

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

Attendance: Carla Heister, Yountae Kim, Christa Zaldivar, Luisa Gladu, Jackie Palance, Matti Verzino, Mary Rogers, Jeanette Baker, Tim Krauss.

Carla opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. by stating this was a Church Conference Meeting as well as Council Meeting. There are two names to be voted on for the Board of Trustees, Carol Rivard and Chris Wilson. The vote will take place after 8:10 p.m. In addition, we need to vote on the bequest for \$10,000 which has no indentures or special circumstances tied to it. Carla moved and Mattie seconded with a vote following to accept the bequest.

For Opening Devotion Carla spoke about talking about those missing and reaching out to them. Keep those missing in our thoughts and prayers.

Jackie moved to approve the January minutes.

Pastor's time – Yountae spoke about bringing new things in music and styles to previous Church so it is not boring to younger people. It worked for a while, but it did not cause them to settle down. There is more to it than just making church attractive. Being a welcoming and loving church is more important. New members need to feel welcome. We need to have more aggressive welcoming. We need to work on it more.

Follow-up to Combined Committee Meeting – Jeanette spoke to the First Responders Dinner. She stated that logistically we need to host it here. We can have it in our dining room and have the community relate to it. Carla suggested 2 dinners in a month or multiple times of day or multiple days so more first responders would be able to attend. It was also suggested that we could have to-go containers for those who could not stay.

Education Committee will add the Serving Saturday to their agenda for the March 5 meeting. Jeanette stated she had some ideas on that she would discuss later with Christa.

Family Promise Program - Jeanette reported that when families are homeless, shelters split up the families – male/female separation. So families will often stay in the car rather than be split up. The Congregation Church is a hosting church. Jeanette would like to reach out to them for us to help and volunteer. The program has a director and house in New Britain. We could also receive requests for donations for the house. The house has training (day center) during the day. If you are a host church you must house them and feed them for one week four times a year. The day center has bathing facilities. There are limits on the number of families that can be assisted. Effort is to find permanent housing.

Member Nurture – Luisa wrote up the group’s Charge. She will talk to Jill about what we should do. We talked about having a welcome back for new members that would include mugs and member directory. The group met before the Council meeting and discussed some ideas about reaching out to graduated students. The primary goal is to reach out and be welcoming. Melissa provided some blurbs to the team for the bulletin. Mattie said the Lay Leaders could reiterate those sentiments. The group thought that the Pastor sending out emails about funerals etc. is great. We are open to any ideas. Yountae will work with Luisa on a process for new member welcoming.

Worship - Retreat – Mary spoke to the group about having a Retreat this summer for the Church members and more specifically for Council members. She presented three different retreat centers and costs. The group decided on the Mercy Center which we have used in the past. Several people said they would not be able to attend the September dates suggested, so Mary is to go back to Mercy Center and get several more dates in August. We will then poll the congregation on who would like to attend and which would be their preferred date.

Middle Ages Group - Luisa reported that the Anna and Elsa event went well. They danced with the kids, took pictures with them and made it snow. The group is now getting ready for the Renaissance Dinners for two nights. They received a grant of \$250 for the event. Tammy and Kelly got \$250 for the Santa event. They will try for this event also. She has a call into St. Paul’s for volunteers. They are hoping to offer babysitting with a little dinner for the kids, snacks, movies and arts and crafts. They would ask for \$5 for a family to defray the costs. The babysitters will probably be from St. Paul’s and would have Red Cross certification. The group is having someone come in and cook for the event. The Harts are doing the staging of food with the girls working as well.

Education – Christa spoke about the Lenten Community Pilgrimage on March 19 with some stops along the way. They would say prayers and hand out pretzels and information on our Holy Week services at the stops.

Trustees – The Trustees agreed to pay for apportionments. They are going to provide proper procedures for the alarm system. The security group will call the Pastor, Chris, or Carol before they go to the police if they do not get an answer at church. Chris worked with the police to have the fines waived which were over \$700. Carol is going through the list of people who have codes and make sure they understand the alarm system and have a card and get retrained. She has cancelled codes for those no longer needing them and let those people know. The outstanding keys for those no longer needing them have been returned.

The \$10,000 bequest has been transferred into unrestricted funds. Chris Wilson is working on something for people who are doing their wills.

Women’s Goup - will be meeting Saturday, February 18.

Scholarship – is making soups for a fundraiser. It will be cold soup to go – Corn Chowder, Chicken Noodle, and Ten-Spice Vegetable.

Vote – the hour mark had passed. Carol Rivard and Chris Wilson were voted in as members of the Trustees.

Finance – One of the ideas to raise funds for the church was to find further uses of the building. A subgroup of Tim as Chair, Jackie, Jeanette and Luisa will meet to develop ideas. They need to help Carla on Stewardship as she has some new ideas regarding year-round conversations. There was discussion on the budget. Mary moved to accept as presented. Jackie seconded and it was passed. Tim went over the January statement. He pointed out the oil bill was mostly paid with \$2000 which was donated for the purpose.

Next Meeting – Thursday after Easter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Rogers