

Prospect Congregational United Church of Christ

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20

Presented at the Online Annual Meeting

June 14, 2020

Pastor's Report

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. government decided that churches were essential and should be allowed to reopen. While I appreciate that church has been recognized as having essential value, our church never closed. The *building* has closed, but *church* goes on. And the more I read about Jesus' ministry through the lens of this pandemic, the more I am reminded that church was never meant to be about the building in the first place. The church is the people who worship together, whether in the same room or connected online. Spirit is alive and well in our midst doing what it always does: stirring our hearts, opening us to God's presence, helping us hear and respond to God's invitation to be our best selves, and sending us out into the world to build God's realm on earth. The details of how we gather have changed, but God's message is still the same, and it is still essential: I love you just as you are, no matter what you have done, and I invite you to spread the good news of this love to everyone.

So the Church Board continues to meet—online—to guide our steps forward. The Worship and Music Team continues to discuss guest preachers, worship themes, and how to make services excellent. The Trustees continue to shepherd the building and make repairs and improvements. The Social and Environmental Justice Team continues to consider ways to work on social justice issues when we can't show films, as we had been doing. The Stewardship Team continues to explore how we best steward our finances and develop spiritual disciplines of giving. The Building Access Committee, which has spent the past few years renovating the third floor and finding renters, weighs what will be involved in reopening the space safely to outsiders.

We are coming through a historic moment. All of us have tales to tell. While some businesses in our community are closing for good, we are continuing to thrive. We will be okay. Which means it will be more important than ever for us to be reaching out to those who are struggling.

We are confronted not just with one pandemic but with three: COVID-19, racism, and a sudden recession that lands hardest on those already in poverty. Climate change continues to alter our planet and challenge us to reduce our carbon footprints. Is church essential for any of this work? Yes indeed. Thank you all for continuing to *be* the church. The need for church in the world has never been more urgent. You are a blessing to this congregation and to your communities.

Blessings, *Meighan*

Board of Trustees

Submitted by Jerry Sams, Chair

The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining the Prospect building and grounds. Since last fall Bill Van Pelt has retired from trustees to spend more time with Alice, and his decades of building maintenance services will be missed. Bill and Bob's retirement from being church sextons means that there will likely be some increase in maintenance costs. Dave Kidder, John Daugherty, Roy Hardman and Jerry Sams are current trustees, with Bob Bakke acting as an advisor.

Accomplishments:

Replaced heavy tables in Fellowship Hall with lighter folding tables that are easier to set up and put away and are more portable.

Updated Karen's and Meighan's computer hardware and software in the required move to Windows 10.

Hosted fall cleanup.

Managed repair activities to building operation systems: plumbing, electrical, heating/ventilation, elevator, rainwater management.

Internet-connected thermostats have replaced existing thermostats. We now have much better heat scheduling capability, which has already worked to reduce gas expenses.

Brickwork repointing and downspout repair have been completed to resolve water intrusion into PEP classroom. Some window lentsils were repaired as part of the brickwork project.

Challenges of an older building:

Furnaces are costing more to maintain, although they are not yet in need of major replacements.

Plumbing drain systems are subject to blockage, requiring occasional calls to plumber.

The elevator has required expensive repairs, although it is now running without problems.

All of these challenges have caused increases in building expenses.

On the horizon:

Trustees have been awarded a Weter-Roberts grant to add four wireless microphones for use in the sanctuary for church services and other events like community panels, arts events, etc.

We plan to provide faster internet service throughout the building, which will allow the move to internet-based telephone service and will reduce internet and telephone cost.

Trustees will be involved when building changes are required to move back to in-building

Building Access Committee

Submitted by Terri Dowling

During the first half of the church year BAC focused on Peerspace go-live, completed upgrades to the NW301 office, leased the NW302 office to Devin Silvernail of *Be: Seattle* a local nonprofit startup. We then began development of a comprehensive outreach program to connect with our community and beyond. We started with a compendium of ideas and planned to fine tune them into actionable steps.

AND THEN IT HAPPENED.....

March ushered in a new reality when Covid-19 surfaced and everything changed. The church shut down and all non-essential events were immediately cancelled. PEP converted to distance learning, building reservations were cancelled, rental deposits were credited, Sunday services and committee meetings moved to Zoom and staff moved to home offices. An empty building has become the new normal as all future plans are suspended.

BAC is now operating within the context of this new reality. When will it be possible for Prospect to safely return to normal operations? That is a question Prospect will need to examine. The following list focuses on planning considerations for a safe return to our building.

Reopening - Washington State Phased Approach

The four phase guidelines will help inform our decisions as to when and under what circumstances it will be safe for us to open our church.

Safety

We may want to consider a short term consultant contract with an experienced safety officer for guidance on how best to adapt regulations to our specific environment.

