

Prospect United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
June 17, 2013

In Attendance: Sue Powers, Pastor Bob Sorozan, Carol Rivard, Heidi Flower, Jeanette Baker, Carla Heister, Terry Parker, Bill Katt, Joyce Rioux, John Rioux, Diane Ashworth, Tim Krauss, Christa Zaldivar, Janice Moore. Excused: Beth Provost, Carolyn Koboski, Jill Wilson.

Chair Sue Powers called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Pastor Bob led the opening devotion.

The minutes for May 2013 were accepted with the following corrections: the District Conference was held in Middletown, not Newtown; change the name Ray Barker to Ron Baker.

Education: Christa reports that they have 24 children already signed up for VBS this summer. Plans are being made for this year's Rally Day – we hope to make it a 'church-wide' event, not just for Sunday School. Possibly having displays in Sessions' Hall from every committee/work area – people will have to get their "Prospect Passport" stamped as they visit each area, before they can enjoy the pot-luck luncheon. More details to follow.

Finance: The annual pledge drive will begin on September 16, 2013; pledge cards will be collected and dedicated on October 13. The new fund-raising form for church groups is on the website. Instructions will be included for the approval process – these forms go to Finance Committee first, then Council for final approval.

Question from Heidi regarding building use fees – there is a form for that in the Church Office. The person's name and the room they will be using will be written on the large calendar in the office. Carol Rivard responded that church members asking for rooms give a donation to the church, there are set fees/rules for outside groups/individuals who wish to use our facilities. This form can be posted on the website as well.

Jeanette Baker – thanks to Joyce Rioux, Pastor Bob, Pastor Rhodes for participating in the study on Hunger. A check was sent to Heifer International in the amount of \$500. The Mountains of Hope for Haiti project was sent a check for \$520.

Housecleaning/Maintenance – Carol Rivard needs HELP!! More hands are needed to keep our building clean, especially large projects such as mopping and waxing Sessions' Hall floors, bathroom cleaning, hallway sweeping and mopping. Carol notes that the Freedom Fellowship group takes care of the dining room and the room that they meet in downstairs. Suggestions for the immediate future include a sign-up sheet for the congregation, so people can take just a week or two to help during the summer months. Also possibly a fund-raiser for this: BARC will do all the cleaning for \$85 a week – we could have them come in every other week. John Rioux states he will propose a line item budget for cleaning services for 2014. Also might be able to split the landscaping budget to help with this. BARC also does the lawn-mowing at a cost of \$100 each time it is done.

Holding an "All Church Cleaning Day" was also discussed – we used to do this twice a year, in the spring and fall. It is time to do this again.

Carol Rivard will make up a volunteer sign-up sheet for cleaning for July thru Sept. A date will be chosen for the Fall Clean-Up day.

Trustees – from Chris Wilson via Carol Rivard – regarding the Building Fund – this fund is primarily used to pay back on the roof repairs, and then for unexpected costs, utilities and insurance. The Center Street sidewalks will be repaired, at a cost of \$4550. This has to be done, per order of the City of Bristol. Laviero construction has been contracted for this service. A quote has been received for a better security access system for the upper level. It would be \$3445. for installation of the system for 3 doors, and \$25 per month for the service. This has been tabled for now.

The portfolio is doing well. Trustees have ok'd the removal of 3 pews at the front right side of the sanctuary, to accommodate a permanent place for the handbell tables.

Trustees need to find a mason to do an estimate for repairs where there are small leaks in the walls/ceilings. Bill Katt suggests contacting the company who did the roof repairs and ask if they do masonry work as well.

Terry Parker – Terry gave us a short report about this year's Annual Conference at Hofstra University.

Citing the focus on Connectionism within the denomination, he reports that Pastor Mel Kawakami (Newtown, Ct) received a standing ovation after his speech on the connection aspect of the support and prayers he and his congregation have received after the Shady Hook tragedy.

Staff-Parish – Carla Heister reports that the committee met on June 12th – they are working on a parent questionnaire for evaluation of Nursery staff. They are also doing a time study for paid staff, to evaluate time needed. The First Aid kit in the Nursery has been updated, with extra cold packs included.

Pastor Bob has been re-appointed to us for another year. He will be continuing his education by attending the Interfaith Dialogue Program at Hartford Seminary.

Finance – Tim Krauss passed out the Income and Expense reports. Income received so far is 107% of what was expected. There are many challenges and also many blessings ahead of us.

There was also a handout on a program called UMC Market. If people join up, they can go to a wide selection of on-line stores for purchasing, and the church receives a percentage of the sales. These percentages vary by store. Tim is also getting information from Asbury's pastor regarding a program they use of 'scrip cards' – gift cards that are offered for sale at a discount and the church receives a percentage of the \$ amount of cards sold. More information on each of these programs will follow.

Pastor Bob – has received a note from Victim Services regarding the break – in at the church. The persons involved have received 2 yr. suspended sentences, 2 yrs probation, and are in a drug rehab program.

The date for our next Charge Conference will be set sometime during July. The Committee on Lay Leadership will be contacting all committee/work area chairs during July and August to confirm continued service or change of service in their respective areas.

Our Homework Assignment from May – “What is God Saying to us Now?”

Joyce – Education is exploring what has been done in the past and looking toward the future with an emphasis on connectionalism – there are good stories and witness inside our church but not much outside the walls as witness.

Jeanette – we are His hands and feet – it is our job to do His Mission here – how can we help another person? We should all be actively looking for ways to help on an individual level.

Ps.Bob – we should do some self-examination – we should feel uncomfortable as Christians and figure out what is lacking – it is hard not to get 'numbed' by the world we live in.

Sue - as a Council it is easy to look at what we have done, but harder to see where we should be – always looking forward from here.

Council will not meet in July. The August meeting will focus on looking forward only. Short and long term goals to keep momentum going - it is ok to go outside our comfort zone and try new things – it may also be very necessary to do so to continue to grow.

New Guideline booklets are available for all work areas. Also the 2012 Book of Resolution and Book of Discipline are available in the church office.

Next meeting is August 20th at 7 p.m. Pastor Bob closed with prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Moore, recording secretary.