

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 11, 2023**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator		Tim Harder	
Vice Moderator	Heather Collins		
Treasurer	Sandy Polarek		
Clerk		Gail Hohenstein	
Education	Beth Piontek		
Gifts & Memorials	Kathy Baldwin	Dan Pagel	
Inreach & Membership	Denise Olson		
Outreach	Jammie VerGiesen		
Stewardship	Clay Reese		
Worship	Betty Bienash	Zoe Harkoff	
Communications Coordinator		Ruth Homrighaus Mary Ann Hudson	
JOSHUA Liaison		Steve Hartman	
Guest(s)	Barbara McClure-Lukens		

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

Meeting held in person

Vice-Moderator Heather Collins called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**Gathering Prayer:** Bridget shared a prayer.

**Additions to the Agenda:** None.

**Congregational Joys and Concerns:** Joys and concerns were shared.

**Minister's Report:** In addition to the work that will be reported in the Ministry reports and minutes, Bridget's presentation for National UCC on Volunteerism went very well. Much of Bridget's time has been working with Capital Campaign and Confirmation.

**Clerk's Report**

The minutes for the regular meeting of April 20 were approved. (Beth/Jammie)

**Treasurer's Report**

Sandy distributed the regular financial report (attached). She indicated expenses were higher this month, but we are still doing okay. Report was accepted. (Kathy/Jammie)

**New Business**

- **Capital Campaign Pacesetter Pledges:** Barbara presented an overview of the timeline of the campaign to date. The team is meeting weekly with James Company. Mary Hemminger put together the graphic design for campaign and brochure. The brochure was distributed and reviewed. The theme of the campaign is Building for Faith in Action. This theme can continue to be used going forward, after the campaign. There will be a speaker for 7 Sundays with a different theme each week. These will focus on how people join into life of church highlighting that Union is multifaceted and important in people's lives in different ways. The Stretch goal is \$650,000. The Commitment document was distributed. Pacesetters (including church leaders) asked to consider making contribution and doing it early (by May 26). The purpose of Pacesetters is to project confidence in the campaign and show we are well on our way. All pledges received by 5/26 will be in total on Commitment Sunday June 11. All pledges are held confidentially; members of team do not see names, only amounts.

**Continuing Business**

- **Capital Campaign Update:** (above)
- **Generosity Team Update:** Met this week. Decided on fall pledge campaign theme – Union: Love in Action. Activities will take place in late September and October to live the theme. This year the testimonials will not be presented during worship and the team will slim down materials to a trifold. Changes are in consideration of all the activities and materials that are part of the capital campaign.

- In-Person Ministry Task Force: Next meeting will be in August.
- Belonging Conversation: How do we foster belonging. Membership discussed how to do this for this group of new members. Instead of assigning first friends, they will help them to connect with the ministries.

### **Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)**

#### EDUCATION

Recruiting volunteers for 23/24 school year. Looking to see how we serve middle and high school youth for both youth group and Faith Formation. Benny has stepped down as Chair of the Education Ministry. He has been overextended. Beth will take on responsibilities.

#### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Ministry met and received a request from Outreach for the We All Rise African American Resource Center Juneteenth Celebration. G&M recommends that Common Ministry grant the request from Outreach for \$2,500 to be taken from the Cora Nelson Fund. This money would fund the free community meal and the Union Congregational UCC table at the Juneteenth celebration to be held on June 17, 2023 at Joannes Park. Kathy moved that Common Ministry grant the request. Motion was approved (Kathy/Beth).

#### MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Eight new members joined last Sunday. Confirmation Sunday is 5/21. There will a reception with cake during coffee hour. Membership wants to get new Union T-shirts and is looking for ideas for design, saying, etc. Anyone interested should submit their suggestion to Membership by their next meeting (June 8). They hope to have T-shirts in time for Pride (9/23).

#### OUTREACH

Thank you for G&M handling the Juneteenth request so quickly. Tina Bechtel introduced a service project "Ties to Mexico." Tied blankets are made and sent to a refugee center in Mexico. She is providing materials. Times to get together at church or to take home and do will be coming out soon. Tina is coordinating with her church in Arizona.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Have been overwhelmed with Garden talk. Three scheduled garden days (5/21, 6/25 & 7/23). New doors here and will be painted soon. They are working on bids for the capital projects.

#### WORSHIP

Betty highlighted Memorial Day weekend service will conclude in Memorial Garden. The music program ends on Memorial Day. Haley is working on summer music for services. Thank you to Common Ministry for Jazz Service funding. They are reflecting the ongoing goals coming out of our music program. Due to the length of service on 5/21, the Education Ministry and Music Ministry recognition and thank you to volunteers will be done outside of that service.

**JOSHUA Report:** See Attached.

**Communications Report:** none

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was approved. (Jammie/Kathy) After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Collins  
Vice Moderator

Next meeting: June 8 - 6 pm

#### **Upcoming Prayer/Snack Schedule:**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer</u>	<u>Snack</u>
<b>June</b>	Bridget	Sandy
<b>August</b>	Denise	Denise
<b>September</b>	Clay	Clay
<b>October</b>		

5/7/2023 Joshua Report

JOSHUA (Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action) recent foci have been the Madison Action Days (April 28th) as representatives from 15 Wisdom chapters (like JOSHUA) from across Wisconsin gathered in our state capital to address representatives and senators with justice issues. We hope the rally, speakers and conversations will stir interest in future decisions.

