immigrants and to the steadfast preservation of this precious earth.

In hope and gratitude,
Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

Faith Formation Leaders (Youth - Adult)

2017 - 2018 School Year

Christian education at Union Church could not be achieved without the help of our Education Ministry members, nursery staff, music directors, and numerous volunteers listed below. Thank you, everyone!

Education Ministry: **Sylvia Garrido, Helen Krueger, Deb Rose, Kaia Stueck, Shawna Stueck, Julie Thiel, and Ed Tucker**

Sunday Faith Formation Leaders and Aides: **Joyce Anderson, Heather Collins, Karen Hogan, Matt Lyman, Shana and Paco Espinosa, Tim Harder, Linda Jerabek, Matt Lyman, Lou Norsetter, Sandy Polarek, Christie and Clay Reese, Julie Thiel, Ed Tucker, and Anne Rakow-Weist**

Nursery staff: **Kathy Johnson, Sylvia Garrido, Jenna Stevens**

Nursery Roll Coordinators: **Sue Tucker, Sylvia Garrido**

Pilgrim Fellowship Leaders: **Shawna Stueck, Sylvia Garrido**

YCA Leaders: **Tim Harder, with help from Mary Kay Bishop, Steve Jones, and Ed Tucker**

Youth Choir Director: **Melissa Heffernan**

Wednesday Kitchen Staff: **Steve Pretz, Doug Huss, Christie Reese, Cathy Putman, and Bob Mosby Johnson**

Kitchen Cleanup Crew: **Ross Logerquist, Christie Reese, Karen Filppula, Anne Rakow-Weist, and Bob Mosby Johnson**

Second Sunday Series Committee: **Sue Whittemore, Sandy Polarek**

Adult Classes: **Julie Harder, Michael Lukens, Cyndi Pagel**

Librarian: **Cathy Putman**

Book Studies, Bible Studies, Adult Education: **Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels**

Faith Formation Programs offered included:

Sundays

Children's Faith Formation	Children's Worship Moments	Confirmation Classes
Youth NOOMA Classes	Second Sunday Series	Nursery
Sunday Adult Classes	Book Studies	Storyteller Time

Tuesdays

Bible Study	Priscilla Circle
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Wednesdays

Evening Meals	Seminary Secrets Adult Class
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Youth Choir (rehearsals moved to Sunday mornings mid-year)
YCA & PF (youth in grades 5-8 and 9-12 gather to build faith and values through fellowship and mission projects)

Other Events

Christmas Pageant	Youth Sunday	Parent Orientations
Intergenerational Sunday School	PF Bake Sale	YCA Car Wash

Safe Sanctuary (mandatory training presented by Pastor Bridget for all who work with children/youth)

Education Ministry

The purpose of Education Ministry is to provide support, coordination, and vision-keeping in the planning and administration of Christian Education. Throughout the year, many Union members contributed their time and talents for the various programs and educational offerings. Current ministry members include Sylvia Garrido, Helen Krueger, Deb Rose, Shawna Stueck, Kaia Stueck, Julie Thiel, and Ed Tucker. In addition, those who taught Faith Formation or led youth groups include Joyce Anderson, Heather Collins, Karen Hogan, Matt Lyman, Shana and Paco Espinosa, Tim Harder, Linda Jerabek, Lou Norsetter, Sandy Polarek, Anne Rakow-Weist, and Christie and Clay Reese.

Faith Formation expanded again this fall to create two classes for the younger children: 4K – 1st Grade and 2nd Grade – 4th Grade. Faith Formation continues to use the creative and adaptable multi-age format *SHINE-Living in God's Light* (Brethren Press) where the children are engaged at their own levels through biblical storytelling, art, drama, music, and meaningful conversation. Faith Formation for the 5th grade through high school group focuses on providing material that promotes group discussion, allowing the students to question, explore, and hear what other youth have to say about our faith traditions. The curriculum used during the 2017 spring period was the DVD series NOOMA. These were short films designed to promote spiritual reflections on individual life experiences. The 2017 fall curriculum is *Generation Why* (SHINE-Brethren Press), which encourages youth to encounter and explore scripture to make it their own. Topics include: *How to read the Bible*, and *What does salvation mean?* Occasionally, the older youth will attend a Second Sunday Series presentation. The Youth Choir, directed by Melissa Heffernan, began Sunday rehearsals and continued singing during worship this fall. There is strong, consistent attendance in all levels of Sunday morning Faith Formation. Special thanks to Ed Tucker for organizing the weekly e-mail outreach to families with the lesson themes and prayers.

Wednesday evening programs include Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) lead by Shawna Stueck and Sylvia Garrido, and Young Christians in Action (YCA) lead by Linda and Jeff Larson through spring. In

fall, Tim Harder accepted leadership responsibilities aided by Mary Kay Bishop, Julie Harder, and Steve Jones.

Adult Education offerings were: *Seminary Secrets*, Julie Harder instructor; *Living the Questions* hosted by Clay and Christie Reese; *Parenting – Love, Listen, and Limits*, guest presenter Cyndi Pagel, and the Lenten movie nights lead by Michael Lukens.

Four youth (Elijah Gregg, Nicholas Sheier, Kaia Stueck, and Emmaline Weist) were confirmed on Sunday, May 21, after a year of study with Pastors Bridget and Steve.

During the summer, a Prayground was created at the front, left corner of the sanctuary. Young children remain in worship enjoying quiet activities with a parent/guardian while experiencing the rituals of worship with the congregation. Our Prayground is a supplement to nursery care.

Education Ministry collaborated with Outreach Ministry on the *Mile of Pennies Challenge* for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Ongoing work with Mayflower Nursery School included aligning Union's nursery program to the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) principals, particularly concerning safety. Education Ministry joined with First UCC De Pere to co-write and produce Faith Family Field trips in June, July, and August around themes of Earth at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Water at Joannes Aquatic Center, and Fire at First UCC. Community outreach involved "*Whoo goes there?*" the second annual Halloween event to pass out candy from the steps of the church.

