

PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

January 29, 2026

Attendance: Mary Rogers, Laura Taylor, Michelle Cornish, Jerry Rivard, Carol Rivard, Christa Zaldivar, Wendy Carros, Beth Provost, Jackie Palance, Rita Fasci, Pastor Lee

Mary welcomed new members of the Board and welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Centering/Opening Prayer was given by Mary Rogers.

A motion was made to pass the October 23 minutes by Michelle Cornish, seconded by Mary Rogers; minutes were accepted.

Michelle Cornish reported on pledges. There were 38 pledges for 2025 for a total of \$68,364. A total of \$63,346 was received, as 14 pledges were not fulfilled completely. In 2026, we have received 27 pledges for a total of \$51,440. We also have several congregants who don't pledge, but are regular givers. Total amount of pledges and offerings received in 2025 was \$81,261.

Mary Rogers discussed Leadership Board responsibilities, including accountability by board members. Each member should know the responsibilities of each part of the board. Mary will present responsibilities of each part, Board responsibilities, finance, Trustee and Staff Parish each month.

She discussed visions, ministries and missions as the Leadership Board responsibilities.

New members of the Board were asked to sign the 2026 Covenant and it was decided that all members would also re-sign.

Beth Provost gave an end of year financial report. Tim Krauss had sent a Finance Summary showing that the General Operating Fund had a deficit of \$14,690 - \$179,720 income received, with \$182,693 of expenses. Our apportionments are paid up for Year 2025.

There was a discussion of the Heifer Project – a Parish fundraiser that PUMC is participating in, which raises funds to donate animals to farms around the world to provide self-sufficiency to poor communities. The parish goal is to raise \$5,000 through our 7 churches – this is the Ark Level – which would provide 2 of each animal to farms.

Laura Taylor reported on a fundraiser she would like to do to raise money for the Heifer Project. She will hold 2 cookie decorating classes in February (Valentine's Day) and March (St. Patrick's Day), charging \$15 per person. Ten people will participate in each class.

A motion was brought forward by Jackie Palance to accept this fundraiser, seconded by Beth Provost.

Our February soup sale profits will also go toward our Heifer Fundraiser.

Trustees

Jackie Palance was unanimously voted in as Trustee President. Jackie reported on the Parsonage. Immanual Lutheran has indicated to Jackie that they would like to buy our parsonage if we decided to sell it. This was discussed but we are not interested in selling it at this time.

There has been trouble with the furnace at the parsonage and it was determined that it needed to be cleaned. Quinoco will clean the furnace and we decided to buy the Service Plan from Quinoco for \$240 per year. A motion was made by Jackie to accept this purchase, seconded by Jerry Rivard. All in favor.

The person using the downstairs kitchen for his catering business may not use it for the full year and his contract was adjusted for this change.

Friday Night Freedom group asked if they could use the downstairs kitchen and dining room for an occasional dinner and dance with a DJ after their meeting. They requested that this could run until midnight. There was a discussion and it was decided this could be tried once on a trial basis, but it could only run till 10:00 pm.

A walk through with Brian's Angels will be set up in the next few weeks.

Mary mentioned Don Workman's report on endowments and the question regarding funds that he wanted to transfer to interest bearing accounts. It was agreed that Mary would discuss with Tim and follow his advice. Mary also said that Don was looking for a back-up for him with UBS (the financial institution handling our endowments). She asked if anyone on the Board was interested in being that back-up. Since no one was interested, it was decided Mary Rogers would fill that role.

Carol Rivard discussed the Sessions Hall door being locked at 9:00 am when our service begins. She felt this was a place where we welcome people, not lock them out. It was agreed to keep the door unlocked. Occasionally a person will enter Sessions Hall after the service has started for shelter. We will keep an eye on the Hall and invite anyone who enters to join the service.

There is a water problem at the church, brown water coming from the hot water faucets. It is believed we need a new hot water heater. Our plumber has been notified.

Mary will contact the carpenter who will be putting rails and a new step to the altar, as she has not talked to him for some time.

Pastor's Time

Pastor discussed the Lenten services – Ash Wednesday service on February 18 will be a Parish combined service in Cheshire at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Lee will also distribute ashes at Asbury UMC at 7:00 a.m. and here at PUMC at 12 noon.

Pastor Lee will hold Lenten services on Wednesdays beginning February 25, 10:00 a.m. in the chapel; services will be at Asbury at 5:00 p.m. followed by a soup and sandwich supper. Pastor Lee will lead a Book Study on “Being United Methodist Christians”. The book is available on Amazon or through Cokesbury.

Pastor Lee asked the question “What God is calling our congregation to do”. What is the Vision and Mission of our church. We need to think about creating a Vision Statement and a Mission Statement for our church. This is our homework for the next meeting. Look at what other churches’ mission and vision statements are, have some ideas for next meeting. Our Conference statement is “Live Joyfully, Love Boldly, Lead Courageously”.

Our Town Hall meeting will be this Sunday, February 1, during coffee hour. We will review 2025 Board activities.

Next meeting is Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Respectfully submitted
Beth Provost