

Prospect Congregational United Church of Christ ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

Presented at the Hybrid Annual Meeting
June 11, 2023

Pastor's Report

Submitted by Rev. Meighan Pritchard

After three years, Prospect is emerging from COVID-19 a little older, a little smaller, and grateful to be able to worship together in person and on Zoom. This has been a year of coming back together and welcoming some new people into our midst, including young children, retirees, and our every-growing Germany contingent. We are getting small enough that populating all our boards and teams is a concern, so we are proposing some changes to lighten the load, but these will add to our budget. The Church Board, Trustees, Worship and Music Team, Social and Environmental Justice Team, Vitality Team, and others have all pitched in.

Here are just some of the ways I am grateful for this congregation this year:

- We continued to step up to meet the needs of our Afghan refugee family, the Hamidis. They are now established, and our efforts with them have wound down.
- We expected to run a deficit but never did. Thank you!
- When my sabbatical a year ago ended up staying local because of the pandemic, the leftover funds were approved for my pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona in Scotland in August. I was glad to share highlights of that experience in a worship service after my return and continue to be fed by that trip.
- This was a rough year personally when my mother had a stroke on October 1 and died a week later. Thank you for your support through that difficult time and beyond.
- We welcomed three new members on Easter Sunday!
- Music recitals have proved to be a popular use of our sanctuary on a pay-what-you-can basis.

Since November, I have been holding office hours at Macrina Bakery, a block away. Every Tuesday, I set out my "The pastor is in" sign and see who shows up. Sometimes no one comes, but usually between one and four Prospect folks join me, and we have lively discussions. The sign often attracts surreptitious glances from other customers and sometimes leads to wonderful conversations. A number of Prospect men also meet at Macrina on a near-daily basis. Macrina is becoming our community gathering space.

Karen Eisenbrey, our office manager for the past 13 years, retires at the end of this month. As much as we are sad to see her go, we wish her well on all the adventures to come. And we are grateful that she overlaps with the new office manager, Chase McAdams. Welcome, Chase!

We may be older and smaller, but we continue to step up. Rev. Traci Blackmon, the UCC's Associate General Minister and Vice President, Justice and Local Church Ministries, says it's not how many people gather but how many scatter to spread the Good News. May we continue to do both for many years.

Blessings,
Meighan

Moderator's Report
Submitted by Cora Trujillo

My three years as Prospect moderator are coming to a close. Here are some highlights from my perspective of what has happened at Prospect in the past year:

We are continuing to keep the pastor position at 3/4 time (up from 1/2 time where she has been until January 2022).

The benefits have been:

- improved communication between Meighan and the Church Board;
- more time for her to do vitality work;
- more time for outreach to the community;
- and honoring and supporting the pastor position and Meighan in that role.

Our co-sponsorship with UCUC of the Hamidis, an Afghan refugee family, officially ended in February. Several of us, under the leadership of Suzanne Anderson, finished up doing one on one tutoring last summer. With money from our "Afghan Refugee Fund" (which was started with a Weter-Roberts grant and that many of you donated to), we paid for sewing machine repair, fabric, driving lessons for Maliha (the mom), various household supplies, a TV set, cell phone for Mohammed (the dad), and gas reimbursement for tutors. The family of 8 are settled in their apartment in Skyway. Mohammed is driving for a car rental company. Maliha works part time at David's Bridal Shop in Tukwila doing alterations. Mustafa, the oldest son, is working toward a GED through Seattle Central College and working at a bakery. Omid, the second eldest, is in a similar program in Bellevue and works part time at McDonalds. The four youngest children are enrolled in the Renton School District. I am keeping in touch with the family via ZOOM and occasionally visit. They are very grateful for all we have done for them and have expressed an interest in keeping in touch with us.

We found a replacement for our office manager, Karen Eisenbrey, who will retire this June. Chase McAdams will overlap with her a bit to be trained. We are adding a few hours per week to the position for Chase to take on more building care duties to relieve some of the burden on the Board of Trustees.

We hired Melissa McQueen to supplement our volunteer tech help during hybrid worship as we are committed to continuing to be inclusive to our members and friends who live far away or have health issues that make attendance in person difficult.