It really does take a village to raise a child. Education Ministry welcomes all who would like to *make the Christ spirit dominant in their lives and in all human relations.*

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Rose, chair

The Peg Jaeger Library

The church library is concluding an adult collection update which began 10 years ago. The adult collection received little updating during the 1990s and early 2000s when the focus was on the children's collection.

Weeding of older adult books began in 2005 with those books offered to the congregation in the annual used book sale. While we have retained several great books from the earliest Bible study acquisitions by Women's Fellowship, developments in recent archeology have changed some interpretations of Bible history and meanings. As a result, we continue to shelve the newer Interpretations series of individual books of the Bible in the library and have moved the scholarly but older Anchor series to the Chapel Classroom.

Over the last 10 years, areas of selected growth include spiritual practices, other religions, an increased variety of theological perspectives, and social justice issues. The fiction collection is mostly newer and has benefited from ongoing anonymous donations of good quality novels. We have a modest but outstanding collection of books on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Reinhold Niebuhr thanks to the ongoing interest in these figures by a number of congregation members and friends. In our current collection of 1,783 books, 45% of the collection was published in 2000 or later. Despite the popularity of ebooks and audiobooks, the physical book held in the hand has distinct advantages for those interested in study and armchair use.

The library is a member of LibraryThing, an online site where our catalog is kept and can be referenced by any computer. Our member name is UnionCongUCC.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Putman, Librarian

Inreach Ministry

Inreach Ministry has the responsibility of organizing opportunities for socialization, fellowship, and care for members of Union Church.

Social

- Twelfth Night Christmas Party at the church, Pilgrim Hall was Friday, January 6.
- Spring Fling at the Ashwaubenon Community Center was May 5.
- Corn Roast for Reunion Sunday was Sunday, September 10.

Fellowship

Retreat

- Sixty-four (64) people gathered September 15-17 at beautiful Moon Beach Camp in northern Wisconsin to reflect on the UCC Statement of Faith.

Groups

- Lenten Clusters
- Men's Fellowship Breakfasts: Men met for breakfast at Perkins on Oneida Street on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m.
- A special Advent evening for women and guests was held on Monday, December 4. Thank you to the hostesses, those who provided special music and the planning committee for this beautiful start to the Advent season.

Receptions

Epiphany Reception (Kings' Cake)	Annual Meeting Potluck	Easter Breakfast
Confirmation Sunday	Special receptions as needed (funerals, etc.)	

Care

- Homebound Ministry: Several members of the congregation visited our homebound members, keeping them connected to Union and providing them with Christian care and friendship.
- Memorial Reception Committee: Provided receptions before/after funerals at Union Church.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Members knitted or crocheted shawls that were given to persons who were ill, in the midst of crisis, had suffered a loss, or were celebrating a special event such as Baptism. Thank you, knitters and crocheters!
- Card Ministry (new): Provides an opportunity for everyone to join in sending cards to our shut-ins and church family with special concerns each month on Communion Sunday. Thank you to Larry Heath and Glen Verstegen for their enthusiasm and roles as coordinators of this ministry.
- Cooks Who Care Ministry (new): Provides meals for our church family members during times when a prepared meal is helpful. Thank you to Joni Delwiche and Joan Dudek for taking on the role as coordinators for this ministry.

This year, we'd like to give a very special recognition and thank you to Dick and Bev Lathrop for their many years and too-many-to-count services that they have given to Inreach Ministry as they retire from this ministry. We will miss working with you. You leave very large shoes for us to fill.

Thank you to Union Church members, Pastors, staff, Common Ministry, and Inreach Ministry members for all your help and support throughout the year. God bless all of you.

Inreach Ministry

Heather Collins (chair), Betty Bienash (vice-chair), Dick and Bev Lathrop, Larry Krueger and Susan Kleis

Young Christians in Action — YCA

The officers for the 2016-17 school year were Megan Danen, Nick Myers Olson, Lauren Owens, and Maddy Van De Hey as Executive Board Members. The adult advisors for the 2016-17 school year were Jeff and Linda Larson.

The officers for the 2017-18 school year are Kaia Stueck as President, Emmaline Weist as Secretary, Eli Gregg as Chaplain, Logan Stueck as Music Meister, and Josh Filppula-McArthur as Secretary of Game Planning. The primary adult advisor for the 2017-18 school year is Tim Harder, with Mary Kay Bishop, Steve Jones, and Ed Tucker assisting with leading.

At Union Congregational UCC, one of the many opportunities for growing in faith, friendship, and mission is Young Christians in Action, commonly known as YCA. High school aged youth participate in the group each Wednesday. While there is no represented account for the 2016-17 group, I am honored to share what we have achieved in the first few months of this course-changing, unique 2017-18 group.

We have a variety of different meeting styles, such as traditional business meetings, social justice advocacy discussions, music and game nights, and mission experiences, which garner strong and active participation. We wanted our new direction this year to be properly balancing service and education with fellowship and partnering with our peers in other youth groups. There have been mostly new faces this year that have contributed some fantastic ideas and have taken the group in an entirely different direction while still being grounded in our roots. For example, through music, we are learning about God and Jesus in a creative way. It is truly refreshing to see influences from our incredible and moving times in Pilgrim Fellowship, Confirmation class, involvement in the music of the church, Sunday morning lessons, and personal experiences come alive in the group.

We are currently preparing for our mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation located in South Dakota. Our summer volunteer experience will be for the Re-Member Project, as we will build necessary supplies and learn about a different culture. Our current focus is navigating how to raise funds for this life-changing opportunity. As we begin this major step, we would like to thank the church community for your help and generosity. We strive to make you proud and properly represent our church's values of kindness, inclusivity, respect, and peace to those in our church and those we meet. Thank you for sharing Christ's love and continuing to support us.

Sincerely,

Kaia R. M. Stueck, President

Pilgrim Fellowship — PF

The Pilgrim Fellowship group has changed dramatically over the course of 2017. Half of its members elevated to YCA in fall. Furthermore, realizing a gap in available youth group programming at Union since the conclusion of Junior Fellowship (JF) five years ago, and hearing the repeated encouragement from parents to have positive, God-centered programming options available for their children, PF expanded our member ages beyond middle school aged + to include youth in grades 3-8+.

