
PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2012 CHARGE CONFERENCE

November 29, 2012

In attendance: *Rev. Ken Kieffer, Pastor Bob Sorozan, Jeanette Baker, Ron Baker, Jackie Palance, Joyce Rioux, John Rioux, Heidi Flower, Matti Verzino, Beth Provost, Diane Ashworth, Don Titus, Ray Barker, Jane Workman, Don Workman, Louise Schafferick, Fred Schafferick, Terry Parker, Carol Rivard, Carla Heister, Christa Zaldivar, Tim Krauss, Chris Wilson*

The 2012 Charge Conference was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Rev. Ken Kieffer. Polls were opened for election of trustees and remained opened for one hour.

Designation of Recording Secretary

Jeanette Baker was designated to serve as recording secretary for the conference.

Devotions

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” ~ Matthew (13:31-32)

District Superintendent Rev. Ken Keifer led a devotional on the Mustard Seed parable. He spoke of the journey of one man who felt called by God to go and help after the Hurricane Katrina disaster. One book of photographs by this man has raised closed to one million dollars to help a community in times of need. Rev. Keifer pointed out that God’s miracles are still happening today and that the lesson from the mustard seed applies to the world today. Even one person, like a photographer, can make a huge difference, little by little, if he or she works at it. The PUMC congregation was encouraged to come up with their own ideas to help make a difference in God’s world.

Celebrations

The question was put forth of what we, at Prospect United Methodist Church (PUMC), are proud of about our church. Several celebrations were put forward by those in attendance.

Joyce Rioux spoke about how alive our Sunday morning nursery has become. “It is a great thing that we as a church are able to offer this service to families,” she said. The nursery is staffed every Sunday to give parents and caregivers the opportunity to be part of the worship service in the Sanctuary.

Music Director Heidi Flower continues to bring her gifts of music ministry to PUMC. Recently she started a new children’s musical group called “Kids Praise God!”

Sunday School Superintendent Christa Zalvidar spoke about the success of this summer's VBS program and how it helped bring momentum into the start of Sunday School in September.

The Saturday morning play group run by Eleanor Riker continues to get moms and children together on Saturday mornings.

As PUMC brings in children for baptism, it is important to show families that PUMC has programs for children to be a part of.

Carol Rivard reported that PUMC continue to have success with the all-volunteer office and maintenance crew. Carol has made a connection with a community service team who will be completing some of the maintenance work around the church.

Three members of PUMC participated in a Youth Mission Trip of the CT District in July. Kayla Acevedo and Victoria Paulette, both teens, and Jill Wilson went to assist Prattsville, NY, which had been devastated by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene the previous August.

Joyce Rioux, Lisa Limeburner and Jill Wilson went on a Mission trip to Haiti in November. They were part of a team from The New York Annual Conference who went down to work in the Furcy area of Haiti.

News from the District:

Rev. Keifer invited everyone to join the District's Facebook page. "It can be a resource for churches in posting their own events as well as seeking advice from other churches," he said.

The District Conference will be in Meriden this year where those attending can look forward to a steel band performance. Rev Keifer shared a story about a young man who came forward at the District Conference at Nichol's United Methodist Church and accepted Jesus in his life after hearing the testimonies of a New York Giants player and two men who were helped by Anchor House.

District Resourcing Days will be offered in West Hartford and Stratford to help laity with their chosen tasks. Pastor Bob talked PUMC's visit to the Torrington Resources days. From this trip the congregation learned about narrative budgets and has since instituted one for our Stewardship campaign this year. Others from the congregation gathered information for this past summer's VBS program.

Approval of Compensation for Pastor

SPR Chair Joyce Rioux presented the compensation proposal, which includes a 2% raise, for Pastor Sorozan. A motion was put forth to accept the Pastor's salary and the Pastor's accountable reimbursement. The compensation proposal was approved.

Trustees Report

Chris Wilson gave a report from the Trustees. The Trustees continue to work on paying back the loan it took from the endowment funds. The Trustees have put into place a plan of keeping all but necessary repairs to a minimum so that the Church can work on a 3 year plan of repaying the loan. The Trustees continue to seek building use opportunities. Freedom Fellowship continues to utilize our church for their services. This brings in \$5,000 to the budget.

Rev. Keifer suggested that the Trustees look at bringing in a speaker on wills and legacy.

Nominations and Leadership Committee

Changes to the Nominations and Leadership Committee Report were discussed. Vote to accept the Nominations report was passed with the spelling correction of Violet Wisnet's name.

Three names were raised for election of the 2015 Trustees - Charles Brennan, Bud Funk and Chris Wilson. Ballots were distributed and collected. The results were that all three were elected to serve.

Finance Report

Finance Chair John Rioux presented the 2013 budget found on page 29 of the annual report. Although the proposed budget presents a deficit of \$40,000, the Finance Committee is hopeful that members of PUMC will discover ways to close the gap. Rev. Keifer offered the suggestion of asking 120 members to raise their pledge by \$5 which would bring in an additional \$30,000.

A financial audit was completed in 2012, the first since 2008. John thanked Don and Jane Workman for heading up the audit team and also Dave Corey who assisted in the process.

A motion was made to accept the budget and the budget was approved.

John shared a certificate from the New York Annual Conference thanking PUMC for paying 100 percent of their apportionment asked of them by The United Methodist Church to support ministries around the world.

Membership

Inactive members report was presented by Louise Schaffrick. Linda (Woolsey) Boucher, Marcie Ellsmore, Beverly and Martin Gallus, Pamela (Davis) Nadeau and Sarah (Schillilng) Michaud have expressed their desire to remain members of Prospect UMC so they will be removed from the list. Motion was made and approved to have all other names on page 8 remain for another year before action is taken to remove them from membership roll.

Other Business

Chris Wilson and Joyce Rioux reported that the parsonage had been inspected as requested. Pastor Bob reported that a Safe Sanctuary policy was in place at PUMC. A Safe Sanctuary workshop was held at Prospect by Gerry Lee and that all those who work with children at PUMC have passed background checks.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 after a prayer from Pastor Sorozan.