

**Prospect United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2024**

**Present:** Pastor Carol Bloom, Melissa Brown, Kathy Dube, Heidi Flower, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Sue Powers, Carol Rivard, Mary Rogers, Sue Thayer, Matti Verzino, Jill Wilson, Christa Zaldivar

1. **Welcome and introduction** for Rev. Carol Bloom, Pastor of Grace UMC in Southington and Mid-state Parish Coordinator
2. **Opening Meditation** – Tim. A selection from Upper Room, “Burdens”
3. **June council meeting minutes.** – Motion to accepted, seconded. Approved.
- 4, **Old Business** -\_None
- 5 **New Business**

Heidi and Sue P proposed that we commit to Brian’s Angels that we will provide monthly meals consisting of sandwiches, water, chips and bananas. We could designate one Sunday a month after service to assemble the sandwiches. The Steward’s fund will provide funding. We should encourage the congregation to contribute to the Steward’s fund, either by the monthly collection envelopes or by a collection box in Sessions Hall. his proposal was voted on and accepted unanimously.

Tim presented the Treasurer’s Report. He advises that it would be prudent for us to be good stewards of the money we’re currently not spending on pastoral expenses. This matter should be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

5. **Reorganization of Committee and Ministry Structure: Move to Simplified, Accountable Structure (SAS)**

Delay of Church Conference – Tim drafted a response letter to DS, and it is currently being reviewed.

Rev. Ott from Simsbury UMC has declined our request to serve as a transition coach and suggests we should be working within our own parish.

6. **Pastor Carol’s time**

Pastor Carol assured us that the parish will cover our needs until a half-time appointment can be made. They have created a tentative schedule of pastoral care assignments through June 2025. An elder will be provided for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday communion. Pastoral care is defined as hospital visits, emergencies (i.e. accidents), counseling, marriages and pre-marital counseling, baptism and pre-baptism visit, and funerals.

During this “no-pastor” period, we need to rethink a few of our traditions. The Thanksgiving ecumenical service should be hosted by another church this November. Our Christmas Eve service needs Plan B this year.

A few church office questions arose. We need to screen phone requests to speak to the pastor and decide whether a phone call or email to our weekly covering pastor is needed. The office voicemail message and website need revision (i.e. church service times). The office needs to stop giving money as handouts—this requires further thought.

The mid-state parish co-op meets every month, and the next meeting will be at PUMC on August 1, 10:30 am. We will provide coffee, water and snacks.

7. **Transition to Part-time Appointment**

We need to collect parish clergy pictures and biographies so our congregation can familiarize themselves with the leaders who will be assigned our church.

Copies of the book, “Part-time is Plenty” by G. Jeffrey MacDonald, are available in the church office. A book study will be scheduled.

Carol reported that the Trustees have unanimously voted that the parsonage should be sold, as is. The house simply needs too many replacements and repairs. She has secured extension of insurance coverage until February 2025. A motion was made at Council to move forward with correct steps to sell the parsonage with the provision that upon sale, funds will be restricted for housing allowance. All present voted in agreement, and the motion was passed. Carol will make the announcement to the congregation on Sunday, July 14. The announcement should be included in the Monday email update. Details will be forthcoming.

8. **Parish, District, NYAC & General Conference News**

Tim and Melissa will participate in the next Parish Council Meeting on July 23.

9. **Closing Prayer** – Mary

**Next Council meeting date – August 15, 2024.**