We consistently have at least ten youth who attend weekly and actively participate in relevant discussions and activities such as local and world issues; kindness vs bullying; poverty and homelessness issues, all while building welcoming, Jesus-centered community with each other, and those they encounter each week. PF has worked hard to redefine our group to be inclusive of the new members with many of the older PF members acting as role models for their younger peers.

Additionally, PF has benefited greatly by a shift in morale and collaboration between them and YCA which this specific group of youth have never experienced before. They have teamed up to celebrate Christmas and are currently working on an oral history project together where they will compare and contrast their lives to that of someone of different generation and that of a local migrant or immigrant in our community. The goal of this project is for them to truly see similarities between themselves and people who in many ways may appear more different to them. God's work is in each of these wonderful PF youth experiences each and everyday and it is our absolute honor and joy to be a part of their lives.

Sincerely,
Shawna Stueck and Sylvia Garrido, PF leaders



Eli Gregg, Lily Gregg and McKenna Stueck sing during Youth Sunday on May 7.

Women's Fellowship

2016 Women's Advent Program: "Out of the Darkness, Into the Light"

This year's Women's Advent Reflection was held on Monday, December 4, 2017. Mild winter weather helped approximately 70 women gather in Pilgrim Hall that was once again turned into a land of enchantment with candles glowing and beautiful holiday décor. Table hostesses were Mary Kay Bishop and Marcia Martin, Toni Champeau and Bev Lathrop, Betty Hartman, Betty Bienash and Anne Rakow-Weist, Elizabeth Delvaux, Linda and Natalie Larson, Hazel Kalkofen, Pat Shafer, and Marge and Claudia Roshong. Joyce Anderson had beautiful holiday nametags ready for all the guests. Jeff Carels, Steve Hartman, Bruce Shafer, Mark Harder, and Ed Tucker brewed coffee and served apple-pie-punch as the ladies socialized and admired the tables. We were spiritually nurtured through music, prayer, scripture, and five readings adapted by Julie Harder from the book The First Christmas by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Readers included Elizabeth Delvaux, Kathy Baldwin, Julie Harder, Deb Rose, Pat Shafer, Sue Tucker, and Pastor Bridget. We reflected on the symbolism of light and darkness that is so prominent in our Christmas scriptures, and followed each reading with a time of silent meditation or prayer. Though darkness can be difficult to maneuver with unforeseen dangers, the light of Christ, that brought hope and new life to shepherds and wise men, brings hope and new life to us all. Our challenge is to let the light of Jesus shine through our own lives. The readings were spiritually enriched with heartfelt music including *The Longest Night of the Year* sung by Chris and Roy Goodner, *Christ Be our Light* sung by Elizabeth Gregg, and *O Holy Night* sung by Courtney Sherman with Elaine Moss providing piano accompaniment. The evening concluded with delicious desserts shared with warm fellowship at each table.

Cathy Putman set up and monitored the sound system, Courtney Sherman organized the music, and Toni Champeau, Julie Harder, and Susan Tucker made up this year's program committee. This intergenerational, multi-sensory, spiritual event was made possible by the many volunteers who shared their talents in so many ways. Pastor Bridget blessed us with a prayer/poem by Jan Richardson titled "How the Light Comes: A Blessing for Christmas Day."

Susan Tucker

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship continued to meet at 7 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month for breakfast at the Ashwaubenon Perkins on Oneida Street. This breakfast is open to all at Union Church who identify as male. The meeting is free flowing, which allows you to depart whenever you need to in order to make it to work on time.

At breakfast, we share our joys, our concerns, our recent travels and occasionally even discuss our feelings about politics. If you have never joined us for breakfast, please try it once this year.

Ed Tucker

Priscilla Circle

Priscilla Circle is open to all the women of the church. We usually meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, excluding December and the summer months. We may not meet in January or February depending on the weather. Our meetings are announced in "Still Speaking."

We meet for beverages and treats at 1 p.m. followed by a short business meeting, devotions, and a program. We hear the joys and concerns of church members and review activities in the church. Our programs in the spring included a presentation by Lauren Tulig, a dietician at Festival Foods, who talked about meals easily prepared in a short time particularly for people who live alone or with one other person. Barbara McClure-Lukens discussed issues associated with immigration advocacy. In March, Margaret Hoffmann shared stories of her life and career path in a talk called "The Life of Maggie McCardle." In April a representative from Options for Independent Living offered solutions to daily living difficulties often experienced by elderly and/or physically disadvantaged persons.

In the fall semester, Mary Sue Lavin spoke enthusiastically about the Phuture Phoenix Program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. In October, Ed Tucker told about his many hiking trips on the Pacific Coast Trail and in the Rocky Mountains and displayed much of the equipment he carries on those hikes. Finally, Stacie Christian talked about antiques and offered suggestions about giving, selling, and keeping antique or family items.

Circle members were happy to celebrate with and honor Vivian Stewart on her 99th birthday in September. Several of our long-time members continue to attend regularly. We thank Margaret Hoffmann and Marge Roshong for calling each member monthly and keeping us in touch with members' concerns. Thanks, too, to our hostesses who provide snacks and beverages and to those who offer devotions from time to time. This year, we particularly wish to thank Margaret who has decided to "retire" from the leadership she has offered so lovingly for several years.

New members are always welcome. Please join us in the English Room on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Krueger

Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry administered denominational financial collections in 2017: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund. The fifth collection, Our Church's Wider Mission, comes out of the church budget. We also collected for our transitional housing program, EPH and Jubilee House, in a special May offering.

Our in-kind offerings included spare and new clothing and snacks for the Howe School throughout the summer, diapers and baby wipes for Love Life during September, food for school children on vacation through the George's Secret Elves project, and a Christmas giving tree to benefit several Somali families recently relocated to the Green Bay area, in coordination with COMSA (Community Service Agency). Pat Shafer, Jean Smithback, Kathy Johnson and Susan Kleis led these projects.