I am most excited this past year about the vitality work we have done. Meighan's 3/4-time position made this more possible. It started with a congregational survey to see where our strengths and challenges are as a congregation. We read *Real Good Church* by Molly Baskette. We formed a Vitality Team that met with Courtney Stange-Tragear, our former conference

Minister for Church Vitality who recommended we listen to the neighborhood and see where the needs meet our own capacity to do ministry.

Our church survey revealed a need for more opportunities for fellowship, which had been difficult due to COVID-19. We tentatively re-started “coffee hour” after church last Fall but it was poorly attended and Judy Hooper, our “Hospitality Coordinator” had trouble getting enough volunteers. So it was stopped in January, but we’ve been trying to have an after worship gathering at least quarterly and encourage folks to visit in the pews after worship.

Meighan has been negotiating with “Projects for a Civil Society,” a non-profit who may be moving their office into our building. They work to prevent incarceration of youth and the formerly incarcerated transitioning back into society. Their board is mostly BIPOC. So we may not only be getting a new tenant but a new mission opportunity to help us “walk the talk” of striving to be an anti-racist congregation.

Bob Bakke left 1/4 of his residual estate to Prospect Church. About \$100,000 of that was spent on building painting and a new roof. There is about \$150,000 left. The Church Board wants the remaining funds to be spent in a way that reflects our Church Purpose and Working Covenant and to improve the vitality of our church. Our neighborhood is full of families with young children and one new member has asked for our worship services to be more child friendly. We held a congregational listening meeting May 7 where we presented a proposal to create a new ¼-time position of “Minister for Children and Families”. This person would work with Meighan to create more family friendly worship experiences, reach out to the neighborhood for ways to attract families with young children and perhaps re-create a Sunday School program. The response to the proposal was unanimously positive so we will add it to our annual church budget that we present at the Annual Meeting.

I am grateful to the five new (Dave Kidder, Suzanne Fry, Amy Miller, and Ralph Cobb) and one returning (Patsy Severson) members who will serve on our Church Board this coming year, July 2023 through June 2024. As of this writing, no one has offered to be moderator so we will be trying a new leadership model, perhaps with rotation of duties involved with planning and running meetings.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to step away from a leadership role and to listen to what God has in store for me (and Prospect) next.

Board of Trustees

Submitted by Suzanne Fry & David Kidder

The Trustees remain dedicated to the role of maintaining the viability of our building for congregation worship, fellowship, weddings, memorials, spiritual gatherings, community musical and theatrical performances, public forums, social and environmental educational presentations, rental space for nonprofit organizations, and many other potential lines of ministry. The Trustees monitor the maintenance, expense, and development of our building to support these ministries.

Trustee members: Suzanne Fry, Roy Hardman, David Kidder, and Jerry Sams. John Daugherty relocated to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. But, otherwise, remains with us in spirit as Trustee Emeritus. Trustee personnel: Suzanne Fry and David Kidder served in the role of co-chairmanship. Roy Hardman and Jerry Sams have graciously continued in status on the Board of Trustees,

contributing their time and energy for the year 2022-2023. Roy Hardman continues to serve in some capacity of on-call maintenance with Prospect not having a Sexton. Jerry Sams remains a stalwart of the Trustees overseeing and problem-solving needs for building use, management of the facility, and technical support for Sunday Worship and Zoom development.

In addition to the many repairs needed for the building and landscape, the Trustees continue to oversee cost-saving measures to reduce the overall operating expenses and budget of Prospect.

List of Accomplishments for 2022 to 2023:

Continued oversight for the installation of Ooma Box system to reduce telephone expenses

Managed elevator repair & maintenance with Washington Elevator

Continued restoration of additional office spaces on the 3rd floor in preparation for rental

Continued monitoring of COVID policy for facility use for Worship Service and Rental

Coordinated Fall and Spring work parties for clean-up of building interior & exterior

Continued work with Office Manager to market for office space and rentals

Explored cost/expenses for Ground Floor Electrical upgrades

Rebuilt the Reader Board Sign (thank you Richard Moore)

Major cleanup of outdoor Plantings and Landscape (thank you Richard Moore)

Installed new Smoke/Fire Detector/Alarms

Completed reorganization of all the Keys to the building

Addressed matters related to Homeless Encampment Liability & Safety

Installed new locks for Entry Gates, Shed, Outdoor AC Outlets to deter homeless camping

