

Prospect United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
October 19,, 2023

**Present:** Paster Lee, Kathy Dube, Carla Heister, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Colleen Mack, Jackie Palance, Sue Powers, Carol Rivard, Mary Rogers, Sue Thayer, Mattie Verzino, Chris Wilson, Jill Wilson, Christa Zaldivar

**I. Opening meditation** – Sue Powers – ‘Answers from Quietness’, from “Each Day A New Beginning” by Darlene Larson Jenks

**II. Approval of August and September Council minutes** – Approved

**III Old Business**

Several copies of “Mission: Possible for the Small Church” by Katy Kotan and Blake Bradford have been purchased and are available to borrow from the church office.

**IV New Business**

- No events requiring council action
- Middle Agers. Some people are unhappy that decorations for theatrical productions are not promptly removed. Chris feels the decorations should be removed no later than the next day, Carol relayed a conversation she had with Luisa regarding Breakfast with Santa and the size and scope of the event.. A compromise could not be reached, and Luisa decided to cancel it. Jill added that Santa should not be promoted in a church. It was also mentioned that fewer Christmas trees will be displayed.

**V Pastor’s Report**

- Class Meetings. Six classes have been formed, and the leaders are Jeanette, Corey, Sue Thayer, Carolyn Brown, Alex, and Ohyeun. Tim is the coordinator. Classes meet every other week.
- Prayer Seminars. These will be held for five weeks, beginning Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The theme is “21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible”. Meetings are scheduled for Thursday mornings, 10:00 am, parsonage, and Friday evenings (7:00 pm) via Zoom. A textbook is needed – “21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible”, (\$10.00).
- Parish Events.  
Parish Advent Service, Sun., Dec. 3, 2:00 pm, First UMC, Torrington  
Parish Living Nativity, Sun., Dec. 17, time TBD, Memorial UMC< Avon .

**VI. Stewardship Campaign 2023**

It was suggested that we should be more assertive in encouraging the congregation to increase their pledges,. Pastor Lee noted that if 70 families each gave \$500 more per year it would cover the \$30,000 deficit in 2024. Jackie noted that families living with a tight budget could have difficulty finding an extra \$500. Tim pointed out that the deficit in 2025 is projected to be \$33,639, and in 2026 could be \$42,181.

**VII Church Conference**

- Jill made a motion to hold a church conference on Sunday, Nov. 12, after Sunday service. Carla seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and unanimously approved. An elder will need to preside.
- At the church conference a presentation will be made regarding the budget and possible change to a half=time pastor appointment. This will provide an opportunity for discussion and questions. A vote will then be taken regarding the 2024 budget. Anyone can participate in the discussion, but only a PUMC member can vote. The budget needs to be decided that day so that a fully documented budget statement can be presented at the Charge Conference on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. The DS will need to be advised, in writing, on behalf of the council, but his response is not required.

**VIII, Charge Conference**

- The annual Charge Conference will be held Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:00 pm, PUMC. Pastor Lee will preside.
- All committee reports are due Nov. 12
- The Charge Conference will be held in lieu of November council meeting.

**IX. Strategic Planning Update**

Community Connections.- Jill will speak to Corey about drafting a blanket template on behalf of the church regarding our anti-racism support. It will be to be released as situations warrant. The statement will be voted on at Dec. council meeting.

**Closing Prayer** – Sue Powers (Franciscan Blessing)

**Next Council meeting date - Charge Conf. Nov. 16**