

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 13, 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	Tim Dantoin	
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?*

Moderator Tim Harder called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Gathering Prayer: Kathy shared a prayer.

Additions to the Agenda:

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Minister's Report: Bridget reported that although it was a 9-hour Zoom, the anti-racism training yesterday she completed as a part of her required continuing education was well done and meaningful. The organist search continues, and Bridget expressed much gratitude for David Hassel and Elaine Moss who are filling in. She reported that the temporary parking for the Wise Women Gathering Place hosted 71 people over 23 days. She noted she received some minor neighbor complaints and that the only additional cost the Church incurred was for some extra dumpster emptying. As of the end of May, the capital campaign has received \$310,000. \$308,000 has been authorized to be spent but some spending will turn out to be less than what was authorized. The church has hired 2 nursery staffers.

JOSHUA Report: Steve reported the Big Read for a More Perfect Union project is nearing the end with the final Zoom set for June 20. Transformational justice leadership and development training will be offered on June 23 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Resurrection Church. Vigils the 23rd of each month continue at the Green Bay Correctional Institution. (23 is the average number of days Wisconsin people are held in solitary confinement.) The Housing Task Force is working with different agencies to deal with the issue the unhomed. City Council approved vets' little homes despite some neighborhood resistance. The prayer vigil at Waupun Correctional Institution was well attended with statewide representation. JOSHUA has held Hunger for Justice breakfasts to celebrate participation and increase membership organizations. Juneteenth will be at Joannes this Saturday Planning is underway for the annual gathering to celebrate JOSHUA's 20-year anniversary. It will be at the Meyer Theater on November 15 with the theme "The Roaring Twenties." Steve distributed a letter from Mark Rice, the WISDOM campaign coordinator, to the Cap Times on the subject of the Wisconsin prisons' issues (attached).

Clerk's Report

The minutes for the regular meeting of May 9, 2024 were approved (Kathy/Jammie).

Treasurer's Report

Sandy distributed the regular financial reports for April (attached). She noted that we are still spending more than we are taking in, but we have taken in more than last year. She noted the only unusual expenditure was that utilities were a bit high. After last month's approval we moved some money into the checking account to cover current expenses. The report was accepted (Sandy/Beth).

New Business

Proposed Memorial Garden Rates: Bridget gave a bit of background on the current management of the Memorial Garden, and shared there is a need to revise rates for the Memorial Garden (see attached). Crypt rates approximate our cost of purchase plus installation. Perpetual Care contributions are for ongoing garden maintenance and to ensure that there are funds to relocate the Garden should the church ever move. Motion to approve rates as shown on the attachment approved (Denise/Kathy).

Salary Increase Request: Executive session discussion.

Continuing Business

- Generosity Team Update: Upcoming event is Christmas in July as a thank you to the Congregation. Team is working on the fall campaign with the theme "Our Church Changes Lives." A new person to coordinate the follow-up team needs to be identified.

Ministry Reports (unless covered in Ministry meeting minutes)

EDUCATION

School year finished well. Summer plans include a work group to plan for adult ed at least 2 times a month in the next school year. Recruiting youth group leaders as well as adults for middle school faith formation. Christie Reese offering a 2-part youth mental health first aid training for adults who work with young people and anyone in the church who is interested, and may offer again in the fall. Faith Formation curriculum for next year is being evaluated.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Kathy shared a request (approval recommended by Gifts & Memorials) from Jeff Larson, on behalf of Green Bay Sail and Paddle, Inc. of Green Bay for a grant of \$3,000 to support their "Adventures in Sailing" summer program, which is designed to introduce sailing to underserved populations and individuals with varying abilities, including those with autism, Down Syndrome, anxiety, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other special needs. Their goal is to provide essential water safety and sailing skills while enriching the lives of both children and adults. The grant was approved. Kathy noted that the grant payment will come from the Cora Nelson Fund.

MEMBERSHIP & INREACH

Annual picnic will be June 23 in the park (weather permitting). Please come and help haul materials over and back, and bring a dish to pass. The Sunday worship service (also to be held in the park) will include a baptism.

OUTREACH

Imago Dei was June 2. Strengthen the Church offering was last Sunday. Juneteenth is June 15, and we will sponsor a table.

STEWARDSHIP

Roofing project is underway with the solar project to follow. Wi-fi project is done. Sanctuary painting is needed, but is dependent on capital campaign cashflow. Stewardship gave their blessing to Cathy Putman to submit a grant request to an external organization for modifications to make the biblical garden more accessible. Organ has a malfunctioning part which is being addressed. Payment will come from existing organ donation funds. Elevator maintenance contract is up for renewal.

WORSHIP

Haley and Sam are working with Eric Harkoff to provide sound functionality and deal with some buzzing issues in the sound system. Looking for another volunteer for the sound system on Sunday mornings.

Communications Report: No report.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. (Jammie/Kathy).

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: August 8 - 6 p.m.