Created and posted No Smoking/No Camping signage

Managed repair of tear in the Porch Awning

Repaired damaged Mailbox

Repaired and upgraded the doorbell

Addressed Fellowship Hall, Office, and Parlor Heating-Furnace Maintenance issues

Explored the practicalities of having an Electric Vehicle Charger at Prospect

Supervised the hiring and training of Audio Video Technician Melissa McQueen

Purchased and Installed Sideboard Cabinet for Audio/Video Equipment Storage

Provided oversight for Sanctuary Piano use in support of Recital rentals/outreach

Installed 85" Video Monitor in Sanctuary to support Hybrid Worship and Community Events

Installed Desktop Computer in the Balcony in support of Hybrid Worship

Acquired more Wired and Wireless Microphones to support Worship and Community Programs

Reviewed objectives for the new Office Manager Job Description

Managed follow through on the Defective Roof Installation

Completed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023

Future upkeep:

In order of priority, the future upkeep of our building will include the negotiation to rectifying a defective roof installation and associated damage to the building, continued management of our elevator, ongoing improvements to electrical, audio system, and hybrid worship needs, restoration of shed and outdoor staircase.

Present projects:

The most pressing concern on the Trustees agenda is the defective roof that was installed on our building last summer and the water damage that resulted this past winter. Unfortunately, this will

take some time to play out with Reliable Roofing Company. We will not be able to address the damage to the building until an adequate roof is in place. We are hopeful that the roofing company that performed the installation will rectify the situation and that Reliable will cover the cost for the damage that was caused to the building. However, there is the possibility of legal recourse if Prospect is not provided with a reasonable response to the situation.

The Trustees firmly believe that our building is still a relevant asset. With continued maintenance and upgrades, the building will support Prospect's pursuit of ministry.

Gratitude and Generosity Team

Submitted by Rick Russell

The Gratitude and Generosity Team has met monthly this past year. We arranged for regular Gratitude and Generosity speakers in worship and provided monthly newsletter articles. We continue to 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 Judy Hooper, Stacy Chilberg, Rick Russell, Cora Trujillo (as moderator), and Pastor Meighan. The 2023-24 pledge campaign resulted in 28 pledges totaling \$97,430.

Social and Environmental Justice Team

Submitted by Meighan Pritchard

Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, who was our Conference Minister for Church Vitality and then our Interim Conference Minister, suggested that we listen to our community and find partners with whom to do ministry to meet community needs. Here are some ways in which we have been following that advice.

After a meeting with the principal and social worker at Stevens Elementary, we held a food drive and then a winter clothing drive for Tutu's Pantry, which serves students at Stevens who are experiencing food insecurity. We continue to look for ways in which to develop partnerships with Stevens.

The SEJ Book Group continues with gusto, reading books about climate change and antiracism and discussing them on Zoom.

The SEJ Team restarted the environmental justice film series in April in conjunction with Earth Day and hopes to show 3-4 films per year. The next film showing will be in August.

At the suggestion of a SEJ Team member, Pastor Meighan joined the Green Buildings Now Leadership Team and Outreach Committee over a year ago. Green Buildings Now is a small group of people of faith working to raise funds to help with the transition away from fossil fuels and toward climate resilience. This group has focused on helping Bethany UCC on Beacon Hill become a resilience hub for its low-income, multiracial community. Green Buildings Now was instrumental in obtaining City funding for most of the resiliency hub project at Bethany UCC, and that project is well underway. Green Buildings Now is currently in discernment regarding future projects.

In December, we invited one of our tenants, One Equal Heart, to speak in worship and set up tables of woven goods after worship in December. People could do some Christmas shopping and also support One Equal Heart's work with women of southern, rural Mexico.

We look forward to working with a new tenant, Project for a Civil Society. This organization works on conflict mediation, focusing in particular on the prison population. We hope to learn more from this organization about how to do this amazing ministry.

Weter-Roberts

Submitted by Suzanne Fry

The board met on May 2 to review 6 applications for grants received by the deadline of April 30. Board members Suzanne Fry, Robin Russell, Patsy Severson, and Cora Trujillo were present on Zoom. Jack Force, co-Chair, offered his thoughts earlier in the afternoon and gave his proxy to Suzanne as 2nd co-Chair.

