

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2023**

Present: Mary Rogers, Luisa Gladu, Chris Wilson, Jill Wilson, Susan Powers, Susan Thayer, Beth Provost, Christa Zaldivar, Tim Krauss, Kathy Dube, Beth Provost

Opening meditation – Susan Thayer

Minutes from the June and July meetings were accepted.

Mary Rogers reported from the Nurture Committee that she had sent out about 30 cards to members over the summer. The Nurture Team also makes about 12-15 home visits each quarter.

Luisa Gladu reported on the Middle Ages that they were making plans for Breakfast with Santa on December 9, the Open House on December 15th. They will also be assisting Carolyn Brown with a fundraiser on September 30, Stroke OTC.

Trustees report from Chris Wilson stated that the oil tank issues had been resolved. Two smaller tanks have been installed in the garage. They are also exploring what would entail to switch to natural gas in the future. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is now meeting in the sanctuary on Saturdays. They understand that if a church function, such as funeral, etc. is scheduled for a Saturday, they would meet downstairs in the dining room.

Jill Wilson reported for Faith in Action about Helen Camarce's visit to PUMC. We also have increased our commitment to her from \$500 to \$1,000 per year in 2024.

Jill also reported from SPR regarding changing the pastor to something less than 100%. This will be discussed at the Finance meeting next week, along with planning the budget and what changes can be made.

Susan Powers reported that there are about 270 members presently, 50 of which are active members. She described the discipline for inactive members as those who do not attend church and do not support the church financially. They are sent a letter asking if they wish to continue being a member, and those who do not respond receive a second and third letter each year for 3 years, and then are removed as members if they do not respond.

Susan Thayer reported for Lay Leaders, they are trying to cut back on the number of announcements on Sunday morning. Carolyn Brown is recuperating from surgery and is expected to return in September to her duties.

Christa Zaldivar reported for Education that there has not been any Sunday school during the summer as no children have been in church. VBS went great in June with approximately 20 children attending. Rally Day will be September 10 with a cookout.

Beth Provost reported for Finance that presently there are no issues and that bills are paid through July.

Kathy Dube reported for History that the pastor's Gallery portraits were being updated to add missing dates, new labels and add Pastor Lee's portrait. Work is being done by Diversified Engraving in Bristol.

Mary reported she had spoken to Vivian Brackett about having a dedication of the Bell Tower on Heritage Sunday, September 17. She would also like to present another History Talk in the near future.

Tim Krauss gave out reports for the financials for July. We discussed budget changes going forward. It is unknown how the apportionments will change for next year with changes happening in the church conference.

Coming events:

Rockwell Park Festival Sat. August 19 – Faith in Action will have a table handing out information about the church and giving prayer squares to visitors

Parish news – About 50 people attended the Peace March on August 13.

Tim led a discussion regarding our Strategic Planning –
Building relations with each other, Community Connections and Prayer.

He handed out an article about Ministry in Small Churches and we discussed reorganizing/restructuring our governance model. We need to streamline our meetings to address the fact that the same people are attending most of the meetings.

The meeting ended with a discussion that change is needed, our priorities need to be a main focus. We discussed coming up with a Mission that the whole church could focus on together and point all of our activities toward that idea. This may mean we need to eliminate some activities that we enjoy.

At the next meeting we will discuss ideas for a new Governance model and a mission project to focus on.

Next meeting will be Thursday, September 21, 2023

Beth Provost