

Prospect United Methodist Church  
Church Council, November 26, 2013

**Attendance:** Sue Powers, Bob Sorozan, John Rioux, Heidi Flower, Bill Thibedeau, Scott McNeal, Vivian Brackett, Carol Rivard, Jeanette Baker, Yaa Amoakohene, Christa Zaldivar, Carla Heister (recording secretary pro-tem)  
Excused: Jackie Palance, Matti Verzino, Diane Ashworth,. Joyce Rioux

**Opening Devotions** were led by Sue Powers. We all received a card upon which we wrote one thing for which we are thankful...and shared it with God.

Welcome to the table, Scott and Yaa.

The October minutes were approved as written.

**Reports:**

Two reports received and distributed – Finance and Women of Prospect. Highlights: Finance will present a budget for 2014 tonight. Women of Prospect emphasize the need for children’s clothing for the Bargain Center.

Christa presented her report as Sunday School Superintendent. There were 27 children in church last week. Stuart and Caroline Brown with help Christa and Heidi with the New Year’s Eve party. The Christian Education Connection newsletter was handed out to Council. There will be a Confirmation Class with a June confirmation planned. MYF is meeting.

Sue stated that the Treasurer’s office move will be on Dec. 7 at 9:30. Sue will get people to help with the move.

Scott presented a new event. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Wedding Dresses Through the Years will be presented. He has a send pending even that is still in the planning stage that he will present when it is more solidified.

Heidi reported on the organ restoration. She has contacted the company about the next part of the restoration. It was recommended to look into getting a grant to help with the organ and possibly with other building repair needs (e.g., the crumbling wall).

Vivian reported that there will be a tour of the Churches of Federal Hill sponsored by the Bristol Historical Society on June 7, 2014.

**Other Business:**

Sue set up a schedule for Council meetings in 2014 to help the new chair.

January 5, at 3 pm, is Charge Conference. Committee Chairs need to get reports for Charge Conference submitted to the Church Office by Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Carla reported on the Financial Planning seminar planned for January. A pre-seminar planning meeting will be held after the office move on Dec. 7, after the office move, at about 11 am.

Jeanette reported that for the No Kid Hungry money collected she will purchase grocery gift cards. If there are needs in our church, then grocery gift cards will go to those identified, otherwise, the cards will go to the Zion Food Bank for distribution.

Sue reported that there is no new information from Habitat for Humanity in Bristol. She will relay information to the congregation when any information/needs are received.

**Pastor Bob**

- Christmas Eve services will be at 4 pm and 10 pm with luminary bags.
- Advent will be a little different this year
- Pastor Bob will be off the week after Christmas; other dates when he will be away are January 26 and April 27.
- for Charge Conference, Ken wants to know about small groups that we have in the church.
- Pastor Bob will be meeting now through June on the third Thursday of the month for the Vital Congregations program.

**Budget:**

John Rioux presented ideas and thoughts concerning the 2014 budget.

- we need to have realistic expectations
- Trustees need to consider the usage of the building fund for utilities and have a line item in the budget for this
- we need to celebrate what we offer to our church family and the community
- we need to find ways to promote the church through things such as innovative use of the building.
- we need to contact all who have not pledged

John moved and Bill seconded it that we approve the expenditure side of the budget and Council send the income side back to finance for conversation between Finance, Trustees, and Stewardship to come up with a better number for income for the coming year's budget. The motion passed. Council will meet before the end of December to vote on the total budget.

**Prayers:**

Pray for: Chick Blair at the Pines; Lucien Caouette at Ingram Manor; Irene Taylor at Bristol Hospital; and for Lorraine Bulliss's family.

The meeting was closed at 8:50 pm with prayer led by Pastor Sorozan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carla Heister, recording secretary pro-tem