

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2022**

Present: Pastor Lee, Rita Fasci, Luisa Gladu, Carla Heister, Chris Wilson, Jill Wilson, Christa Zaldivar, Beth Provost

- I. Opening meditation – Pastor Lee. (Upper Room).
- II. Approval of June Council minutes, with one correction – The PUMC Open House is scheduled for Friday, December 16, 6-8 pm.

III. Committee Updates

Middle Ages – Luisa Gladu

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10. Money raised will go toward the General Fund.

We are hoping to have the Renaissance Dinner this year, scheduled for April 29 and May 6 of 2023. This will depend on how much help will be available.

Relay for Life will be held the first weekend of June next year. Our team is already signed up. It will again be held at Norton Park in Plainville.

Trustees – Chris Wilson

The contract with Brian's Angels has been renewed, and their donation has been increased to \$1,200 monthly. The contract with Smetana Food Truck has also been renewed with a monthly increase of \$100. They are using the downstairs kitchen 3 days per week.

All support groups have been asked to increase their donations by \$10 per month, and the Bristol Brass & Winds will also be asked to increase their donation.

Education – Christa Zaldivar

There were 8 children who attended on Rally Day. We will continue to have 3 classes for Sunday School for the different age groups. There were 24 children who attended VBS this summer.

The next event will be the UNICEF collection in October.

Pastor's Time

A new membership class began on Sept. 14. One candidate is attending, Mali Nunley.

A Bible Study class will begin in October, 4 sessions at 10:00 a.m. on Oct. 5, 12, 26 and Nov 2. An evening class will also begin in October. Textbook: "Holy Love: A Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality" (Abington Press)

A joint Confirmation class will begin in October 2022 through May 2023. We will combine with Asbury UMC.

New Membership Ceremony will be held on Laity Sunday, October 23.

A Pet Blessing service will be on October 30, 2:00 pm at PUMC

Pastor will attend the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) Worship Committee Meeting Oct. 18-22 in San Francisco.

Parish Council Meeting via Zoom will be on Sept. 22 (Thursday) at 6pm. Two representatives from our church will attend.

The Parish Charge Conference will be held in person this year on Sunday, November 20, 2:30-4:00 pm. Pastor Lee asked for permission to have the charge conference at PUMC. Permission was given and a discussion followed concerning what rooms would be used for meetings by other parish churches attending.

A Narrative Budget Seminar via Zoom will be held on Thursday, Sept. 29, 7:00pm. Treasurers, Finance Chair and Finance secretary are urged to participate.

Finance – Beth Provost

The Stewardship drive for 2023 will begin the third week of October and end on Thanksgiving Sunday, Giving Sunday.

We discussed data compiled pertaining to past documented contributions made to PUMC. In 2008 241 contributors made financial contributions to support the church. In 2022, 90 contributors were recorded. Data broken down by the number of contributors by annual giving totals showed that 49 people gave in the 0-\$500 range, 15 gave in the \$501-\$1000 range, 16 people giving \$1000-\$2000, decreasing to 1 person giving 7000-8000 annually. Data was also discussed regarding the age of givers, showing that the majority of the largest givers were 80 and over.

Pledge income is running ahead of last year. Total income received through August was \$93,500.

On the expense side we have not paid Apportionments for the last 5 months, in addition to a -\$9,800 deficit of unrestricted net assets.

We have discussed ways of how to close this deficit in this inflationary environment. It was suggested that more community events involving the church could raise money to help offset this. The committee plans to hold a church-wide meeting and disperse more information about the church's financial issues.

Adjourning Prayer – Pastor Lee

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20.

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Worship Committee Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2022**

Present: Pastor Lee, Matti Verzino, Carol Rivard, Jerry Rivard, Christa Zaldivar, Beth Provost, Heidi Flower

Opening Prayer: Pastor Lee

It was decided that Announcements made by the lay leaders would only include any new events or announcement that were not in the Bulletin. The congregation will be reminded to read the bulletin for current announcements and meetings.

There was a discussion regarding returning to having Communion at the rail. It was decided to have communion at the Rail in November with an usher handing the bread to communicants using tongs, having a tray of cups spaced out so That each communicant can take their own cup. One person would follow with a basket to collect the cups.

In October, as we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 2, we will form a circle in the front of the church and use the disposable wine/bread cups.

There will be a baptism on October 2, two children of Emily Faust Ruzzi. We will return to putting an insert in the bulletin With information about the family. We will also sing "Child of Blessing" at the conclusion of the baptism.

Laity Sunday will be held on October 23. Pastor Lee will be returning from a GBOD workshop in San Francisco the night before, and Tim Krauss will preach the sermon. We will celebrate New Members that Sunday.

Heidi announced that she will be away for 2 Sundays in December -Dec. 4 & 11. Amy Kelley will sub those days.

There will be a Pet Blessing Service on October 30, and also collection for UNICEF. There will be an in-person pet blessing at the church either Sat. afternoon Oct. 29 or 30th. TBD
We will also have a Pot Luck Luncheon after service on October 30.

Our Parish Charge Conference will be held Sunday, November 20 at 2:00 here at PUMC. Churches within our Parish group will attend.

A discussion of the Christmas Eve service was held. One service was held last year at 7:00 pm. It was decided to wait To make that decision until a future time.

Next meeting will be on Sunday, October 9.