

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2017**

Present: Pastor Kim, Jeanette Baker, Carla Heister, Tim Kraus, Lynn Limeburner, Mary Rogers, Chris Wilson, Jill Wilson, Christa Zaldivar

Excused: Luisa Gladu, Chris Kingsbury, Jackie Palance, Matti Verzino

Opening devotional: Carla – Writings of Martin Luther

Group/Committee Reports

Mary - **Worship & History Committees**

- Founders Day – November 5
- Upcoming potluck lunches planned

Christa – **Education Committee**

- At Sept. 17th Rally Day, 15 children enrolled in Sunday School
- Upcoming hike to Tories Den, Oct. 14

Tim – **Finance Committee**

- “We are in a good place now”. Assets are in the black with Middle Agers support; increased pledges; no surprises in expenses. Apportionments are paid through June.

Suggestions:

- For the budget line item “Building Fund”, designate this for maintenance and repair, not capital property needs.
- Craft three-year budgets instead of one-year budgets, which would allow for unforeseen expenses.

New Business:

- We could hang signs over thermostats, “Please turn down thermostat when leaving building”.
- Consider purchasing new books for our library, especially children’s books. Book titles TBD. If a book proves to be “worthy”, we could purchase several and sell for profit.
- How can we keep Helen Camarce in our consciousness? Suggestions: Make a video with congregation singing “Bind us Together”; ask her to send a video message to us that can be shown on the sanctuary screen; have a fund raiser or special offering to pay our commitment to her mission.
- We need to thank those who contributed to the 144 Campaign and/or UMCOR.
- UMCOR has designated three CT churches to train for disaster response and be proactive. They have a video we can show. We could consider asking for a second donation for recent disasters.
- Is it time to consider committee restructuring/merging?

Family Promise:

Jeanette presented an overview of Family Promise of Central CT, whose mission is to provide housing for homeless families in transition. Family Promise keeps families together during the search for employment and housing, as opposed to splitting them up while staying at various shelters. The First Congregation Church of Bristol (FCC) has volunteered to serve as a host church, and PUMC will serve as a support team for FCC. FCC will host up to 16 people for five days, every 13 weeks (or 4 times/year). The “guests” will arrive at 6:00 pm, stay overnight, have breakfast and leave with a bag lunch at 6:30 am. The number of guests will change each weekly session.

The FCC team has received training on how to interact with the guests, i.e. helping with homework, chatting, serving meals. Two FCC members will remain overnight with the guests.

As a support team, PUMC will provide entrees two evenings a week—Jeanette will be looking for volunteers to prepare and drop off meals. We also will provide items such as cereal and snacks. We could give grocery store Scrip cards for purchase of perishables.

This will be a great opportunity for all in our congregation to participate in one way or another. The first group of guests will arrive on Mon., Sept. 25th. Mary will prepare an entrée for that week. Jeanette will post a sign-up list and create an email distribution list. **How will you participate?**

Pastor’s Time –

- One concentration of our ministry is to be a welcoming church. Are we succeeding? The best answer might come from asking a new member if they’re feeling the love!
- It’s time to invite our Summer and Center St. neighbors to church, by way of postcards, knocking on doors, invite them to coffee hour, etc. Make them aware of church activities.
- The next church conference is Sat., January 13th, 11:00-12:30. SPR will meet at 10:30 that day.

Closing Prayer