

PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

JANUARY 5, 2014

In Attendance: Pastor Robert Sorozan, Matti Verzino, Don Titus, Susan Powers, Janice Moore, Gerald Lee, Susan Lee, Carol Rivard, Jerry Rivard, Gary Gladu, Luisa Gladu, Robert Rioux, Ron Baker, Bill Katt, Jill Wilson, Chris Wilson, Heidi Flower, Louise Schaffrick, Jane Workman, Don Workman, John Rioux, Joyce Rioux, Tim Krayss, Alan Krauss, Janice Krauss, Ray Barker, Terry Parker, Jackie Palance, Marion Hickman, John Hickman, Jeanette Baker, Carls Heister, Christa Zaldivar, Beth Provost.

District Superintendent, Rev. Kenneth Keifer, presiding.

This Charge Conference was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Rev. Ken Keiffer; who explained the voting and voice rights of the conference, and opened the polls for trustee votes.

Rev. Keiffer then led the opening devotion with a reading from Matthew 14; the story of Jesus walking on water, with Peter, who began to sink at the first signs of doubt. He compared this to a situation of his own in past years, when he began to “sink” into doubt and panic when problems arose at the last minute for an important project. His secretary told him, simply, “God will provide”, and an answer was provided the night before the event that turned the problem into promise. God will provide – he will bless the work that we do in His Name.

Why are we excited about Prospect? What are we proud of?

Jeanette Baker – the great foundation regarding Mission work that has been started with the children; the Soup-er Bowl of Caring, No Kid Hungry Bake Sale, and Heifer Project were all mentioned. The children are learning the importance of “giving back” to those less fortunate.

Ken’s comment – a quote from the Chaplain of the State Senate – “there is an avalanche of poverty coming our way, unlike anything we have seen before.” It is important to realize this and step up efforts to help. Ken also mentioned that we were a “warming station” for the homeless and/or those without power during past winters.

Luisa Gladu for the Middle Ages Group – their primary purpose is to create fun and interesting social events that are also fund-raisers for the church. The 2 main events are the Renaissance Dinners and the Victorian Tea. They hope to include tours of the church sanctuary and other historical elements in the church next year; Luisa noted that 85% of those attending these events were non-church members and some come from very far away to attend. The Renaissance dinners brought in \$4675. No amount was available yet from the Victorian Tea. Luisa noted the large amount of help given not only by church members but by local high-school youth as well.

Ken's comment – we need to integrate the things we do here with worship opportunities as well, to get them to come back and visit on a Sunday. To feed the needs of the community within the resources of the church.

Heidi Flower – Education – just had their second annual “New Year's Eve” party for families; with 66 attendees. A young mother, who had attended last year at the invitation of a friend, said she stayed because we are such a “kid-friendly” church.

Ken's comment – our sanctuary is one of our biggest assets here and in the district – there is a true spirit here that is not found in every church. Make use of it and grow!

Reports from SPR, Finance, Trustees, and Lay Leadership.

Carla Heister for SPR (report on page 12 of Chg. Conference booklet)

The Nursery is doing well – it is a very helpful asset here – there are most often about 8 children, 4 of whom come to the sanctuary for Children's Time, and then go to Sunday School.

Pastor Bob is involved in the Interfaith Dialogue Program at Hartford Seminary.

Recommendations for Pastor's salary for 2014 is \$47,254 – an increase from last year; and \$5550 for travel reimbursement. This motion was made and seconded by several voices. All in favor responded with “Thank you, Pastor Bob”. Motion was accepted.

Tim Krauss has asked for the congregation's endorsement to take the first steps into the Ministry Candidacy process. Motion was made and seconded by several voices. Motion was carried. Congratulations, Tim!

Trustees – Chris Wilson

Upkeep – a portion of the sidewalks along Center Street have been replaced, as per suggestion of the City of Bristol.

Due to several recent break-ins at the church, we are looking into a security system for the church doors and office areas. The estimate received so far is too expensive, but this problem is being taken very seriously.

The portfolio is doing well, it is worth approximately \$850,000 – much credit and thanks goes to Ray Barker for his input with the broker. This brings the worth almost back to where it was prior to 2008.

