

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2015**

Present: Diane Ashworth, Lang Ashworth, Carla Heister, Bill Katt, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Terry Parker, Sue Powers, John Rioux, Joyce Rioux, Carol Rivard, Pastor Sorozon, Jill Wilson,

Excused: Gary Gladu, Luisa Gladu, Beth Provost, Bill Thibodeau, Christa Zaldivar

Opening: Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm. Opening prayer - Diane.

I. Updates and/or new items:

- Approval of April minutes; seconded and accepted.
- **The recent Annual Conference:** Attendees reported that the question of marriage equality was discussed. The issue passed in the legislative session, and then the plenary session. After discussions regarding changing the disciplinary language and the gay marriage issue, both were endorsed by NYAC. These issues will be brought up and voted on at the 2016 Annual Conference. Tim mentioned that they brought back some “official” articles about these issues. He thinks it would be good for PUMC members to engage in discussions regarding sexuality.
- **Our Nursery:** Jackie wonders if it is a waste of money to pay someone to “babysit” the one or two children who are currently attending. Joyce believes that children that age need religious teaching. If we had competent and nurturing staff, perhaps more parents would be inclined to bring their children. One problem is that 2 hr/wk doesn’t attract the type of instructor we are looking for. Pastor Bob said that the issue could be discussed at the next SPC get-together on July 12th.
- The church lawyer recommends we should run background checks on any scout troop leaders with affiliation to PUMC. Also, any groups using our building should be “monitored” for behavior—we could be held liable for unfortunate incidents.
- Jackie will look into the possibility of having her employer provide us with discounted merchandise with PUMC’s name. These items could be passed out at upcoming civic events.
- Beginning July 5 and through August we will have one worship service beginning at 9:00 am in the sanctuary. This service will be 30-40 min. long, and communion will be served each Sunday.
- Some upcoming events: 7/12 – Hawaiian shirt Sunday; 8/9 - Mini golf; 8/30 – Ice cream social

II. Reports

Carol –

- A suggestion has been made to turn the big refrigerator and freezer off while being unused. They need to investigate further to see how much would be saved by doing that.
- The portfolio is good!
- The clock tower should be repaired by now.

Tim –

- We are paid up on apportionments and are on target for income and expenses.
- Half of the expense of our alarm system was paid by the District. Supt. Keifer was instrumental in pushing this through. FYI – Only 20 of 70 area UMC churches contribute to Dimchecks – PUMC being one of them!

Lastly, we watched a video about creating positive thoughts and actions as we attempt to attract old members to return to church and new members to be interested in what we’re all about. The key word – *possibilities!*

Our next council meeting will be on August 18th.