Following the stipulations of the endowment we had \$4500 to disburse this year. The recipients and amounts are as follows:

- Community Lunch on Capitol Hill - \$900 (5 meals each week for homeless and low income)
- Projects for a Civil Society - \$900 (workshops in prisons, jails and recovery facilities)
- Camp N-Sid-Sen and Retreat Center - \$800 (Outdoor Ministries)
- Be:Seattle - \$700 (Tenants' rights and homeless assistance)
- One Equal Heart - \$700 (work with indigenous peoples in Chiapas, Mexico)
- Amy Miller - \$500 (school supplies for students in need)

Worship and Music Team

Submitted by Meighan Pritchard

Prospect continues to worship in hybrid mode most Sundays and, at the suggestion of some Zoom regulars, we all meet on Zoom one Sunday per month. The all-Zoom Sundays are a nice change of pace and allow more use of photos and art in worship. Thanks to the Trustees for installing a big screen on one side of the sanctuary so that we are better able to see those attending on Zoom, and for continuing to upgrade the sound equipment. We were happy to welcome Melissa McQueen to share duties with Dave Kidder as our sound technician.

The second Sunday of each month is now focused on being especially family friendly, with a children's time in worship. We are delighted to have young children in our midst. We made a wall quilt for the Pray Ground area and blessed it with the children during worship. Extra squares from the quilt became cushions for the pews.

Kia Sams created a Thanksgiving skit, and we celebrated a "Charlie Brown Christmas," complete with a scrappy little tree that we all decorated. Worship series explored the Prayer of Jesus, Gifts of Wisdom, and Divine Mystery. Guest musicians ranged from high school instrumentalists through professionals. Guest preachers have included Michael Stern (who also provided music), Leda Zakarison talking about her time with Global Ministries in Lebanon, Sam Rennebohm, Jan Kinney, Rick Russell, Kerby Avedovech, Tom Sorenson, and others. As she prepares to retire, Office Manager Karen Eisenbrey shares in a sermon some of her remembrances of her time at Prospect.

We continue to explore ways to make worship vibrant. We are blessed with people who love to sing and play!

Financial Summary

Balances

Umpqua Checking (through April 30, 2023)	\$ 59,638
United Church Foundation Osgood (through March 31, 2023)	\$ 283,187
United Church Foundation Weter-Roberts (through March 31, 2023)	\$ 88,686
United Church Foundation Parker Cook (through March 31, 2023)	\$ 7,662
United Church Foundation Bakke (through March 31, 2023)	\$ 156,037
Special Funds	\$ 23,434
Special Offerings Total Received (July 2022-May 2023)	\$ 1,284
Income and Expense Statement (May 2023 to date) and Proposed Budget 2023-24 follow. (Detailed financial report available upon request to the church office.)	

2022-23 by the Numbers

Active Members as of June 11, 2023	55
New Members Received 2022-23	3
Janice Baird, Mary Mueller, and Amanda Snelson	
Confirmands Received	0
Members Lost By Death	3
Carolyn Urban, Pauline McCurdy, and Edgar Neal	
Friends Lost By Death	0
Members removed from active status	18
Members Transferred	0
Births in 2022-23	1
Adrienne Lucy Daley	
Baptisms in 2022-23	0
Marriage and commitment ceremonies	0

Proposed Prospect Church Structure, July 2023
Church staff, church board, committees, boards, ministry teams and other
ministries
(POC=point of contact)

Church Staff

Pastor	Gratitude and Generosity: POC Rick Russell
Rev. Meighan Pritchard	
206-370-4142	
Director of Music	Social and Environmental Justice
Carol “Kia” Sams	(SEJT): POC Kathy Mahan
425-772-7267	
Custodian	Worship and Music: POC Jan Kinney
Jeff Mitchell	
206-437-7330	Other ministries:
Office Manager	
Chase McAdams	Bible Study: POC Meighan Pritchard
206-322-6030	

Church Board

Treasurer: Patsy Severson	Afghan Refugee Family sponsorship
Ralph Cobb, Suzanne Fry, Dave	POC: Meighan Pritchard
Kidder, Amy Miller	
	Community Lunch: POC TBD
Financial Secretary: Stacy Chilberg	Green Buildings Now: POC Meighan Pritchard

Board of Trustees

Chairs: David Kidder and Suzanne Fry
Roy Hardman, Jerry Sams

Maintenance: Roy Hardman

Weter-Roberts Board

Suzanne Fry, Robin Russell, Patsy Severson, Cora Trujillo

Public Relations: Chase McAdams

Coffee Hour Scheduler: Judy Hooper

Ministry Teams: (membership is flexible)