The Outreach Ministry established a relationship with COMSA, a local non-profit agency serving the Somali population as well as refugees and immigrants who have moved to Green Bay. In addition to the Christmas giving tree, Outreach helped coordinate a "Cultural Competency Conversation" with COMSA in August, which was well attended by both congregants and members of the Green Bay community. We look forward to a continued connection and joint projects and activities in 2018.

Heifer Sunday took place on October 15 raising \$7,405 for the international program. Jean Smithback and Elizabeth Delvaux were organizers. Jammie VerGiesen wrangled alpacas, a goat, bunnies and chickens.

Outreach coordinated Service Sunday on November 5. Seventy-seven (77) congregants participated in five different service projects including serving a meal at the New Community Shelter, cooking a meal for St. John's Shelter, making tie blankets for Micah Center, making cards for Union's card ministry and raking leaves and doing yard work at various EPH homes.

Kitchen service included eight Souper Cooks meals. In addition, church members served the evening meal at New Community three times and one meal for Howe School. Lou Norsetter coordinated cooking (Souper Cooks) and serving for New Community Shelter this year. Finally, church members prepared one meal for St. John's Shelter as part of the Service Sunday on November 5, which Cathy Putman coordinated. The meal projects are funded through various fundraising projects that Outreach Ministry conducts, including the church-wide rummage sale (held in May), as well as donations from church members. Outreach meal service was the recipient for the Women's Advent Program collection as well. Due to the construction on Madison Street this year, we did not hold the brat sales at the summer concerts in St. James Park. The Outreach Projects Fund began the year with \$1,495.96 and ended with \$1,295.15. Total expenditures for Outreach projects were \$1,470.90. The 2017 rummage sale raised \$475.09 and \$795 was raised in miscellaneous donations throughout the year.

We realize that Union Church members engage in charitable and advocacy efforts outside the church. If there are projects you believe in that you would like the church to engage in, please bring those ideas to the ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Christie Reese and Lou Norsetter, co-chairs

JOSHUA

(Justice Organization Sharing Hope United for Action)

There are three task forces active: Mental Health, Prison Reform, and Environmental Justice.

Our **Mental Health Task Force** will be looking at gaps in our community around mental health, and will be exploring a new issue, those that mental illness face in our Brown County Community. This group meets every first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at West Side Moravian Church. Meetings are open to the public.

The **Prison Reform Task Force** currently just worked to pass the Ban the Box Ordinance in Brown County in October 2017. In November, this group had a very successful community conversation around an alternative vision of corrections. Join us for celebration, strategy, new issues to tackle, and next steps. Our group is made up of formerly incarcerated individuals, family, friends, and loved ones of those incarcerated, and allies. Please consider joining our group and fighting for change and justice in the corrections system. This group meets every fourth Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at West Side Moravian Church. Meetings are open to the public.

The **Environmental Justice Task Force**, made up of environmental warriors, was able to help unanimously pass the #nobackfortyresolution in Brown County, then helped organize passing the #nobackfortyresolution in Door County. We next organized a very successful public forum on the attempt to repeal the "Prove It First Legislation." We are now working on a local issue in our Brown County Community. Please come and join our dedicated group and help us choose our next environmental move in Brown County! This group meets every fourth Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at West Side Moravian Church. Meetings are open to the public.

- JOSHUA continues to build partnerships in the community, increasing membership, trainings and being a respected, peaceful advocate in Brown County. I believe they reflect so many of our churches' values, ideals etc.
- Rachel Westenberg, JOSHUA's organizer, is excited to assist Union Church in developing core teams to start conversations on social advocacy from Union Church. Rachel led an adult education session in September to train church members to conduct one-on-one conversations.
- JOSHUA depends on help from many different avenues. Fortunately, Union Church is one of the churches that financially commits to JOSHUA each year. JOSHUA would like to see that commitment continue.
- Thank you to Rev. Steve Hartman for chairing the Religious Leaders' Caucus the past two years.
- Additionally, Pastor Bridget is one of the new co-chairs of the JOSHUA Religious Leaders' Caucus.

For more information, contact Rachel Westenberg – JOSHUA Community Organizer
Email: rachel.wisdomwi@gmail.com
Phone: 920-360-3538

Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH)

2017 in Review

This year, EPH (Ecumenical Partnership for Housing) celebrated 25 years of “providing safety, stability and solutions for families in our community.” The partnership was officially born in 1992 with three churches joining Union Church to provide transitional housing for the homeless. In addition to the Salvation Army partnership, EPH partners with Golden House, Freedom House, House of Hope, Green Bay schools, Family Services of Brown County and Catholic Charities. This year:

- EPH now has 20 family homes plus 8 long-term supportive housing family homes.
- EPH has a capacity to support 28 to 30 families.
- EPH selected DonorPerfect as the donor database. This will protect the donor data and facilitate better donor tracking and all related communications.
- EPH was recognized as a finalist in the non-profit category for the Ethics in Business Award.
- EPH updated and refreshed the EPH website.
- EPH completed the RFP application for the project-based Housing Choice Voucher program, administered by the Brown County Housing Authority. If approved, EPH will be able to provide up to 12 housing choice vouchers for families eligible for our LTSH (long-term supportive housing) program. Decision is pending.
- Resurrection Catholic Parish hosted the first EPH Christmas dinner for the families we serve. There were 10 families in attendance, consisting of 13 adults and 38 children.
- The 2nd Voices of Hope concert and free will offering was held in October 29.
- Volunteers were recognized at an event November 13. Without volunteers maintaining the homes, providing support to the families EPH serves and other services as needed, EPH could not continue to grow in service to the community.

Thank you for your continued support of this important community mission. We especially thank our Union EPH volunteers. Big thanks to Marty and Julie Thiel for their many years coordinating Jubilee House, and to Carolyn O’Brien for taking on that leadership role as the Thiels step back.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Macier, EPH Union Church representative

Worship Ministry

The Constitution and Bylaws of Union Congregational Unity Church of Christ state that “The purpose of the Worship Ministry is to provide support, coordination, and vision-keeping in the planning and administration of worship, rites and sacraments, and music.” The Worship Committee of 2017 included Virginia Riggs (chair), Joann Broskey (vice-chair), Kevin Sheier, Gail Hohenstein (lay reader coordinator), Music Director Courtney Sherman, and Coordinator of Ushers Susan Forsythe. Moderator Sandy Polarek and Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels worked with the ministry to fulfill the purpose of the Worship Ministry.