Procedural Guidelines

To insure everyone entering our building feels absolutely safe we will need to clearly communicate the steps we have taken to safeguard the environment. It will be critical for us to project a *safety first* priority if we wish to build confidence with our church family and visitors.

Social Distancing Guidelines

We have a variety of spaces to consider within the context of social distancing. We will need to develop a multipronged approach to address the specific needs of each area. Whatever choices we make, clear communications and proper signage will be essential.

Personal Protection Equipment

PPE guidelines will apply to everyone entering the building. This raises questions about compliance and who will supply PPE. Should we perform recommended temperature checks? As we work out the details, specific PPE guidelines will be posted on our website and prominently displayed at each point of entry.

Declaration Document Policy

Contact tracing has become a critical part of managing the spread of Covid19. Until Washington State achieves significant testing levels it may become mandatory to maintain a *daily log of all* visitors.

Seattle School District/Superintendent of Public Instruction and PEP

Prospect Enrichment Preschool follows recommendations of Seattle School District. SSD has recently begun evaluating what the needs might be for keeping students safe. Plans should be announced in the near future. A few of the questions to consider...How will social distancing work on a school bus? What specific changes will PEP need to implement in classroom to meet distancing requirements? How will transition between morning and afternoon sessions be managed? SSD and CDC guidelines will provide guidance.

Note: A full version of this list can be found in the June Newsletter

Godly Play

Submitted by Cora Trujillo

Godly Play, the Sunday School curriculum for children ages 3 to 10 had been offered the second Sunday each month through February with Cora Trujillo and Jane Braziunas as storytellers. We averaged 2 children per session. Videos of Cora presenting Jesus' parables are available to families on request during this social distancing time.

Gratitude and Generosity Team (formerly Stewardship)

Submitted by Cora Trujillo

The Stewardship Team is changing their name to the "Gratitude and Generosity Team." Instead of just organizing an annual fundraising drive for the church budget we will plan to meet year round with the objectives of affirming gifts of members, looking for ways to express gratitude for one another and encouraging generosity of finances and service to Prospect. The members are Pam Puglisi, Rick Russell, John Shrader and Cora Trujillo.

The successful 2020-21 pledge campaign received 35 pledges totaling \$104,035.

Weter-Roberts

Submitted by Cora Trujillo

The Weter-Roberts Board, consisting of Robin Russell, Suzanne Fry, Pat Severson, Jack Force and Cora Trujillo met via Zoom 5/2/10 and approved the following grants for this year.

\$500 to Global Ministries for a food insecurity project through Indian Samaritans, a project of the UCC/DOC Global Ministries in India. Application made by Mary Olney-Loyd, co-chair of Global Ministries Northwest Chapter.

\$500 to Community Lunch on Capitol Hill. A program that provides hot nutritious meals operating out of Central Lutheran Church. Application also made by Mary Olney-Loyd.

\$1,000 to the Outdoor Ministries Committee of the NWCUCC to support the general fund of N-Sid-Sen. Application made by Kaila Russell, chair of the Outdoor Ministries Board.

\$1,000 to Prospect Enrichment Preschool for community outreach services for families of the pre-school in need. Many families are heavily impacted financially by recent events with the COVID-19 outbreak. To help fill the gaps that remote learning has created, the pre-school is providing resources and materials to each individual family.

\$500 requested by Jerry Sams and David Kidder of Prospect Trustees to purchase 4 wireless microphones to help with educational events and community forums.

\$400 to Amy Miller to cover costs of notebooks and writing implements not provided by the school where she teaches and many of her students are low income.

\$300 to Lori Hardow to cover the cost of supplies and shipping cost in sewing and sending masks to health care providers.

Worship and Music Team

Submitted by Meighan Pritchard

On March 1, 2020, we worshiped in the sanctuary of our church building. Because of the coronavirus, we refrained from shaking hands and hugging. When we passed the offering plate and the bread and cups for communion, we asked people not to touch the plates. We commissioned Leda Zakarison for her Global Ministries work in Lebanon. Other than that, it was a normal worship service on a normal Sunday. The choir sang. Rick Russell sang a solo called "Ruach," meaning Spirit.

Since then, nothing has been normal. On the following Sunday, March 8, a dozen of us gathered on Zoom for a basic service, no frills, that lasted about 20 minutes. Some people couldn't get into the meeting because a faulty link had been sent out. Praying the prayer of Jesus together unmuted sounded like a stampede. But the dozen of us were so glad to see each other from our isolated locations that we were fine with setting the bar low. We were reassured that Prospect would continue to move forward, even without the building.

