

**Prospect United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2022**

**Present:** Pastor Lee, Rita Fasci, Luisa Gladu, Carla Heister, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Art Paul, Chris Wilson

I. Opening meditation – Pastor Lee. Grace and forgiveness (from Upper Room).

II. Approval of May Council minutes.

**III. Committee Updates**

**Middle Agers** – Luisa

- Relay for Life, June 4-5. Team Prospect brought in over \$5000 for the American Cancer Society.
- Bristol Mum Festival, September Still looking for a flat-bed truck or a trailer for a parade float. Deadline to enter is September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Future Family Fun nights in August and October.
- Breakfast with Santa, December 10<sup>th</sup>,
- PUMC Open House December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Music** – Heidi

- Shoreline Ringers concert on June 5<sup>th</sup> was fantastic and well attended .
- Last choir sing will be June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Trustees** – Chris

- A contractor will fix ceiling tiles damaged during a roof leak.
- Portfolio has so far withstood market variability.
- Brian's Angels' new lease will include a rent increase due to higher utility rates and other costs.
- Trustees have been discussing ways to access some funds that have lied dormant or have been endowed with restrictions. Some options are:
  - a. Board of Trustees "could" make these decisions and still be considered "safe".
  - b. Run a 3- to 5-year average, and take up to 4% per year.
  - c. Approach Probate Court and ask to have "xyz" funds released.
- Chris approached the Council with a proposal that the Trustees could reach out to Asbury and Plainville UMC's with the suggestion of forming a co-op to share resources. The issue was discussed, and Council voted in favor of the proposal.

**Finance** -Tim

- We are barely keeping our head above water.
- The "old" nursery fund's money is in a CD, and while it well take time, Finance is planning to get out of that.
- We need to have better communication with the congregation to keep them informed about the church's financial situation. Concerns to put forth:
  - a. Stewardship analysis – Think and plan ahead
  - b. Congregation's giving patterns
  - c. How and when to plan better
  - d. Provide realistic ideas: i.e., how to pay a large oil bill
  - e. Explain Trustee's portfolio.

As a way of getting the message out, it is proposed that Finance and Trustees give a 15- to 20-minute after-church presentation, perhaps in September. These matters should also be included in The Tower and on the church's website.

**IV, Pastors Time**

- Pastor's summer vacation Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- NYAC/UMC is experiencing a depletion of pastors. More pastors are retiring than are being ordained. This will result in the Bishop appointing pastors to serve as "Parish Pastors" instead of to a dedicated church, and the Parish as a whole will support that pastor. Pastors won't have time to tend to the individual needs of each church, and that's why it is important that Lay Servants be trained now to assist with the church's future day-to-day needs. We'll need to change our concept of the ministry system.
- NYAC has redistricted their parishes, and PUMC is now in the Central CT Parish, consisting of Asbury UMC, Avon, Bakerville, Litchfield, Plainville, and Prospect UMC. Our Parish Coordinator is Rev. Sun Joo Lee..

IV, Adjourning Prayer – Pastor Lee

Next meeting - September