

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

Present: Kathy Dube, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Sue Powers, Beth Provost, Carol Rivard, Sue Thayer

1. Opening Prayer – Tim
2. February council meeting minutes. Motion to approve, seconded.
3. March 3rd town meeting minutes. Motion to approve, seconded.
4. **Old Business.**
 - The consolidation of bank accounts will be completed within the next two weeks.
 - Vote to remove current names from Stewards Fund Acct and add new signers (Tim and Beth). Motion to approve, seconded. All in attendance voted in favor.
5. **New Business**
 - Request by Sue Powers to hold a fund-raising dinner on April 27th. Request approved.
 - Trustees (Carol) – A question regarding a donation was answered with instruction as how to proceed.
 - Trustees (Carol) – An outside drain needs cleaning, and a contractor will be asked to examine possible leakage of sanctuary roof.
 - Trustees (Carol) - Trustees have been approached by Eversource with a project proposal to change out 334 of our fluorescent lights with LED lights and their fixtures. The price tag will be \$33,645; however, (1) CT Energy Resources, who help nonprofits to lower their electric bills, will give us \$16,000, (2) ECO will give us \$1000 toward the cost, and (3) to cover the balance Eversource will give us an interest-free 5-year loan. The savings on our electric bill will repay the loan. A motion was made to accept, and all present voted to take advantage of this offer.
 - The nursery person has resigned. Some thought needs to be given if this paid position should be continued.
6. **Reorganization of Committee and Ministry Structure: Move to Simplified, Accountable Structure (SAS).**
 - Tim will clarify if Rev. Ott from Simsbury UMC is our “official” coach
 - SAS ad hoc team met on Apr.16th. They looked at our current structure in today’s world and the cumbersome nature of that. The group agreed that there is need for accountability, to set goals and alignment of our church’s vision and missionary plans. There is a sample SAS organizational chart in the Mission: Possible book that we could focus on.
 - It was suggested that we set a date for another “town meeting”, possibly after service on May 19th, to keep lines of communication open.
7. **Transition to half-time pastor appointment**
 - DS might bring a possible new pastor to the next SPRC meeting to meet with lay leaders and Annual Conf lay members.
 - With the goal of building a framework of expectations for a half-time pastor, the following topics were raised for consideration:
 - What ministries would we want from a part-time pastor?
 - Weddings, funerals, confirmation classes, new members classes.
 - Communion. While lay leaders can distribute elements, the elements must be previously blessed.
 - Visitations to hospital and house-bound.
 - Do we want pastor to spend a lot of time preparing Sunday services? Can we put more responsibility on lay leaders?
 - Should we eliminate 8:30 service? Should we change time of 10:00 service?
 - Can we streamline meetings that pastor attends, thus freeing up his/her time somewhat?
 - Can we expect community involvement from pastor (i.e. Brian’s Angels)?
 - Can we set expectations for involvement in church functions?
 - Who will take over the audio-visual work during service? We need to think about a new Zoom account.
8. **Parish, District, NYAC and General Conference News**
 - The 225th session of the NYAC will be held June 7-9 at the Hilton Stamford Hotel. Carla and Tim will attend.
 - General Conference will be held April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC. To learn what is being decided at conference, NYAC website has a “Press Center” option to click on
9. Closing Prayer – Sue Powers

Future PUMC church council meetings – May 16th and June 20th.