

**Prospect United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2023**

**Present:** Pastor Lee, Chris Wilson, Jill Wilson, Sue Powers, Susan Thayer, Beth Provost, Carol Rivard, Tim Krauss, Kathy Dube

Opening meditation – Jill Wilson

Minutes from the February and April meetings were accepted.

Jill Wilson reported that Helen Camarce, our Missionary, will be preaching here at PUMC on July 9. She is hoping that our church can host something to include our Parish churches so they can meet Helen and get to know her. This information needs to be advertised in the weekly bulletin and in the Tower. Pastor Lee will share this information with the other Parish clergy.

**Under Old Business,** Beth Provost reported that the Boy Scout money still being held in our account, \$987.82, will be made available to parishioners to help finance boy scout and girl scout camping and Methodist church camping.

**Finance** reported that all bills are paid through April and Apportionments are paid through March. April apportionment will be paid within the next week. Our heating oil fund has grown to approximately \$7,700 through donations and fundraisers.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor will be at NYAC from June 9-11 for Annual Conference. Jeanette Baker will be the guest speaker on June 11. Pastor Lee will be on a Korean American Pastors retreat from Aug. 14-17 in Delaware.

Pastor spoke about the Church Strategy Plan – for the past 2 years we have worshiped online and in person; working toward healing and building relationships with church members; and that presently we have returned to normal life after Covid with church attendance up and groups and programs continuing as pre-Covid.

As we go forward 2023-2026:

Outreach and Evangelism: developing more outreach programs such as Renaissance Dinner Party, Breakfast with Santa, Mum Festival, VBS, etc.

Nurturing & Fellowship: various small groups – Arts and Crafts, Book club, senior luncheons, lay servants, lay leaders, Oikos group, Women's Bible study group, walking group, prayer group, etc.

Discipleship: small group leaders, prayer school (fall), etc.

Pastor reported that we will have a guest speaker on Sunday, May 28, Rev. Joshuel Kim a missionary from India will speak.

Tim reported on the Council of Bishops Zoom meeting with Bishop Bickerton. It was reported that 2000 church have left the United Methodist Church overall, with the majority of them not going to the new Global Methodist Ministry. Most churches have changed to independent churches. Tim reported that the evening was positive overall. Tim reminded us that even though there are changes within the church, we should stay focused on our Ministry and our community.

Pastor spoke about our Cooperative Parish meetings and how church within the Parish are changing. A question was asked about our involvement in the Parish and how we can learn more about what the Parish is doing. Pastor reported that the Parish meets once a month and separate department meetings take place as scheduled. It was suggested that a report should be submitted to Council monthly and that the Parish representatives should be part of the Council. It was also agreed that the congregations needs to receive more information about the Parish.

Tim led a discussion regarding our Strategic Planning –

1. Building relations with each other – small groups such as the recent walking group, another date should be set for May.
2. Community Connections – Find out what is needed in our community
3. Prayer – Tim suggested that a small group engage in text or messenger connections to send inspirational prayer to each other.

The meeting ended with a discussion of how to handle future changes within the UMC and our church parish and that some people may not be happy with these changes. We discussed how to have conversations with parishioners who have negative thoughts about these changes.

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 15, 2023

Beth Provost