Many members of our congregation work to create dynamic and innovative worship experience at Union Church. Tom Towill manages the sound and records our worship services. Judy Sharp organizes the sanctuary for services and monitors the worship supply inventory. Sue Zanzig organizes and secures the weekly offering after each service. Jason Pues arranges altar arrangements and sanctuary decoration at all of the special times during the church year. Tom Towill, Sharon and Gary Hassel, Ken Divoky and other helpers make sure the church is beautifully adorned during Advent and Christmas. Scott Ingram provides maintenance and special decoration for the annual Christmas Pageant and Aaron Ludolph provides special lighting. Many of our members provide special music, flowers and flower care, assistance with communion, and support for special services.

Music Director Courtney Sherman continues to provide inspiring and innovative music in worship. Organist Ray Thompson demonstrates wonderful musical range and excellence in keyboard performance. Youth Choir Director Ruth E. Baker and Bell Choir Director Cheri Frusher retired his year after years of wonderful service. The congregation expressed its thanks for their many years of service including a special tribute to Mrs. Baker organized by youth. The church is very excited to be able to welcome new Youth Choir Director Melissa Heffernan and Bell Choir Director Linda Cook. Worship looks forward to continued growth in youth participation. Music will continue to be a highlight of worship at Union Church.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels has introduced many new and creative elements to the worship services. These have included the creation of a Playground for children, Shared Prayers for Lent, Service Sunday during which members go out into the community to provide help, prayer messages offered for Memorial Sunday, Advent Prayer Partners, and Taize’ Worship for New Year’s Eve.

The Worship Committee will continue to work to provide meaningful and engaging worship experiences for our wonderfully diverse congregation. The support and involvement of the congregation is essential to the quality of the worship experience at Union. Worship Committee wants to thank each of you for your support and participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Riggs, chair

Stewardship Ministry

Most years the Stewardship Ministry is heavily involved in the pledge campaign in support of Union's budget. This was an especially high priority this year as there was both a "Second Mile" pledge campaign last spring in support of Union's needs for 2017 as well as the usual fall campaign to support Union in the coming year. Thanks to Larry Rose for his leadership in the Second Mile and to Bruce Shafer for leading the campaign this fall. Thanks to the Follow-up Team members who worked to ensure that no one was left out. And thank you very much to those who gave, those who pledged and gave, those who gave generously beyond what was pledged, and especially those who did all the hard work that has enabled Union to keep spending low!

Capital Campaign & Capital Projects

All of the planned projects have been completed. Although a few pledge payments are still outstanding, this is considered complete.

With the Capital projects completed, the Stewardship Ministry focused on other ways to maintain our buildings and grounds. We supported project work like the Madison Street paving and replacement of the city water pipe that supplies our buildings and the project to repair the stone wall along the Memorial Garden. We also supplied a lot of hands-on effort, especially by Bill Johnson, Jeff Carels and Tony Baldwin. Some examples:

- Running data cabling and other tasks related to the Wi-Fi project
- Clean-up and fix-up spring and fall Work Days
- Installing a railing on the step outside the Mayflower east entrance
- Began refinishing the teak benches in the courtyard
- Removed damaged planters from the courtyard

Audio-Visual Wi-Fi Project

Jeff Gibson is the project leader and technology leader (thanks, Jeff!), supported by Pastor Bridget, Tom Towill and several members of Stewardship. Using funds from a major gift from Buck Greenlaw along with donations from others, Jeff has selected hardware and software, installed a new firewall, and run cabling to improve internet security and extend the Wi-Fi network to the Sanctuary and in Pilgrim Hall and Mayflower. In 2018, Jeff will work to create the capability to broadcast the Sunday worship service via Wi-Fi inside our facility, and to receive and listen in the nursery and English Room.

Garden Committee

The Garden Committee (Julie Macier, Joan Robb) would like to thank our many loyal volunteers in Wednesday Weeders, Saturday Snippers, annual planters, mulch spreaders and garden plot adopters. Ongoing areas of concern include regular watering, replacement plants and additional mulch.

After many years of service, Julie Macier is retiring from the Garden Committee. We want to thank Julie very much for her leadership and hard work, and wish her well as she focuses on housing ministry.

Thank you!

Finally, I would like to give thanks to the members of Stewardship Ministry and our committees for their hard work this year! And to Pastor Bridget and Sandy Polarek for their participation and support, and to the church staff. Stewardship Ministry Members this year included Jeff Carels (treasurer), Tony Baldwin, Bill Johnson, David Thie (chair), and Jammie VerGiesen (vice-chair). We will miss Todd Kane who participated this year, but is retiring from the ministry.

David Thie, chair

New Member Ministry

The mission of the New Member Ministry is to welcome new members into our church and to make current members and visitors feel welcome. We do this by hosting coffee fellowship time, greeting before worship, and facilitating the integration of new members into our church family. We give jars of cookie mix as a welcome gift to church visitors. Thanks to all who donated ingredients to this mission.

In 2017, we added 15 new members and their families: 8 joined in April; 7 joined in October.

Thank you to the greeters, coffee hospitality hosts, and all who have helped our ministry. We are always looking for more people to help with these events. New Member Ministry meets after worship on the first Sunday of the month. We invite anyone that would like to join our small but hardworking and dedicated group. Please contact a committee member (Steve Jones, Lloyd Schaefer, Jone Wood, or Laurie Beauchamp) if you are willing to help.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Jones, chair

Memorial Garden Trustees

The Memorial Garden was established by our church in 2001. The purpose of the Garden is to provide a church site for members and friends of Union Church to inter cremated remains in a crypt, or to purchase a commemorative wall plaque in memory of an individual. The Garden is located outside of the southwest corner of the church building. The Garden can be entered from the sidewalk on the south side of the church or from the parking lot behind the church building. Both entrances have an attractive gate identifying the Garden. The wall plaques are mounted on the south wall of the church overlooking the Memorial Garden.

