

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2024**

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>		
Pastors	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator		Tim Harder	
Vice Moderator	Clay Reese		
Treasurer		Sandy Polarek	
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Beth Piontek		
Gifts & Memorials	Kathy Baldwin	Mike Stepp	
Inreach & Membership	Denise Olson		
Outreach	Jammie VerGiesen		
Stewardship			
Worship	Zoe Harkoff		
Communications Coordinator		Ruth Homrighaus Mary Ann Hudson	
JOSHUA Liaison		Steve Hartman	
Guest(s)			

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

Vice Moderator Clay Reese called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Gathering Prayer: Jammie shared a poem.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Minister's Report: Bridget reported that the Human Rights Campaign has a field organizer who will be here in Green Bay through the election and will be leading adult education on August 18. Outreach is partnering with HRC as one of its outreach activities and the organizer has asked if they may conduct some phone banking here at the church. This phone banking will not be endorsing candidates; the calling would discuss issues, particularly health care. Motion to approve approved (Jammie/Kathy). Bridget also noted that in the spring she had contemplated creating a task force to address indigenous rights. While she continues to believe that is important, with some of our current losses, wants to defer work on that issue and work on Union becoming a "WISE" congregation (Welcoming Inclusive Supportive Engaged) and put the effort into mental health issues. Motion in agreement approved (Gail/Jammie). Bridget then updated us on the Monday morning light fixture fire. Cleanup company, fire inspectors, insurance claims people and electricians have been here, and the cause is still to be confirmed. The plan is to move forward immediately with the Capital Campaign plans for that room, which include painting and floor replacement, although the moveable walls may be delayed. Motion to allocate up to \$15,000 for flooring, paint, and light fixture replacement approved (Gail/Denise).

Clerk's Report: The minutes for the regular meeting of June 13, 2024 were approved (Kathy/Jammie). Gail noted that she will not be available for the October meeting. (After meeting note: Heather Collins has agreed to act as Clerk pro tem for that meeting.)

Treasurer's Report: In Sandy's absence, Bridget noted that we have had an improvement in our financial position this month and that finances look solid in comparison to last year.

New Business: None

Continuing Business

- **Generosity Team Update:** Bridget reported that the officers met in June to discuss ideas for closing the budget gap and our systemic budget shortfall and are meeting again soon. One idea was that while the Generosity Team was thinking of a summer letter to folks who haven't pledged, officers decided we needed to reach out to the entire membership. A letter was sent in early July and has had some pretty good response. As of 10 days ago 15 positive responses ranging from \$25 to \$5,000 had been received. Bridget also reported that as of July 31, the capital campaign has received \$378,000 of the \$572,000 pledged (66%), which is a healthy response. The roofing project and west roof carport both came in exactly at budget and they look great. The solar panel project is in progress now that the Mayflower roof has been replaced. The Generosity Team is working on pledge materials for the fall campaign. Although the exact timing is still TBD, the theme will be "Because of You Union Changes Lives".

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION: The Ministry has had discussions on curriculum for the 2024-25 school year. They are going to try once a month all-ages activity.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS: No report.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH: Reunion Sunday will be September 15 with a potluck, which as usual will require assistance from Common Ministry and the other Ministries. New Member Sunday October 27, and will be preceded by New Member Meetings on October 3 and 16.

OUTREACH: No report.

STEWARDSHIP: Met for a brief discussion on the fire.

WORSHIP: No report.

JOSHUA Report: No report.

Communications Report: No report.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. (Denise/Kathy)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: September 12 - 6 p.m.

Upcoming Prayer/Snack Schedule:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer</u>	<u>Snack</u>
September 12	Zoe	Zoe
October 10	Sandy	Sandy
November 14	Zoe	Zoe
December 12	Kathy	Kathy
January 9, 2025		