

**Prospect United Methodist
Church Council Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2015**

Present: Diane Ashworth, Lang Ashworth, Vivian Bracket, Carla Heister, Bill Katt, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Terry Parker, Sue Powers, Carol Rivard, Pastor Sorozon, Jill Wilson, Christa Zaldivar.

Excused: Gary Gladu, Luisa Gladu, Beth Provost, John Rioux, Joyce Rioux

Opening: Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm. "Mission of UMC" read by Diane.

Updates and/or new items: Have cleaning coordinator – needs to be confirmed.

This meeting was a brain-storming session to find ways to create interest and membership in our church. We followed an outline and discussed the following:

To potential new members -- Instead of passing judgment, ask "How can I help?" Use non-confrontational words, and to treat others as you would a member of your family.

Other organizations are facing recruitment issues—i.e. volunteer fire departments, service organizations etc. UMC church membership is down. What we can take from this is that we need to focus on our strengths and what we do for people—no negative thinking!!

We need to remember, "**Don't take yourself too seriously!**"

In response to the question concerning good things that have happened recently at PUMC, we listed:

Children's Day	Mission support	Good response to special offerings
Church visitors	Power of pennies	New security system
Children's sermons	Sermons	PUMC choirs
Easter music/Brass quintet	Lenten film series	After service fellowship time
Renaissance Dinner	PUMC's paid apportionments	Varying Lenten communions
Four new members	Good response to special offerings	Compassion
Bob Montgomery's garden	PUMC better off financially than 2014	

Our current community service includes:

Prayer shawls	Relay for Life	"Done in a Day"
Summer lunch packs	VBS	Soup Kitchen (formerly)

Future community event opportunities for involvement:

Rockwell Park church festival in August	Mum Festival
Parades	Relay for Life

Communication: To make the community aware of PUMC events it was suggested that in addition to our sandwich boards, we use lawn signs like those recently used for the Renaissance Fair. We could somehow improve our website for listing events. PUMC could really use a new laptop and computer system!

The following suggestions were made:

Jill – We should hone the focus of our activity and have good follow-up. Simplify—choose i.e. two activities instead of five. We need a focal point—what we want to be known for—what we're about.

We should consider spending our monthly council meeting time discussing these issues instead of committee reports. The reports could be emailed in instead.

Diane – We need to set a time frame for our goals.

The list of "good things" listed above should be shown on the sanctuary screen.

We could invite the community in for a monthly meal and song event.

Pastor Bob – We could offer to the community something like knitting lessons.

Jackie – We need to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. A good thought to end our meeting!!