The Garden contains single crypts for individuals and double crypts for couples. Crypts can be purchased before death to reduce the final arrangement decisions of the family after death. Crypts in the Memorial Garden offer an ideal solution for people who do not have a family burial plot in a cemetery or who have not purchased mausoleum space. There are presently 20 crypts and 26 wall plaques in the Garden.

The Garden has an endowment fund invested with the United Church Funds to provide money for perpetual care of the Garden. Landscaping improvements are made in the Garden every year to maintain an attractive appearance.

The Memorial Garden Trustees encourage our church members and their families to visit the Garden to see the design of the crypts and wall plaques and to consider purchasing a crypt or wall plaque for themselves or for a family member. An attractive framed picture of the Garden is on the wall in Pilgrim Hall, with an adjacent container of brochures describing the Garden.

Additional information about the Memorial Garden can be obtained from any of the Trustees:
Bob Fahres (chair), Phil Hauck (crypt manager), Joan Robb (garden maintenance coordinator)

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees* for officers of the church, chairperson and vice-chair of the church ministries, elected members of committees, and elected representatives to EPH and Mayflower Nursery School. Each has responded to the call to serve in leadership positions of our church's lay ministry. If elected, these nominees begin their service upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, January 28, 2018. Thank you to all who have served as our church's elected leaders and to those who continue to serve with their time and talents to ensure the ongoing ministry of Union Church.

Officers

Moderator Sandy Polarek (1st term, 1 year)
Vice-Moderator Jeff Gibson (2nd term, 2 years)

Clerk Gail Hohenstein (4th term, 1 year)
Treasurer Jeff Carels (2nd term, 1 year)

Ministries and Committees

Education

Chair *Nancy Gibson (1st term, 2 years)
Vice-Chair Helen Krueger (1st term, 1 year)

Gifts and Memorials

Co-Chair Nicole Polarek (1st term, 1 year)
Co-Chair *Phil Enscoe (1st term, 2 years)

Inreach

Chair *Heather Collins (2nd term, 2 years)
Vice-Chair Betty Bienash (1st term, 1 year)

New Member

Chair *Steve Jones (2nd term, 2 years)
Vice-Chair *Lloyd Schaefer (3rd term, 2 years)

Outreach

Chair Christie Reese (1st term, 1 year)
Co-Chair Lou Ann Norsetter (1st term, 1 year)

Stewardship

Chair *Jammie VerGiesen (1st term, 2 years)
Vice-Chair *Clay Reese (1st term, 2 years)

Worship

Chair Virginia Riggs (1st term, 1 year)
Vice-Chair *Kevin Sheier (1st term, 2 years)

Communications Coordinator (1 year)

*Nicole Kinjerski (1 year)

Nominating Committee

Chair Lou Ann Norsetter
(1st term, 1 year)

Mayflower Nursery School Liaison

(elected for one year)
*Betty Bienash

Delegate, Ecumenical Partnership for Housing

*Julie Macier

Pastoral Relations Committee (4 years)

Elaine Moss (1 year)
Michael Vinson (2 years)
Julie Harder (3 years)
*Barbara McClure-Lukens (4 years)

Personnel Committee

Joyce Anderson (1 year)
Denise Olson (2 years)
*Bruce Shafer (3 years)

* indicates a person nominated for election

Respectively submitted by the Nominating Committee,

Lou Ann Norsetter (chair)
Betty Bienash, Heather Collins



Membership Statistical Report for 2017

ACTIVE MEMBERS ADMITTED:

By Reception:

1. **Kaley DeGrave** – April 30 – reaffirmation of faith
2. **Joan Dudek** – April 30 – reaffirmation of faith
3. **Andrew Hoffman** – April 30 – transfer
4. **Karen Hogan** – April 30 – confession of faith
5. **Timothy Hogan** – April 30 – confession of faith
6. **Denise Mancheski** – April 30 – reaffirmation of faith
7. **Jennifer Stevens** – April 30 – reaffirmation of faith
8. **Janet Tolan** – April 30 – reaffirmation of faith
9. **Britney Burkart-LaBar** – October 29 – reaffirmation of faith
10. **Caitlin Burkart-LaBar** – October 29 – reaffirmation of faith
11. **David Hassel** – October 29 – reaffirmation of faith
12. **Mike Ratachic** – October 29 – reaffirmation of faith
13. **Achim Seifert** – October 29 – transfer
14. **Kathy Seifert** – October 29 – transfer
15. **Daniel Weisse** – October 29 – reaffirmation of faith

By Confirmation:

1. **Elijah Benton Gregg** – May 21
2. **Nicholas Kevin Sheier** – May 21
3. **Kaia Rogue McKay Stueck** – May 21
4. **Emmaline Janet Weist** – May 21

ACTIVE MEMBERS REMOVED:

By Death:

1. **Richard Johnson** – 72 – died November 1; Memorial Service at Union Church on November 11. Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels officiating.

By Member Request:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Laura Garber | 4. Elizabeth King | 7. Michelle Loewen |
| 2. Rachel Jensen | 5. Erica Kiser | 8. Rebecca Saguaro |
| 3. Lisa Kennedy | 6. Amanda Loewen | |

By Placing on the Inactive Roll:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Allison Kennedy | 3. Sean Kennedy | 5. Avia Rivera |
| 2. Katie Kennedy | 4. Laura Lyman-Dorn | |

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Active Membership: December 31, 2016: **525**

Members added to Active Roll:

By reception	15
By confirmation.....	4
By reactivation	0

TOTAL ADDED 19

Members removed from Active Roll:

By death	1
By transfer	0
By member request	8
By placing on Inactive Roll	5

TOTAL REMOVED 14

Active Membership: December 31, 2017: **530**

BAPTISMS: Infants and Children

1. **Urijah Howard Baeten** – born November 5, 2016 in Green Bay.
Baptized January 15 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Brent and Sarah Baeten
2. **Jensen Philip Bitter** – born November 19, 2016 in Marinette, WI.
Baptized January 29 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Philip and Anna Bitter

