

Finance Meeting Minutes  
Prospect United Methodist Church  
September 14, 2023

In Attendance: Tim Krauss, Pastor Yongyeun Lee, Chairman Arthur Paul,  
Beth Provost, Don Titus, Chris Wilson, and Jill Wilson

Minutes From Last Meeting: The minutes from the meeting of August 24, 2023 were approved as written.

Old Business: Attention was given to finalizing the 2024 PUMC preliminary budget that was formulated at the meeting of August 24, 2023. Tim Krauss related he was able to reduce the \$28,251 deficit to \$27,251 by adjusting some figures. This budget includes the \$32,000 granted by the Board of Trustees from the sale of restricted funds in the PUMC endowment (4%). It also includes the anticipated interest and dividends from the endowment that have been used to pay monthly expenses to run the church. The 2024 budget projects the reception of \$85,000 from 100 pledges (-6.6% decrease) and \$9,000 from non-pledge regular givers (-40% decrease). How to close the budget gap of \$27,251 was the focus of the Committee with regard to new business.

New Business: The Committee felt PUMC could not ask a congregation with aging members on fixed incomes to give much more. Younger people do not always come to church and are burdened with expenses that make it hard for them to increase their giving. The needs of an aging church building and parsonage make it very difficult to cut expenses in those areas.

Therefore, the conversation turned to the feasibility of hiring a part-time pastor to reduce the deficit. A full-time pastor would cost the church \$88,076 for 2024 (salary, pension, health insurance, and other benefits). This would jump to \$90,129 if the elder pastor had 25+ years experience and was on the highest point of a minimum salary scale. A 3/4-time pastor would cost \$67,597. A 1/2-time pastor with elder status at the highest minimum salary level would cost \$35,465. These figures would increase beyond 2024.

Chris Wilson moved that the Finance Committee should recommend that PUMC change from a full-time pastor to a half-time pastor for 2024 and go to the Church Council with this proposal. Beth Provost seconded the motion.. The Committee discussed this motion at length. There

was concern that it would be "difficult to grow the church " with a half-time pastor. Would parishioners leave if they did not get the services enjoyed under full-time pastors--counseling, pastoral visits, funerals, weddings, baptisms, and other support? Are there strong part-time ministers available for our church, and how much say would PUMC have in their selection?

Faced with the \$27,251 budget gap and the prospect that expenses would continue to increase without income growing at the pace needed in future years, the Committee voted 6-0 to send the proposal to the Church Council for their consideration. The proposal is a recommendation on the part of the Finance Committee based largely on financial data. The Church Council, Charge Conference, and General Conference in White Plains would have to approve this before it went into effect.

Discussion also took place about the sale of the parsonage if PUMC went to a half-time pastor. The appraised value of 50 Ohler Drive was estimated to be \$378,000 in 2022. Proceeds would stay with our church and could be placed in a special fund. Pastor Lee mentioned that many ministers prefer a housing allowance rather than a parsonage. He also emphasized that he was fully supportive of what was best for the members and future of Prospect Church. As a pastor with elder status, he is entitled to a full-time pastoral position somewhere in the General Conference.

Carol Rivard's request for a Days-For-Girls fund-raiser was approved. Pie sales will occur in November. Some of the money will be used to pay fuel expenses and support our missionary in Cambodia.

**Financial Report:** Tim Krauss reported that pledges and general offerings for August were a little behind last year (year-to-date). Expenses were about \$15,000 more than last year (year-to-date). However, the PUMC apportionment for June, July, and August needs to be paid. Unrestricted Net Assets stood at -\$6,591.25 (spendable cash) . \$6,562 was in the Building Fund and \$6,562 was in the Roberts Fund through August.

**Next Meeting:** The Finance Committee will meet Thursday, 10/12/23 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Titus