Upcoming Prayer/Snack Schedule:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer</u>	<u>Snack</u>
June 13	Kathy	Kathy
August 8	Jammie	Jammie
September 12		
October 10	Sandy	Sandy
November 14	Zoe	Zoe
December 12		
January 9, 2025		

Union Congregational United Church of Christ - Green Bay WI
Treasurer's Report as of May 2024 (Treasurer Budget Report)

Monday, June 10, 2024

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous YTD	Annual Budget
Incomes					
General Operating Fund					
	Total General Operating Fund	\$14,873	\$193,104	\$172,709	\$405,500
Stewardship Ministry					
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$0	\$0	\$237	\$3,000
General - Non Operating Fund					
	Total General - Non Operating Fund	\$110	\$5,934	\$5,299	\$12,100
	Total Incomes	\$14,983	\$199,038	\$178,246	\$420,600
Expenses					
General Fund - Designated					
	Total General Fund - Designated	\$0	\$0	\$0	
General Operating Fund Administrative					
	Total Administrative	\$9,854	\$39,153	\$29,672	\$87,850
Facilities					
	Total Facilities	\$5,056	\$34,874	\$22,917	\$38,900
Senior Pastor Expenses					
	Total Senior Pastor Expenses	\$12,308	\$59,236	\$57,956	\$147,753
Associate Pastor Expenses					
	Total Associate Pastor Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$8	
Lay Staff Expenses					
	Total Lay Staff Expenses	\$12,219	\$65,093	\$65,165	\$168,172
	Total General Operating Fund	\$39,439	\$198,357	\$175,719	\$442,675
Worship Ministry					
	Total Worship Ministry	\$573	\$5,504	\$4,566	\$8,950
Stewardship Ministry					
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$0	\$450	\$0	\$900
Inreach Ministry					
	Total Inreach Ministry	\$326	\$2,965	\$491	\$2,875
Education Ministry					
	Total Education Ministry	\$649	\$3,397	\$2,628	\$7,115
Outreach Ministries					
Outreach B					
	Total Outreach B	\$1,000	\$6,455	\$4,000	\$15,600
	Total Outreach Ministries	\$1,000	\$6,455	\$4,000	\$15,600
	Total Expenses	\$41,989	\$217,129	\$187,406	\$478,115
	Difference	(\$27,005)	(\$18,091)	(\$9,160)	(\$57,515)

If the accounts in the subtotals have changed or if ledger and subsidiary account attributes have changed, previous YTD totals may not represent a valid comparison.

This is the current cost schedule draft for review by Common Ministry on 6/13/24:

For Crypts:

Perpetual Care contribution which provides for ongoing maintenance of the Garden, *for each person* \$550

Plus One of the Following:

- **Companion Crypt** together; memorial plaques included) \$3,350 (Two crypts)
- **Individual Crypt** crypt; memorial plaque included) \$2,500 (Single)

For Wall Plaques:

Perpetual Care contribution which provides for ongoing maintenance of the Garden, *for each person* \$250

Plus One of the Following:

- **Companion Wall Plaque** together) \$500 (Two persons)
- **Individual Wall Plaque** person) \$350 (Single)

NOTE: Fees above include installation. The Perpetual Care contribution is due when the Interment/Memorial Request form is completed. The payment for the crypt or wall plaque is due at the time of order, although the price may change if ordered at a future time

Mark Rice, letter to the editor of the Cap Times

Letter / Wisconsin policymakers must invest in care — not cages

• Jun 10, 2024

Dear Editor: Any new plan to end the humanitarian crisis in Wisconsin prisons must include an unwavering commitment to not building any new correctional facilities.

The nonprofit organization WISDOM created a blueprint for ending mass incarceration in Wisconsin over a decade ago. Tragically, the unwillingness of Wisconsin policymakers to enact many of those common sense decarceration policies has led to the current crisis.

Instead of wasting billions of dollars to build and maintain a new prison, Wisconsin should immediately reduce the prison population by:

- Expanding treatment alternatives to incarceration.
- Commuting excessive and unreasonable sentences.
- Giving people a fair chance to be released on parole.
- Expanding opportunities for early release.
- Ending incarceration for crimeless revocations.

Enacting these policies would enable the state to close down several prisons.

There is a growing consensus that inhumane prisons like Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, Waupun Correctional Institution and Green Bay Correctional Institution must be closed as soon as possible. Less than 3,000 people are currently being detained at these three prisons. These facilities could be completely depopulated in a matter of months.

The resources saved should then be invested in programs to help currently incarcerated people flourish. In addition, we should invest in the communities that have been the most harmed by incarceration.

Investing resources in living wage jobs; safe, stable, and affordable housing; treatment programs; health care; violence prevention programs; and educational opportunities will contribute to building the type of safer, stronger, and healthier communities that we all deserve.

It is time for Wisconsin policymakers to invest in care — not cages. Let's build communities, not new prisons.

Mark Rice, WISDOM campaign coordinator

Richland Center