

Prospect United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2024

**Present:** Paster Lee, Melissa Brown, Kathy Dube, Heidi Flower, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Beth Provost, Sue Powers, Carol Rivard, Sue Thayer, Mattie Verzino, Christa Zaldivar

**I. Opening meditation** – Sue Thayer

**II. No Old Business**

**III New Business**

- Carol – We have discontinued our security system.
- The plow person needs be reminded to clear the sidewalk from the parking lot to the Sessions Hall door.
- We are down three trustees; we need to appoint 2-3 replacements,
- Melissa would like to hear a sermon on prayer and have prayer seminars.

**IV Pastor's Report**

- Pastor's focus is a lay leadership-centered ministry.
- He has three action plans—prayer, strengthen small groups, and outreach.
- He wants to train lay leaders, and reappoint class leaders due to losses.
- Pastor will attend a conference in So. Korea at the end of April.

**V, Part-time Pastor**

As decided prior to November's Charge Conference, PUMC will have a half-time paster beginning July 1, 2024. (It will unlikely be a shared appointment). A half-time appointment doesn't require us to provide health care insurance and a pension. In consideration of that, the DS has asked Tim if we would be willing to pay a higher pastoral salary.

A motion was put forth that, as requested by the DS, as of July 1, 2024 and beyond PUMC will be willing to pay a higher half-time salary (up to \$35,000) provided we aren't responsible for paying health care benefits and pension. (Housing will be negotiated). The motion was seconded. Eleven people voted in favor, no dissenters.

**VI. Parish News**

Prior to the Parish Charge Conference in November the DS met with our Parish Staff Committee. The Committee's concern was to set aside our financial concerns and to focus on ministry. DS asked the committee to think about what Conference resources we could avail ourselves in the future. Melissa felt that the DS and the committee weren't on the same page. Jackie noted that he still wants us to spend our restricted funds.

Cooperative Parish needs a second representative for parish council. Sue Thayer has volunteered to be one.

**VII, Reorganization of Committee Team Structure – Target date January 1, 2025**

The goal is to create a simplified, accountable structure. Why make a change? We need to make life easier with fewer people to assume roles.

Tim introduced a SWOT analysis, which identifies strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The purpose is to better understand why we need to do something different.

A way of accomplishing this would be to condense Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, Finance and Council into one leadership board, thus eliminating separate bodies. We could form ministry boards under that.

Sue P noted that in order to gain a broader understanding of the vision, the congregation should be encouraged to read, "Mission: Possible for the Small Church" by Katy Kotan and Blake Bradford. Heidi wondered if a portion of our worship services could be devoted to explaining the book. Pastor suggested that the first phase could be with the leaders, then sharing with others. Tim added that a subcommittee/discernment team could be formed .

**VIII. Closing Prayer** – Pastor Lee

**Next Council Meeting – February 16, 2024**