

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON MINISTRY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2025**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

Pastor	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator	Heather Collins		
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		Jason Ferry	
Worship	Betty Bienash		
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 Heather Collins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Additions to the Agenda:** None

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

**Minister's Report:** Some Osseo 4th and 5th grade teachers have reached out to Bridget looking for a place for their classes to sleep on their two annual trips this summer. They would provide proof of insurance, and the kids will sleep on the floor. Bridget reported that the Common Ministry letter regarding pastoral boundaries has not received a response, although current behavior has been in accord with the guidelines. Bridget and the Personnel Committee had a good meeting to discuss a few policy handbook revisions and they are in the planning stages for her first performance review. Retreat team has discerned the retreat topic and facilitators have stepped up. She noted that she participated in the ordination of the new pastor of First UCC on Webster. His presence should make it easier for our congregations to work together when appropriate.

**Clerk's Report**

The minutes for the regular meeting of February 13 and March 13, 2025 will be approved by an email vote after they are redistributed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Sandy distributed the December budget summary (attached) and as well distributed a confirming copy of the corrected 2025 budget, noting the prior agreement to send it out with quarterly giving statements. She expressed that we are still doing well year to date. Motion to put on file approved (Sandy/Kathy).

**New Business**

- Nomination for Worship Vice Chair: Motion to approve Lou Norsetter to fill the vacant Worship Vice Chair position was approved (Betty/Denise).
- Annual Meeting Delegates (June 6-8): Steve Jones would like to attend. Please let Bridget know if others are interested.
- Sanctuary Piano Repair: The now-retired piano tuner in December noted a crack in the piano sound board which does not require immediate repair. The new tuner, however, has found that the action (hammers) is quite worn. He proposes to return in early June to make the repair. Stewardship requests approval to allocate up to \$750 from the Betty Brown Fund for the repair. Approved.

- Building Use Request – Osseo School District: The motion to approve the request described in Bridget's report above was approved (Beth/Denise).

### **Continuing Business**

- Generosity Team Update: Easter offering letters to non-pledging households went out in early April. The 2024 theme for the annual effort in the fall will be retained for 2025.
- Bond of Union 125th Anniversary: Several folks known to be interested will be asked to write for the newsletter on what the Bond of Union means to them.
- WISE: Team has been meeting. They are working on a needs and interests survey for the congregation.

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

#### *EDUCATION*

Looking at doing volunteer recognition 1st Sunday in June. They noted the desire for prayer requests for each of the confirmands.

#### *GIFTS & MEMORIALS*

No report.

#### *MEMBERSHIP & INREACH*

Food volunteers are needed for the Easter breakfast. We welcomed 14 new members. Cooks who Care have made lasagna (in the freezer) available to be distributed by anyone in the congregation to people who need it. Moon Beach retreat is set for September 5-7.

#### *OUTREACH*

No report.

#### *STEWARDSHIP*

Stewardship has requested approval to expend up to \$12,000 from Capital Campaign funds for accessibility improvements to the courtyard doors and the lower-level doors. Approved.

#### *WORSHIP*

Betty highlighted the Music notes (a new feature) in the Sunday bulletin. Please let Haley know if you are finding them meaningful.

**JOSHUA Report:** Heather read the report (attached).

**Communications Report:** No report. Clay continuing to work on revisions to the website.

Thank you to Clay for treats.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was approved (Clay/Denise). After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Hohenstein, Clerk

Next meeting: May 8 - 6 p.m.

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

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer</u>	<u>Snack</u>
<b>May 8</b>	Denise	Denise
<b>June 12</b>	Kathy	Kathy
<b>August 14</b>	Betty	Betty
<b>September 11</b>	Beth	Beth
<b>October 9</b>	Sandy	Sandy
<b>November 13</b>	Jason	Jason
<b>December 11</b>	Jammie	Jammie
<b>January 8, 2026</b>		

Union Congregational United Church of Christ - Green Bay WI  
Treasurer's Report as of March 2025 (Treasurer Budget Report)

