

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 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	Christie Reese	Achim Siefert	
Stewardship	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 6:00 p.m.

Gathering Prayer: Clay led us in prayer.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Minister's Report: Bridget offered thanks to Betty for her work on the December newsletter. Worship will also take the lead article for January. Reminder that annual reports are due in the Church office by January 3. Bridget noted her work with JOSHUA and WISDOM leaders on racial disparities in Wisconsin's criminal justice system and shared that the MLK services will focus on this issue. Her other work has focused on preparation for the Christmas holidays, pastoral care and other work that is reflected in the Ministries' reports.

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meeting of October 14 and November 11 were approved (Heather/Jeff).

Treasurer's Report

Jeff distributed the regular financial report (attached). Areas below budgeted spending include inreach coffee hours, youth meals, staffing, operating expense (about \$8-9000), and administrative expenses. Maintenance expenditures are a bit over budget. The report was approved (Jeff/Christie).

New Business: None

Continuing Business

- In-Person Ministry Task Force: Betty said they are keeping an eye on the local COVID situation which has not gotten any better. They will be meeting next week.

- Generosity Team and Pledge Update: Bridget shared that the team has been focused on the pledge campaign. She reported that as of this week, 93 households have pledged (close to last year's number) and we have about \$303,000 pledged (about \$14,000 ahead of this time last year).
- Budget Discussion: Jeff reported that he and Bridget have been working together to develop a proposed budget for 2022, which will be shared with Common Ministry at the January meeting. He noted that health insurance costs will be going up 5%. Although we will be losing the rent income from The Brain Center, there may be other sources to alleviate that loss. There was discussion about appropriate action on employee salary increases as well as appropriate utilization of the surplus. Bridget hopes the budget will allow for addition of a half-time Associate Pastor in June.
- Nominating Committee Report: Bridget and Sandy Polarek have made good progress. 3 positions left to fill but 2 of the 3 have strong prospects. The one position without a current prospect is Stewardship Vice Chair.
- Space Ministry Task Force: Good news is that the city will allow us to reduce lower-level bathrooms from 2 fixtures to 1 each, which should allow us to move forward with our future remodeling. Will be talking to contractors to determine cost and scope to include this work in a potential capital campaign.
- Employee Testing Requirement: COVID rates in the community testing will still be needed. Incentive has yielded some positive results.
- Prayer Assignments January and February: Jeff January; Christie February.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

All is going fairly well. YCA and PF are discussing meeting together for a time.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Motion to award On the Mark a grant of \$20,000 (\$10,000/year for 2021 and 2022) to fund an administrative position was approved.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Next membership classes will be held in the Spring. Coffee-less coffee hours have been well received. Card ministry continues (thank you to Glen and Larry).

OUTREACH

Christie highlighted the Outreach discussion about the stocking of the Blessing Box. Funds donated are being used on a regular basis. Although box is sometimes empty, it gets stocked more than 3 times each week. That it sometimes gets emptied same day speaks to the community need. Outreach will be working with Catholic Charities, which has been designated by DHS and WI DHS to coordinate the effort to welcome Afghan guests to our community. Christie reviewed Outreach's plan for our Congregation's involvement which will be rolled out in the near future.

STEWARDSHIP

Working on snow removal plan with new company. Bridget added that she and Christopher are working to coordinate with overnight parkers around snow removal.

WORSHIP

Thanks to Christie Reese and Kevin Sheier for volunteering to direct the December 19 Pageant which will be totally on-line (meaning no in-person Church that Sunday). Taping is complete and a lot of gratitude for Shaun Shouldeen who is working on production. Christmas Eve will have 2 services—a 3 p.m. family service and an evening service which will begin with music and 7:40 p.m. followed by the 8 p.m. service. With plans to continue social distancing with overflow areas in Pilgrim Hall and the Chapel, it is hoped that a lot of folks will be comfortable coming to Church that evening, although the service will also be live-streamed. Weather permitting, there will be socially distanced and masked caroling in the courtyard area after the services. Bridget added that the December 26 service will be unique with 4 individuals giving reflections on what Christmas means to them.

JOSHUA Report:

JOSHUA experiencing financial concerns, largely arising from a reduction in the contributing congregations from the original 17 to now just 4 (in addition to 2 groups of people from non-participating congregations who contribute individually). Jeff's term on the JOSHUA Board will end at the end of January. The Criminal Justice group is working to establish a working relationship with a new City position which includes outreach to groups addressing criminal activity. Expo (a group associated with WISDOM comprised of formerly incarcerated people doing advocacy for corrections reform) is interested in developing a chapter in Green Bay.

Communications Report: Continuing to do a good job in our social media presence. Bridget is working with them on website revisions with the intent to make the site more friendly for inquirers.

Other: Jeff mentioned that we have made a change to the name of the fund at Associated Bank to which stock donations should be made, although the Bank will honor the prior nomenclature this year. Information will be sent out soon.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. (Jeff/Betty)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: January 13, 2022 - 6 p.m. via Zoom
Prayer: Jeff

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

<u>Income</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Budgeted</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>Surplus Remaining</u>
January	\$58,410	\$74,522	\$80,947	
February	\$25,948	\$26,095	\$23,476	
March	\$54,442	\$31,841	\$29,563	
April	\$38,682	\$48,375	\$48,007	
May	\$21,632	\$23,503	\$23,955	
June	\$15,580	\$32,764	\$33,698	
July	\$26,699	\$34,359	\$32,622	
August	\$46,775	\$24,822	\$23,880	
September	\$38,508	\$23,317	\$18,087	
October	\$39,109	\$31,154	\$72,630	
November	\$31,925	\$28,877	\$45,099	
December	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total Giving	\$397,710	\$379,629	\$431,964	
 From Surplus	 \$28,934	 \$67,626		 \$33,320
 Total Revenue	 \$426,644			
 <u>Expenses</u>	 <u>(thru November 30)</u>			
Actual:	\$426,644			
Budget:	\$447,255			
Last Year:	\$441,868			

Comments:

After eleven months, revenue is above budget by \$18,000. This month, Pledge income was about \$1,400 over budget and Non-Pledge income was about \$200 under budget. As we enter the last month of the year, it appears that the budget is in stable condition. YTD expenses are under budget by about \$20,000. Pledge income YTD is \$6,400 or about 2% less than budget. Non-pledge income YTD is \$3,200 or about 8% above budget. A highlight for the month is that the Christmas Tree sale has netted about \$2,000 already. Thanks to all of the work of the volunteers!

Continuing the expected trend, YTD revenue falls below actual expenses. To reconcile revenue with expenses we have dipped into the the surplus at significantly less than we anticipated at \$28,934. The impact of the ERC is still helping us by preserving more of the allocated surplus.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Gibson