3. **Simon Alexander Manz** – born November 18, 2016 in Milwaukee, WI.
Baptized February 26 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Andrew and Rebecca Manz
Grandparents: Stacie Christian and Julie Tetzlaff
4. **Emelia Mae Heffernan** – born November 18, 2016 in Green Bay.
Baptized March 26 at Union Church by Pastor Steve Hartman.
Parents: Melissa and the late Mark Heffernan
5. **Jayce James Grzelak** – born May 24, 2016 in Green Bay.
Baptized April 9 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Rob and Christine Grzelak
6. **Zoe Lillian Bailey** – born March 5, 2017 in Green Bay.
Baptized June 25 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Matthew and Angela Bailey
7. **Edison James Bodart** – born January 26, 2017 in Green Bay.
Baptized July 16 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Natalie Larson and Rob Bodart
8. **Viggo Halis Magyar** – born May 5, 2017 in Green Bay.
Baptized October 8 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Andy and Kim Magyar
9. **Elizabeth Marie Vinson-Kane** – born July 14, 2017 in West Allis, WI.
Baptized November 26 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.
Parents: Michael Vinson and Todd Kane

BAPTISM: Adult

1. **Emmaline Janet Weist** – born May 29, 2003.
Baptized May 21 at Union Church by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels.

MARRIAGES

1. **Amber O'Connell and Jessica Lundgren** at Union Church on October 21.
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels officiating.

NON-MEMBER MARRIAGES BY OUR PASTORS

1. **Megan Artemisia Platner and Lee Kenneth Borchardt** on February 18.
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels officiating.
2. **Douglas William Fitzpatrick and Lea Ternes McFall** on September 3.
Pastor Steven Hartman officiating.
3. **Jacqueline Elizabeth Lipburger and Timothy Jerome Cook** at Union Church on
September 23. Pastor Jan Davis officiating.
4. **William Hutton Miller II and Haley Lauren Gerber** on September 30.
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels officiating.

Membership and Attendance Data for the Last 20 Years

<u>Year</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Avg. Attendance</u>	<u>Easter</u>	<u>Christmas Eve</u>
2017	530	136	291	410
2016	525	135	238	361
2015**	521	138	305	372
2014	555	139	316	387
2013**	550	149	318	346
2012	567	183	329	397
2011	539	184	329	359
2010**	528	204	402	357
2009**	580	207	367	310
2008	592	212	330	342
2007	581	208	452	310
2006	559	220	348	360
2005**	521	219	329	360
2004	642	222	313	360
2003	621	197	332	354
2002	607	206	257	377
2001	583	208	314	353
2000	565	196	286	319
1999	549	193	276	317
1998*	547	189	296	322

* membership rolls reviewed by the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses

** membership rolls reviewed by the Common Ministry

Financials

**for
2017**

Union Congregational United Church of Christ Balance Sheet

December 31, 2017

Assets

Cash

Associated Bank Checking	\$ 76,463	
Associated Bank Money Market	\$ 88,987	
Total Cash		\$ 165,450

Gifts and Endowments

UCF: Killoran Scholarship Fund	\$ 77,203	
UCF: General Gifts/Endowments	\$ 112,406	
UCF: Memorial Garden	\$ 30,186	
UCF: Cora Nelson	\$ 274,317	
UCF: Bagby Theological	\$ 8,882	
Associated Trust: General Gifts/Endowments	\$ 44,985	
Associated Trust: Memorials Foundation Principal	\$ 578,516	
Total Gifts and Endowments		\$ 1,126,495

Condo Loans Receivable - Waitzmann Funds	\$ 95,215
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Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,387,160</u>
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Liabilities and Fund Balances

Prepaid Pledges	\$ 69,903
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General Fund Balance	\$ 65,909
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Gifts and Memorial Funds

Memorial Foundation Spendable	\$ 97,307	
Memorial Foundation Principal	\$ 578,516	
Cora Nelson/Outreach	\$ 274,284	
General Gifts/Endowments	\$ 83,864	
Killoran Scholarship Fund	\$ 77,077	
Memorial Garden	\$ 31,540	
Building & Grounds	\$ (31,378)	
Special Gifts	\$ 16,109	
Total Gifts and Memorial Funds		\$ 1,127,319

Other Funds

Jubilee House Fund	\$ 3,825	
Capital Campaign	\$ 5,717	
Waitzmann Condo Loans	\$ 95,215	
Sabbatical Fund	\$ 7,880	
Specific Giving Fund	\$ 8,927	
Women's Ministry	\$ 2,465	
Total Other Funds		<u>\$ 124,029</u>

Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 1,387,160</u>
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Year 2017 Treasurer's Report

	INCOME	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
Pledge Income	\$	372,275	\$ 376,294
One-time Gifts	\$	2,000	\$ 1,480
Non-Pledge Income	\$	18,000	\$ 13,456
Loose Offering	\$	4,000	\$ 4,608
Church School	\$	50	\$ 154
Prior Year Pledges	\$	1,500	\$ 1,740
Investment Income	\$	101	\$ 155
Room Rentals	\$	8,100	\$ 8,325
Non-Cash Donations	\$	500	\$ 1,208
Total Operating Income	\$	406,526	\$ 407,420
	PROGRAM EXPENSE		
Worship Ministry	\$	8,080	\$ 6,071
Education Ministry	\$	9,362	\$ 13,061
In-Reach Ministry	\$	5,401	\$ 3,586
Outreach Ministry	\$	18,875	\$ 18,329
Stewardship Ministry	\$	301	\$ 306
New Member Ministry	\$	401	\$ 296
Publicity	\$	1,000	\$ 211
Total Program Expense	\$	43,420	\$ 41,860
	GENERAL EXPENSE		
Pastor Staff Expense	\$	142,277	\$ 123,080
Lay Staff Expense	\$	159,499	\$ 154,996
Building and Maintenance Expense	\$	67,740	\$ 70,599
Administrative Expense	\$	16,000	\$ 16,692
Total General Expense	\$	385,516	\$ 365,367
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	428,936	\$ 407,227
NET INCOME (Operating Income Less Expenditures)	\$	(22,410)	\$ 193

2017 Outreach Summary

BUDGETED OUTREACH	\$	18,329
NON-BUDGETED OUTREACH		
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$	2,814
Neighbors in Need	\$	1,757
Christmas Fund	\$	1,468
Strengthen the Church	\$	350
Heifer Arks	\$	7,405
Parson's Purse	\$	16,075
CAMPital Campaign	\$	14,350
Housing/Homeless	\$	1,790
Special Offerings	\$	2,324
Waitzmann Loan Foregone Interest	\$	5,713
Gifts & Memorials Outreach Grants	\$	41,125
Total Non-Budgeted	\$	95,171
TOTAL OUTREACH	\$	113,500

Gifts and Memorials Ministry

Union Congregational UCC Church has a long, rich history of giving in meaningful ways to support and advance efforts in the Green Bay community. Our committee is committed to building on this foundation of work and to taking great care of the gifts given.