All of our worship since then has been via Zoom. We have had to reinvent the content and everything about how it is delivered. Jerry Sams and Brian Russell stepped up to serve as tech wizards and keep services flowing. They put in many hours every week to create a service that flows. Kia has discovered

new ways to share great music, either through recordings from years past or through inviting singers to record themselves (Jerry and Brian get to assemble all these recordings into a piece that sounds like a choir). Powerpoint has allowed us to add visuals, both text and photos. A few people have not been able to join us online, and we miss them. Others who normally couldn't be with us have been able to come, including people from out of state and outside the country. Every week, we learn a little more about how to make online worship meaningful and flowing.

One of my favorite parts of worship in our sanctuary is when we make a circle around the space and hold hands for the benediction. We get to see each other, touch each other, and affirm that we are beloved children of God, called to love each other and to spread God's love in the world. These days, we get to see each other's faces all through the service onscreen, around the region and the world. We continue to affirm each other and love each other, to look out for each other in new ways, to bless each other, and to worship together. We are learning anew how to be community, to follow God, to become our best selves, to work for love and justice in the world we want to see. Your Worship and Music team will continue to find ways to make worship vibrant and meaningful, whether we are gathered online or in person. Spirit finds us either way.

Financial Summary

Balances

Umpqua Checking (through May 31, 2020)	\$36,541.66
United Church Foundation Osgood (through March 31, 2020)	\$223,607.03
United Church Foundation Weter-Roberts (through May 6, 2020)	\$78,530.46
United Church Foundation Parker Cook (through March 31, 2020)	\$6,115.02
Special Funds	\$9,407.89
Special Offerings Total Received (July 2019-May 2020)	\$1,525.00
Income and Expense Statement (June 2020 to date) and Proposed Budget 2020-21 follow.	
<i>(Detailed financial report available upon request to the church office.)</i>	

2019-20 by the Numbers

Active Members as of June 14, 2020	69
New Members Received 2019-2020	0
Confirmands Received	0
Members Lost By Death	2
May Pendergrass, Marcus Reeb	
Friends Lost By Death	1
Doris Waggoner	
Members removed from active status	1
Members Transferred	0
Births in 2019-20	1
Aurora Blair-Stahn	
Baptisms in 2019-20	0
Marriage and commitment ceremonies	0

Proposed Prospect Church Structure, July 2019

Church staff, church board, committees, boards, ministry teams and other ministries

(POC=point of contact)

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Meighan Pritchard206-322-6030

Director of Music

Carol “Kia” Sams.....425-776-7267

Custodian

Jeff Mitchell206-437-7330

Office Manager

Karen Eisenbrey206-322-6030

Prospect Enrichment Preschool Director

Donna Guna206-324-5230
pepseattle@gmail.com

Church Board

Co-Moderators – Jan Kinney, TBD

Board Members: Consi Javier, Patsy Severson (treasurer), Louise Morehead

Treasurer: Patsy Severson

Financial Secretaries: Consi Javier, Phillip Maxwell

Trustees

Bob Bakke, John Daugherty (co-chair), Roy Hardman, David Kidder (co-chair), Jerry Sams Bill Van Pelt,

Sexton: Roy Hardman

Sexton Emeritus: Bob Bakke

Public Relations: Karen Eisenbrey

Coffee Hour: Scheduler - Judy Hooper

Facilitators - Nancy Daugherty and Daulton Branch; Special coffee hours – Barb Force, Jane Doggett

Memorial Reception Coordinator: TBD

Concert Dessert Coordinator: Kathy Mahan

Ministry of:

Building Access: Terri Dowling (POC), Suzanne Fry, Consi Javier, Dave Kidder, Louise Morehead

Godly Play: Cora Trujillo, Jane Braziunas

Membership/Community connections:

Alice Van Pelt (POC), David Kidder

Social and Environmental Justice: Caitlin Blair-Stahn (POC), Rosemary Bell, Nathaniel Blair-Stahn, Jane Braziunas, John Daugherty, Roland Holloway, Kathy Mahan, Louise Morehead, Meighan Pritchard, Rick Russell, James Williams

Stewardship: Meighan Pritchard, Pam Puglisi, Rick Russell, John Shrader, Cora Trujillo

Worship and Music: Kia Sams (Director of Music), Jan Kinney, Louise Morehead, Meighan Pritchard, Pam Puglisi, Brian Russell

Pulpit Supply: Louise Morehead

Pastoral Care Team: Jack Force, Barbara Force, Judy Hooper and Rick Russell

Community Lunch: John Daugherty, Nancy Daugherty, Suzanne Fry, Jim Miller, Alice Van Pelt, Bill Van Pelt

St. Mary’s Food Bank: Barbara Force

Prospect Enrichment Preschool: Jane Doggett, Judy Hooper

Bible Study: Jeff Brian, Roland Holloway, Meighan Pritchard (POC), Rick Russell, John Shrader, Cora Trujillo, Frank Trujillo

Beyond Fundamentalism Book Club: Mary Alice Power (POC)

Weter-Roberts Board

Jack Force, Suzanne Fry, Cora Trujillo, Robin Russell, Patsy Severson

