

Prospect UCC Church Board Minutes
March 21, 2021 (on Zoom)

Present: Meighan Pritchard, Jan Kinney, Cora Trujillo, John Daugherty, Patsy Severson, Dennis Van Zandt, Louise Morehead

Sam Rennebohm Ordination follow up:

Sam is proposing ordination based on a four-way contract: Swedish Hospital, Prospect UCC, the Pacific Northwest Conference, and Sam. Conference Ordination Committee deems it reasonable to be planning an ordination service in May or June.

Treasurer report: We are 2/3 of the way through the year (66.67%). Year-to-date income is greater than year-to-date expenses. YTD income is slightly greater than budget and YTD expenses are slightly below budget.

Prospect will pay Kia the additional \$1766 over the remaining 4 months of the year. (Update on paying Kia \$1766 extra due to no time off.)

Gratitude and Generosity: follow-up on small groups/interviews. Summary? Direction? Stewardship dates?

Recommendation to read the synopses of the small-group conversations.

How do we spread God's word in the world? Answers seem to fall into categories.

- Children: Some miss the ministry of helping low-income children—we're currently getting a lot of requests for space from schools;
- Social justice—community lunch, SEJT, immigration issues, climate change, hunger, and homelessness (which is up close and relevant for us), anti-racism;
- Music—but can we occasionally expand it to jazz, to more of Mike Stern and other guests bringing different kinds of music;
- Building use as a part of our ministry—building must be in service to the congregation, not vice versa. Can it generate income for us? Can it help us serve the community?
- Feelings of disconnection—we miss each other. Zoom Coffee Hour is not satisfying. We may try Breakout Rooms? If so, random, or self-selected groups? When is the right time to come back together? Breakout rooms open all kinds of logistic questions. Can we set them up so that people can move from group to group?

Discussion about appropriateness of sharing individual information (which has been approved by the subjects) led to making the information available to congregation (though not putting it into the newsletter—rather, in weekly emails) to help us recognize what others are doing “to spread God's word” and motivate us to talk with each other about “what's in our hand.” Can help create action groups, even. **OR** we could make lists of things people do, and add our own names to those that interest us.

Judy Hooper's gatherings: Feels strongly that people need to connect. Judy offers to organize two Tuesday lunches a month (April, May, June), for people who are fully vaccinated to just get together. She's asking for the CB's approval. John (as a Trustee) would coordinate with her about ventilation, cleanup, capacity, etc.

Jan Kinney: Helping church in Concrete (Will bring up with SEJT)

Mt. Baker Presbyterian Church pastor in Concrete WA asked for financial help for its ministry to food and financial insecurity and opioid addiction in East Skagit County. SEJT will talk about how we can help. Is there leftover funding in the budget somewhere? Meighan will take this request to the team to see what they can do.

Recruiting next co-moderator (and CB?)/Planning date for congregational meeting.

Patsy will stay on as Treasurer. Jan will leave Church Board. Louise will stay, for the present, if needed. John D. can't promise either CB or Trustee membership based on potential plans to move from Seattle. He will be gone for seven weeks this spring on an exploratory trip. Consi has left the CB.

Recruitment:

Discussion about whom to invite to be co-moderator and CB members.

Sabbatical Team / Auction update:

With bids, registration, and other donations, the auction has brought in about \$7000.

Building use/timeline for returning to in person worship/ Where are people on re-opening? What guidelines should we have to reopen?

A quick verbal poll determined that not all essential personnel (pastor[s], techies, etc.) have received vaccinations. Even some who have are not willing to gather in large groups.

We're still in the same position as many other churches: The closest we can say is "Sometime between June and September." If it happens while Meighan is away, we need to plan for support for Amara during the transition back to the church (e.g., conducting weekday meetings on Zoom, working with her to smooth out the first Sunday back in the building).

Another issue is procuring the equipment we will need to go inclusively live, since we are committed to a hybrid model (to include members and friends at a distance). We need to order what's needed ASAP to avoid the shopping stampede as all churches re-open with equipment needs. Motion made to have Trustees present a total cost for necessary equipment to the board *for approval*. This can happen within the next couple of weeks, via email. Unanimous Yes.

Eritrean Church: the contract expires in May, and we need to be clear about when we return to the building. If so, are we still open to having them there, perhaps at a different time of day, or different day. Their worship requires set-up/take-down and storage of a lot of items.

Lively discussion about sharing the space on Sundays—if we move to a later time we'd need to rethink when to have board and team meetings; what about parking? John is planning to tell the Eritreans that we will need to retake our church, and can only plan sharing from month to month. Might they consider meeting in the afternoon or evening? Is their theology congruent with what we hold sacred/important?

Follow-up on requests for building use from schools.

Are we still willing to allow schools to tour the building and to consider it as a site? We need to be careful about allowing more and older kids (as opposed to a dozen preschoolers)—stress on building can include plumbing problems, stained carpets, painting, etc.

Update on camper on church property:

City has said they will send out a social worker to help Chris relocate. This has not yet happened. Neighbor is pleased that at least this step has been taken (contacting the city).

Trustees report:

1. Roy has begun the testing of new phone system for church, this weekend.
2. Third-floor office renovations should be complete within another week.
3. Insurance quote, available as of April 1 but good until May 15th, is \$10,059 vs. \$11,232 for Insurance Board. Trustees recommend switching, and consideration of decision to drop earthquake coverage.
4. Trustees recommend initiation of conversations with Eritreans about future relationship.

This requires more clarity about Board plans to resume occupation of common space. Trustees will go to Church Mutual, including earthquake insurance, as of April 1.

Pastor's report:

W and M: We will film a “handoff” ritual for Amara, at the church, sometime in May, to be aired when the Sabbatical actually begins. We’ve worked on planning for Holy Week; there will be a Maundy Thursday service. Jane Braziunas’s husband (and possibly Ethan Dowling) can help Jerry and Brian with tech work.

SEJT: planning a virtual film showing, maybe in cooperation with St. James, First Baptist, or Meaningful Movies.

Sabbatical theme: Connecting with God in nature. There may be some work parties on the farm this spring, or having people come and stay and do garden maintenance as well as nature meditation.

Work party (planting), on Saturday, March 27.

Kaye Gates has been researching bills related to housing and homelessness. Peter Schoonmaker has researched ending bail. Louise is trying to connect with Mary’s Place to help furnish an apartment.

Meighan is taking off the week after Easter to help her mom move. Meighan plans to work from home on Mondays.

Submitted by Jan Kinney, Co-Moderator