

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2022**

Present:

Absent:

Pastor	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator	Tim Harder		
Vice Moderator	Heather Collins		
Treasurer	Sandy Polarek		
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Beth Piontek	Benny Rieth	
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)	Mark Smith		

*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: Betty shared a poem.

Additions to the Agenda:

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Minister's Report: Along with the Ministries' work, which will be included in Ministry reports and/or minutes, Bridget reported participating/organizing two vigils this week--one for the recent murder and the other for peace in Ukraine. About 50 people were present for the vigil for Ukraine, and if the war continues, vigils may continue on a regular basis. She is in discussions with an organization which may want to rent meeting/classrooms, and is working hard to identify organizations which may want to rent the incubator space. Space Ministry Task Force is on hiatus until the capital campaign. Bridget continues work on the leadership of the Wisconsin Conference Racial Justice Task Force, which is working on voting rights and how congregations might help members to leverage our voices around voting rights, hopefully in coordination with the League of Women Voters, ACLU and other organizations. Grateful to those who have worked on newsletter articles and looking for a volunteer for the April article Denise Olson offered to recruit someone to write the article that will be due on 3/30.

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meeting of February 10, 2022 were approved (Heather/Christie).

Treasurer's Report

Sandy distributed the regular financial report (attached). The report was approved. January income and February income expenses were each lower than expected. Budget includes the open half time position which will be filled later in the year. She noted that February income is generally low. Approved (Christie/Clay)

New Business

- **Solar Project Proposal:** Clay said that Mark Smith has been exploring ways the church could be "greener" which included the potential of solar project. A feasibility study done to ensure Mayflower roof would be sound. Mark presented key points of the plan (attached). Panels would have a 10% angle. Tim added there is the fear of "missing out" on pricing and rebate, yet we have not set timing and priorities for a capital campaign. An alternative may be to ask GM for a grant for the project. Discussion surrounded the benefits of moving ahead now versus the desire to have Congregational communication and feedback. It was agreed that Mark will contact the bidding contractor to learn if the pricing in the quote can be extended until after the next Common Ministry meeting, and a presentation about the project

will be made at an upcoming Congregational information session. Paco was asked to give input on how the potential project would impact the Gifts & Memorials funds. Bridget noted that the funds anticipated to be spent in 2022 are in a fund which is not very volatile. Clay then gave the balance of the Stewardship report (below).

Continuing Business

- In-Person Ministry Task Force: The Task Force continues to meet to respond to the status of COVID in the community.
- Space Ministry Task Force: On hiatus.
- Potential Capital Campaign: Bridget has met with two potential consultants. She plans to meet with them again and will make a presentation to Common Ministry. She continues work on getting estimates on the various components of the wish list.
- Employee Testing Requirement: The In-Person Worship Task Force recommends suspending the weekly requirement of testing for unvaccinated staff. A motion to approve the recommendation was approved (Clay/Heather). Approved.
- Generosity Team Update: One best practice from the generosity workshop is that more narrative is helpful to giving, so a letter with quarterly statements will be added with information on how donations impact the work of the church. There will be an Easter offering which will focus on supporting the viability of the open Assistant Pastor position.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

The Ministry has discussed the return to in-person worship. There was discussion about combining some elementary classes. Attendance is currently low, but improvement is expected when folks transition back to in-person worship. Recruitment for the next academic year is starting. The Ministry is contemplating methods of communicating with Congregation members about their desires for child and youth ministry.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Denise reiterated the upcoming New Member classes (March 16 at 5:30 p.m. and March 24 at 6 p.m.), and asked Ministry representatives to sign up for the meetings. They are hopeful we will be able to hold events that were not possible last year due to COVID.

OUTREACH

No additions.

STEWARDSHIP

Clay reported earlier in the meeting that there will soon be opportunities for contributions of labor, including restoring the wood in the sanctuary and exterior re-grading to alleviate water issues in the incubator space.

WORSHIP

Focus has been on Lenten season planning. Betty expressed it is wonderful we are back in person and singing, and she is looking forward to Easter.

JOSHUA Report: Pastor Bridget shared that the Environmental Justice Task Force is messaging and lobbying on the proposal to move coal piles, as they are concerned about the new location.

Communications Report: Continuing to work on re-design of web site.

Other: Bridget confirmed that the team assisting in the Assistant Pastor search is: Heather Collins, Ryan Rieth, Michael Vinson and Liz Delvaux.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. (Clay/Denise)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: April 7, 2022 - 6 p.m. via Zoom, unless otherwise notified.
Prayer: Heather

Union Congregational UCC
Treasurer's Report February 2022

	<u>Revenue</u> <u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>Expenses</u> <u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Revenue</u> <u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>Surplus</u> <u>Remaining</u>	<u>Rev +/-</u>	<u>Exp +/-</u>
January	\$58,369	\$33,638	\$75,978	\$80,947			
February	\$25,928	\$34,898	\$27,778	\$23,891			
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Total Giving	\$84,297	\$68,536	\$103,756	\$104,838		(\$19,459)	
From Surplus	\$0		\$48,384		\$40,384		
Total Revenue	\$84,297						
Expenses	(thru February 28)						
Actual:	\$68,536						\$13,381
Budget:	\$81,917						

Comments:

This month pledge income was \$20,637 and non-pledge income was \$5291. YTD expenses are \$13,381 less than projected. February income fell \$1,850, so added to January that is \$19,459 below projected revenue for the year.

Solar At A Glance - 16.8KW Mayflower Roof System

<u>Potential Costs/Credits</u> <u>Received</u>	<u>Relevant Dates</u>	<u>When Check</u>
Initial Budget/Estimate: \$48,200	Good for 30 days	N/A
Focus On Energy: (\$10,200) submission	Now	8-10 weeks after
Renew/Solar for Good (\$5,000)	April 1-30, 2022	Summer, 2022
IPL/Cool Congregations (\$1,500)	Later this year	Early 2023
UCC - Creation Care (\$1,000)	Later this year	Early 2023
Others? _____		
Predicted Final Total: \$30,500		

Key Points

- Proposed solar electrical installation saves over \$2000/year in our utility bill.
- Proposed solar electrical installation cannot be seen from anywhere other than the sky due to surrounding parapet.
- Proposed solar electrical installation does not penetrate the roof in any way. While the roof is in excellent condition today and is expected to last at least another decade per Christopher, this proposed installation makes roof repair and even replacement relatively simple.
- Proposed solar electrical installation is based on Berners-Schober structural engineering study recommending eastern 60% Mayflower roof available for this purpose and load.
- Eland Electric takes care of pulling all permits, getting inspections, working with utility for interconnection, and filling out Focus on Energy grant paperwork.
- All electrical equipment manufacturer warranties (mainly solar panels and inverters) are 25 years.
- Eland Electric installation warranty is 5 years (Focus on Energy requirement).
- This electrical solar investment's breakeven point without any grants, tax credits, etc. is 18.72 years. Assuming we receive the expected grants over the next year, breakeven drops by several years

resulting in a reasonable interest rate for our investment- probably higher than what that investment is currently paying now.

- Solar monitoring part of proposal, installation, remote monitoring, and public display- will work wherever there is internet.
- Payment: 10% down payment of total amount (exclusive of grants) is expected with signed contract. Other 90% is expected net 30 after completion. Focus on Energy money comes to us, not them. Installations are done in order of signed contracts.
- Prices of solar electrical parts are going up and will continue to do so due to source material shortages relative to demand, tariffs, war, and shipping costs. **Current pricing offered by Eland Electric expires in 30 days and is expected to go up.**
- Did I mention that this investment will save us >\$2000/year in reduced utility bills? ;-)