The Gifts and Memorials Ministry was established by amendment to the church Bylaws in January 2007, although this work was done for many decades prior. The Ministry has two sub-parts, the Asset Management Committee and the Distribution Recommendation and Review Committee.

As background, the following is the G&M purpose:

The GM Ministry “exists to promote and steward charitable contributions for non-operating budget purposes, with particular emphasis on projects initiated and supported by Church members that advance the local community, sustain the church’s physical resources, or support or encourage other initiatives that further the Church’s mission. The Ministry is “intended to complement, but not replace or compete with” the Church’s annual planned or special giving. (As adopted April, 2007)

In 2017, the committee transitioned Nicole Polarek to Chair of Distribution and Phil Enscoe to Chair of Asset Management (mid-year), and Daniel Pagel to the committee. We are grateful for the continued and valued commitment of Gail Carels, Sue Whittemore, and Kristi Zahn. We thank Marlene Lanoue for her service as Chair of Asset Management.

The committee convened in October to re-align on guiding principles for distribution and to review several grant requests. After due diligence, the committee recommended the following 2017 disbursements that were approved by Common Ministry.

\$5,000 Farmory (with additional \$5,000 committed in 2018)
\$2,500 COMSA (Community Services Agency, Inc.)
\$8,000 on the Mark Dyslexia Clinic
\$4,000 Mayflower Nursery School
\$4,135 water line repair

Also distributed in 2017, but approved in prior years:

\$10,000 Lakeland University Chair of Theology (last of 3 installments)
\$8,500 UCC Campital Campaign (last of 3 installments)
\$500 Lay Academy – Norsetter
\$700 Wi-Fi firewall

[Note: \$150,000 is committed over 3 years for Associate Pastor (upon hire)
and roughly \$8,800 to fund the assessment for the reconstruction of Madison Street.]

Here is an overview of the programs we chose to support in 2017:

Farmory submitted by Phil Hauck

[Purpose] To renovate the Armory building to be used as a non-profit, indoor farm that will showcase sustainable, cost effective food cultivation techniques/processes in Brown County.

COMSA submitted by Susan Kleis

[Purpose 1] To connect local Somali women with the YWCA and support their use of the swimming pool. Funds will support Hijabi Swimwear + pool rental fees

[Purpose 2] To support a job readiness program to Somali families

On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic submitted by Pat Shafer

[Purpose] To promote the literacy of dyslexic students grades K-12 in Northeast WI by providing a structured literacy program through the use of trained tutors and dyslexia education for parents, teachers, and the community.

Mayflower Nursery School submitted by Carol Beirl (director)

[Purpose] To provide need-based scholarships for 2018-19 school year

In 2018, the recipients have agreed to provide updates to the church and to identify ways for members to further support these great missions.

In 2018, the committee will focus on communication to the communication, process for distribution, and how to grow the funds. With the help of our members, it is our pleasure continue to take a leadership role in service to our community while honoring the legacy of our members.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Polarek

2017 Total Gifts and Memorials Fund Activity Report

Beginning Balance 01/01/2017:	\$ 962,598.93
Plus Total Income and Additions:	\$ 221,015.41
Less Expenses and Grants:	<u>\$ 56,295.80</u>
Equals Ending Balance 12/31/2017:	\$ 1,127,318.54

Income and Additions to Gifts and Memorials Funds :

Memorial gifts	\$ 135.00
Memorial Garden donations/purchases	\$ 5,250.00
Gifts toward Wi-Fi	\$ 500.00
Reimbursement from Capital Campaign	\$ 50,000.00
Total Investment Return	<u>\$ 165,130.41</u>
	<u><u>\$ 221,015.41</u></u>

Expenses and Distributions from Gifts and Memorials Funds:

Facility

Wi-Fi	4,182.34
Memorial Garden expenses	6,048.00
Water line & landscape repairs	<u>4,135.46</u>
	<u><u>14,365.80</u></u>

In-Reach/Program

Lay Academy	\$ 500.00
Church retreat	<u>\$ 305.00</u>
	<u><u>\$ 805.00</u></u>

Outreach

Mayflower scholarship grant	\$ 4,000.00
Killoran Scholarships	\$ 3,125.00
Lakeland University R Ulrich Center	\$ 10,000.00
UCC CAMPital	\$ 8,500.00
COMSA	\$ 2,500.00
On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic	\$ 8,000.00
Farmory	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
	<u><u>\$ 41,125.00</u></u>

Total Expenses and Distributions	<u>\$ 56,295.80</u>
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Our Church Staff

(as of December 31, 2017)

Senior Minister.....	Bridget M. Flad Daniels
Pastor of Visitation.....	Steven B. Hartman
Pastor Emeritus.....	John J. Staton
Administrative Assistant	Eric Goska
Financial Secretary	Winnie Hutjens
Building and Maintenance Supervisor	Scott Ingram
Music Director.....	Courtney Sherman
Organist.....	Ray Thompson
Handbell Ensemble Director	Linda Cook
Youth Choir Director	Melissa Heffernan
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Sylvia Garrido
Librarian	Cathy Putman
Audio Coordinator	Tom Towill
Nursery Attendants:	

Kathy Johnson, Sylvia Garrido, Jenna Stevens

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Pastor Bridget..... bridget@unionucc.com
Pastor Steve..... steve@unionucc.com

Visit our website at www.unionucc.com