

Prospect United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2024

Present: Melissa Brown, Kathy Dube, Heidi Flower, Tim Krauss, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Sue Powers, Beth Provost, Carol Rivard, Mary Rogers, Sue Thayer, Matti Verzino, Christa Zaldivar

1. **Opening Meditation** – Tim. A selection from, “Part-Time is Plenty”.
2. **May council meeting minutes.** The sentence regarding the leadership board was amended to say, “consist of 6-15 members”. Motion to accept as amended, seconded. Approved.

3. **Old Business**

None

4. **New Business**

It was decided to forego the Rockwell Park Summer Fest this year.

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

The reorganization has been referred to by two names—Single Leadership Board and Simple Account Structure. The latter was chosen as the better descriptive name.

We need to have a church conference before we can form a leadership board. DS has asked us to postpone the conference until September. He wants to preside over this meeting himself and has failed to provide a needed elder to preside. We will give him two possible dates for rescheduling—September 8th or 15th. Tim will send a letter to DS within the week,

It was agreed that we should move forward during the summer with a leadership training plan--“Leadership and Nominations Development Committee”, Sue P will contact Rev. Ott for recommendations of a trainer.

As we transition and make decisions, it is crucial that we hold ourselves accountable.

6. **Transition to half-time appointment**

The congregation needs assurance that there are plans in the making for provision of worship services, communion, weddings, funerals visitations and counseling. Six pastors, six retired pastors and lay people are available to us. Communication between committees and the congregation is crucial if we are to succeed. Melissa and Tim will draft the first letter to share where we’re at presently and will be distributed by email and snail mail soon. Updates will be included in Beth’s weekly emailing and will also be placed near bulletins at Sunday services.

Rev. Carol Bloom, Mid-State Parish Coordinator and Pastor of Grace UMC in Southington, will be getting to know us better and will assist in our transition and questions that may arise. For example, the issue of pastoral compensation arose and how much to pay to deliver Sunday sermons. Rates discussed were \$300 for a pastor and outside lay people to receive \$150. (Funerals and wedding fees are paid by the families). Another question was how the office staff should handle phone calls. Rev. Bloom will help with such issues.

Mary mentioned that hospital and homebound visits can be handled by the Nurture Team, if requested. Communion cups can be distributed by her team, provided the cups have been blessed.

Parsonage: It was noted that insurance companies won’t cover vacant houses. Trustees needs to discuss this. Ohyeun will be in and out until July 18. We can handle short-term usage, and we could ask Rev. Bloom for long-term suggestions.

Ministry. We cannot forget our commitment to ministry--not only what we have in place (sandwiches and collections for Brian’s Angels, Jeanette’s snack packs), but to think about new possibilities. Finance could make a plan for the use of our surplus gained by no pastoral expenses.

Tim suggested that we could all benefit by reading “Part-time is Plenty” by G. Jeffrey MacDonald.

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

Tim and Melissa will participate in the next Zoom Parish Council Meeting 6/25/24.

8. **Closing Prayer – Sue P**

Next Council meeting date – July 11, 2024. Rev. Bloom will be invited.