The roof was replaced in 2007, with some assets being sold off to finance this, and the Building Fund was created to accept donations to pay this back. There is approx. \$20,000 still due and the Trustees have forgiven this amount.

We are trying harder to work out rental opportunities for outside groups to use our facilities. It is hard on both sides as we are a busy congregation, but we need the rental income and should be more sensitive to the other groups' needs. We should try to be more flexible here.

Ken's Comments – Regarding the break-ins – we are fortunate that no one was hurt during these break-ins; it is a serious matter. E may be able to get some financial help for this through DIMCHEX.

NYAC is a resource to use for several areas of church life. They can send someone to do a program “How to Remember Your Church in your Will”.

Our district has its own Facebook page – it is a good resource for finding contractors, etc for physical upkeep of the building; it can also be used to advertise fund-raisers and other church activities.

Finance – John Rioux/Tim Krauss.

We have a spendable asset of approx.. \$2000. The Oil bill is approx. #4000. The Roof Fund is paid for! Heating oil for the year is approximately \$20,000. We took in more than was budgeted for 2013; the deficit for 2014, at this point, stands at \$32,943.

We should celebrate the mission of our church and our outreach to the community, which manifests itself in several ways.

John Rioux explained the Elective Giving Program, which allows members of the congregation to set up automatic withdrawals from their checking accounts to the church account. It is an easy and effective way to make sure their pledge is always on time. It was suggested that it would be best to get the Finance Committee members to commit to this program and then offer it to the Church Council and congregation.

The motion was made and seconded by several voices to accept the 2014 budget (not including the pastor's salary and travel). Motion was accepted with “Praise God from whom all

Pastor Bob – regarding pages 2-5 in the Annual Report - all names in bold type are new or changing assignments – Motion was made and seconded by several voices and was accepted with “We are a rich church!”

Trustee Ballot

The following names were offered for consideration to be added to Trustees.

2014 – Bill Thibodeau 2015 – Luisa Gladu 2016 – Mike Fasci, Eric Adams, Dori Posadas.

Don Titus and Mattie Verzino distributed, collected and counted all ballots. All the above names were elected to Trustees for their assigned years.

Pastor Bob Sorozan

Our work is important and it touches peoples' lives. Our Mission focus for 2014 should be a “Reach out and touch someone” approach. There are several examples of this such as the New Year's Eve party that was attended by 66 people; our continuing association with the Department of Children and Families and the Covenant to Care program; and several events

that are both fund-raisers and community outreach opportunities. It has been lots of fun being your pastor. Thank you and I love you all.

Ken Keifer

Regarding Methodism in Africa – it is exploding in that area – there is a Methodist University in Iberia that is in dire need of textbooks – a viable alternative is to provide students with Kindles or E-Readers – they can then access the textbooks and other research and study materials on-line. These cost \$85 each, and thanks to a matching program, two will be sent for every one donated. Ken is asking each church in the district to send one Kindle or E-Reader – to date our district has sent 40.

There is a MissionInsite.com website that can be accessed to find demographic information for the geographical area our church is in – it includes age-income – ethnicity, etc and may just be an eye-opener for us.

Gerry Lee

The Boy Scouts of America has a long and happy history here in Bristol, our church has been a sponsoring organization for many years. Gerry proposes that we become the charter organization for Cub Pack 30, which now meets at Edgewood School. While the Pack would continue to meet at Edgewood, they would also come here for service projects and other activities, such as participating in Boy Scout Sunday programs.

This request has come about due to the CT PTA's refusal to renew charters with Boy Scout packs/troops since the BSA now accepts openly gay leaders/scouts into their program. The scout leaders and parents want to retain a good relationship with their local PTA but need a new charter sponsoring organization. Ken Keifer motioned that the Trustees be empowered to pick up the "Re-Charter" of Cub Pack 30. This was seconded by several voices, and the motion was accepted.

Annual Report pages 8-10 – the motion was made to remove the "3rd Year" names from the active rolls of this church. The motion was seconded by several voices, and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion was made and passed for tellers Mattie Verzino and Don Titus to destroy the trustee ballots.

Motion to adjourn was made by Terry Parker, and seconded by several voices.

The Charge Conference was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Moore

Recording Secretary