And second focus is recent work to open a unique experience in prison reform with a solitary confinement display/event for public awareness and understanding.

Below is the announcement with details.

#### A Solitary Confinement Experience Comes to Appleton & Green Bay

JOSHUA and ESTHER invite the public to attend the free event, Solitary Confinement Experience, that will take place in Appleton and Green Bay from May 11th through the 13th. A replica of a 6 foot by 8 foot solitary cell is being transported by its creator, Talib Akbar who is an impacted individual. The cell was constructed to help people understand the terror that these individuals go through and the long-lasting trauma that comes with it.

Just a mile away from the JOSHUA event site, at the Green Bay Correctional Institution, there are dozens of people experiencing segregation for weeks and even years. ESTHER and JOSHUA are a part of the statewide transformational justice campaign from WISDOM where we aim to restore formerly convicted individuals into the community and view them as human beings and family members just like everyone else. We also invest in programs that will end disparities that fuel mass incarceration in Wisconsin and allocate money to building up communities that have been most harmed by mass incarceration.

The event will include the opportunity to tour the solitary cell, listen to reflections and prayers given throughout the event as well as speakers from people who have been personally affected. You will also have the opportunity to sign up to spend a period of time in the cell. Postcards to send to legislators and educational materials will be available. We hope that you are able to join us at the event. In a time where the existing narrative around this issue is that incarcerated people deserve this unethical treatment, we hope you join us in learning that they are people too and do not need torture on top of their punishment.

#### ESTHER

When: 10 AM to 6 PM on Thursday and Friday, May 11th and 12th

Where: St. Joseph Catholic Church, [404 W Lawrence St, Appleton, WI 54911](#) Contact: [office@esther-foxvalley.org](mailto:office@esther-foxvalley.org), <https://esther-foxvalley.org>

#### JOSHUA

When: 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, May 13th

Where: Resurrection Catholic Parish, 333 Hilltop Drive, Green Bay, WI 54301

Submitted by Steve Hartman

Union Congregational United Church of Christ - Green Bay WI  
Treasurer's Report as of April 2023 (Treasurer Budget Report)

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
<b>Incomes</b>						
<b>General Operating Fund</b>						
	Total General Operating Fund	\$18,727.15	\$144,948.95	\$144,364.00	\$584.95	\$433,100.00
<b>Stewardship Ministry</b>						
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$0.00	\$57.68	\$1,500.00	(\$1,442.32)	\$4,500.00
<b>General - Non Operating Fund</b>						
	Total General - Non Operating Fund	\$43.39	\$5,299.65	\$3,348.00	\$1,951.65	\$10,050.00
	<b>Total Incomes</b>	<b>\$18,770.54</b>	<b>\$150,306.28</b>	<b>\$149,212.00</b>	<b>\$1,094.28</b>	<b>\$447,650.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
<b>General Operating Fund</b>						
<b>Administrative</b>						
	Total Administrative	\$6,336.57	\$24,214.37	\$25,800.00	(\$3,246.63)	\$77,400.00
<b>Facilities</b>						
	Total Facilities	\$3,299.36	\$9,045.37	\$14,487.00	(\$5,441.63)	\$40,150.00
<b>Senior Pastor Expenses</b>						
	Total Senior Pastor Expenses	\$11,340.00	\$46,617.97	\$45,940.00	\$677.97	\$141,812.00
<b>Associate Pastor Expenses</b>						
	Total Associate Pastor Expenses	\$0.00	\$8.00	\$32.00	(\$24.00)	\$100.00
<b>Lay Staff Expenses</b>						
	Total Lay Staff Expenses	\$15,771.52	\$52,419.48	\$55,320.00	(\$2,900.52)	\$166,960.00
	<b>Total General Operating Fund</b>	<b>\$36,747.45</b>	<b>\$132,305.19</b>	<b>\$141,579.00</b>	<b>(\$10,934.81)</b>	<b>\$426,422.00</b>
<b>Worship Ministry</b>						
	Total Worship Ministry	\$2,717.72	\$3,747.78	\$2,772.00	\$975.78	\$8,300.00
<b>Stewardship Ministry</b>						
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	(\$300.00)	\$900.00
<b>Inreach Ministry</b>						
	Total Inreach Ministry	\$67.12	\$219.61	\$1,092.00	(\$872.39)	\$3,275.00
<b>Education Ministry</b>						
	Total Education Ministry	\$525.00	\$2,107.80	\$2,152.00	(\$44.20)	\$6,365.00
<b>Outreach Ministries</b>						
<b>Outreach B</b>						
	Total Outreach B	\$1,000.00	\$3,839.00	\$5,200.00	(\$1,361.00)	\$15,600.00
	<b>Total Outreach Ministries</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,839.00</b>	<b>\$5,200.00</b>	<b>(\$1,361.00)</b>	<b>\$15,600.00</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$41,057.29</b>	<b>\$142,219.38</b>	<b>\$153,095.00</b>	<b>(\$12,536.62)</b>	<b>\$460,862.00</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$22,286.75)</b>	<b>\$8,086.90</b>	<b>(\$3,883.00)</b>		<b>(\$13,212.00)</b>