Monday, April 7, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Previous YTD	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
<b>Incomes</b>					
<b>General Operating Fund</b>					
	Total General Operating Fund	\$156,703	\$33,974	\$165,018	\$423,800
<b>Stewardship Ministry</b>					
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
<b>General - Non Operating Fund</b>					
	Total General - Non Operating Fund	\$4,900	\$0	\$916	\$15,000
	Total Incomes	\$161,603	\$33,974	\$165,934	\$441,800
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>General Operating Fund</b>					
<b>Administrative</b>					
	Total Administrative	\$23,315	\$1,944	\$13,068	\$52,900
<b>Facilities</b>					
	Total Facilities	\$7,311	\$5,274	\$9,198	\$40,600
<b>Senior Pastor Expenses</b>					
	Total Senior Pastor Expenses	\$38,488	\$12,337	\$36,690	\$154,354
<b>Lay Staff Expenses</b>					
	Total Lay Staff Expenses	\$39,029	\$16,976	\$47,579	\$198,566
	Total General Operating Fund	\$108,145	\$36,533	\$106,538	\$446,420
<b>Worship Ministry</b>					
	Total Worship Ministry	\$4,412	\$633	\$844	\$8,600
<b>Stewardship Ministry</b>					
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$900
<b>Inreach Ministry</b>					
	Total Inreach Ministry	\$1,943	\$42	\$204	\$2,575
<b>Education Ministry</b>					
	Total Education Ministry	\$1,766	\$1,221	\$2,390	\$6,725
<b>Outreach Ministries</b>					
<b>Outreach B</b>					
	Total Outreach B	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$15,600
	Total Outreach Ministries	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$15,600
	Total Expenses	\$119,718	\$39,430	\$111,977	\$480,820
	Difference	\$41,885	(\$5,455)	\$53,956	(\$39,020)

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.

Union Congregational UCC  
Green Bay, WI

Account #	Account Name	2025 Annual Budget
<i>Incomes</i>		
<i>General Operating Fund</i>		
	Total General Operating Fund	\$ 423,800.00
<i>Stewardship Ministry</i>		
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$ 3,000.00
<i>General - Non Operating Fund</i>		
	Total General - Non Operating Fund	\$ 15,000.00
	Total Incomes	\$ 441,800.00
<i>General Operating Fund Administrative</i>		
	Total Administrative	\$ 52,900.00
<i>Facilities</i>		
	Total Facilities	\$ 40,600.00
<i>Senior Pastor Expenses</i>		
	Total Senior Pastor Expenses	\$ 154,354.00
<i>Lay Staff Expenses</i>		
	Total Lay Staff Expenses	\$ 198,566.00
	Total General Operating Fund	\$ 446,420.00
<i>Worship Ministry</i>		
	Total Worship Ministry	\$ 8,600.00
<i>Stewardship Ministry</i>		
	Total Stewardship Ministry	\$ 900.00
<i>Inreach Ministry</i>		
	Total Inreach Ministry	\$ 2,575.00
<i>Education Ministry</i>		
	Total Education Ministry	\$ 6,725.00
<i>Outreach Ministries</i>		
<i>Outreach B</i>		
	Total Outreach B	\$ 15,600.00
	Total Expenses	\$ 480,820.00
	Difference	\$ (39,020.00)

Dear Common Ministry,

Foremost the Madison Action Day scheduled for April 10 is huge. Busloads of people from around Wisconsin will converge in Madison for a rally with speakers addressing the proposed state budget and "dialogue" in current hearings. Following the gathering at the Madison Masonic Center the demonstration process to the capitol building for more and diverse speakers addressing systemic justice issues and prison reform. This will be followed by face to face conversations with individual legislators, again expressing concerns around prison reform and community needs.

Clearly, these past two months have been a caldron of issues in housing, education, a variety of community needs. Awareness focusing on solitary confinement and crowded conditions at GBCI and other Wisconsin prisons continues with prayer vigils on the 23rd of each month. JOSHUA was represented at recent "Hands Off" and other rallies Laura Robson represented JOSHUA addressing HUD concerns. Mark Rice, statewide coordination for prison reform, Steve Warner and Tom Denk spoke against parole revocation with no additional violation at the recent hearings around the state. This phenomenon, Non Violation Revocation, continues to discriminate against paroles in Wisconsin, if unjust, arbitrary and contributes to increasing overcrowding conditions.

We continue efforts to address homelessness, ecological justice and coordinating with other Beloved Community oriented groups in Brown County. Additionally, we cooperated with the Nrcat, National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

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*"To do theology is to write a love letter to the God I believe in, to the people I live among, and to the church to which I belong." —Father Gustavo Gutiérrez, translated by the author*