

Prospect Congregational United Church of Christ

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21

Presented at the Online Annual Meeting

June 13, 2021

Pastor's Report

It has been a year unlike any other! After 15 months of meeting virtually, we have the Zoom worship figured out and are also finding ways for those in Seattle who are fully vaccinated to get together in person. Our finances are stable, and at Easter we welcomed seven new members, including two who live elsewhere in Washington and two who live in Germany.

Several of us had planned to make a pilgrimage to Colombia in September through Global Ministries to visit remote villages impacted by poverty, racism, and drug wars. The pandemic shifted that trip to a virtual format, which was certainly more affordable if less immersing. We look forward to growing that Colombia connection through Global Ministries.

In January, the Gratitude & Generosity Team brought in Jan Wood as a guest preacher to kick off a project of small-group discussions that can guide us moving forward. In these gatherings, we explored how we respond naturally to the invitation to spread God's love in the world. These gatherings sparked good discussions that continue to impact how we are together now and plan to be together in person when the pandemic permits. See the Gratitude and Generosity Team's report elsewhere in this document for details.

We are also prioritizing how we want to use our building and what repairs will help it serve well into the future. A listening session this spring brought forward concerns about the elevator, renovation ideas for the organ, and other proposals to make sure the building continues to minister to us and to the broader community. The Trustees and Building Access Committee have both been heavily involved in keeping the building vital and functioning.

We are beginning to feel our way into creating a farm church on my property on Whidbey Island. During several work parties, we have erected fence posts, weeded, sown seeds and starts, and planted eight fruit trees. Others of you have come to meet the lambs and take a tour. This farm church effort is just getting going; stay tuned for great growth!

I am leaving on sabbatical July 1 – September 30 to explore the theme of connecting with the Divine in nature. You will all be receiving sabbatical packets on this theme soon so that you can participate wherever you are. Amara Oden, who is just graduating from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry with her Masters of Divinity, is preparing to step in as your sabbatical pastor. I am grateful for this opportunity to take a break, and we can all look forward to learning from the gifts that Amara will bring.

Blessings, *Meighan*

Board of Trustees

Submitted by John Daugherty, Co-Chair

The Trustees remain dedicated to the role of maintaining the viability of our building for congregational worship, fellowship, weddings, memorials, spiritual gatherings, community musical & theatrical performances, public forums, social & environmental educational presentation, movie showings, 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: Bob Bakke, John Daugherty, Roy Hardman, David Kidder, Jerry Sams. This past year marked some changes in Trustee personnel. Jerry Sams stepped down as acting chair to support Sunday Zoom worship. John Daugherty and David Kidder assumed the role of co-chairmanship. Roy Hardman serves in the role of our on-call maintenance man in lieu of Prospect not having a Sexton. Recently, Terri Dowling and Suzanne Fry agreed to fold the responsibilities of the Building Access Committee into the Trustees and to join our ranks.

In addition to the many repairs needed for the building and landscape, the Trustees have also contributed to many cost saving measures in effort to reduce the overall operating expenses and budget of Prospect.

List of Accomplishments:

- Provided support for computer hardware, software, and internet upgrades
- Replaced fire control panel
- Worked with BAC to install new awning and renovate 3rd floor office space vacated by PEP
- Oversaw completion of brick repair work to west wall and other areas of the building
- Oversaw completion of water collection box and downspout repair on west wall
- Purchased and placed air purifying machines
- Made upgrades to our HVAC cold air return/furnace filtration
- Modified alley cistern to improve its function
- Rebuilt plumbing for kitchen drain
- Installed natural gas sensor in kitchen
- Upgraded and installed programmable thermostats throughout the building
- Replaced leaking toilet in small kitchen bathroom
- Managed rental of Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall to Eritrean Congregation
- Changed over phone service to an online IP Ooma box
- Negotiated a new building insurance policy with a new carrier
- Supported and oversaw PEP move from our building

Future upkeep:

In order of priority, the future upkeep of our building will require a complete overhaul of our elevator, ongoing improvements to electrical and sound system wiring, and exterior painting and window lintel repair. More distant projects include a new roof, plumbing and sewer upgrades, and replacement of our furnace. The Trustees believe that our building is an asset that (with continued maintenance) enables church pursuit of worthwhile ministries.

Present challenges:

Our return to the church building in a hybrid worship model will surely present us with some challenges, both known and unknown. One known challenge will be how to best support a combined in-building worship and Zoom service. Jerry and Roy are currently working to prepare our building for this.

Building Access Committee

Submitted by Terri Dowling

Members: Suzanne Fry, Consi Javier, Dave Kidder, Louise Morehead,
Terri Dowling

A brief history...Over the last few years, BAC has been building a roadmap for the future of Prospect with a focus on outreach and renewal. Our established goals are....

- Support Prospect mandate to expand building use through reimagined space design and utilization
- Increase awareness of Prospect as a community resource
- Develop sustainable revenue stream through creative utilization in keeping with Prospect mission and WA State Regulatory Guidelines
- Develop a flexible plan in meeting these goals
- Identify potential impact issues (Note: A global pandemic had not entered our minds)

June 2019: we installed Peerspace reservation scheduling software to allow broader access to potential users. We were slowly building awareness of our facility and seeing an increase in rental interest. Our review comments were positive and many folks indicated they would not hesitate to come back.

BAM! Then it happened. As we welcomed the New Year 2020...a global pandemic was bearing down on our little world. Yikes! This changed everything. Many of us had never experienced anything on this level. Little did anyone know how this would play out? By March it was crystal clear - we would need to shut down our building indefinitely. We have faced many challenges since shut down began. Today we continue in shut down status with the goal of opening Prospect in October.

While building use was significantly below typical levels, BAC completed some worthwhile projects with help from Trustees. The former PEP south facing offices were cleared out and received a much needed facelift. We painted the offices using the same color palette used for 3rd floor conference room upgrade – very light and bright! New energy efficient ceiling lights were installed and new carpeting was laid. This was an excellent project to tackle while the building was vacant. In other building news...we have a new tenant – One Equal Heart for the NE office on the 3rd floor. OEH is a non-profit planning to take occupancy in October. In other good news The WAC Climbing Club plans to resume classes at Prospect in January 2022!

Looking forward...what we've lost in access we've gained in perspective. As we emerge from our collective Covid Fog we will face some challenges. No doubt we will need many creative ideas to bridge the gap from pandemic to reunion.

Gratitude and Generosity Team

Submitted by Rick Russell

The Gratitude and Generosity Team has met monthly this past year. We engaged Jane Wood from Good News Associates to preach on what we have in our hand to naturally share and promote God's love in the world. Small groups met after her visit to discuss that question and to learn more about the lives of members and friends. We arranged for monthly worship Gratitude and Generosity speakers. We continue to we 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, Pam Puglisi, Rick Russell, John Shrader, Cora Trujillo (as co-moderator), and Pastor Meighan. The 2021-22 pledge campaign resulted in 37 pledges totaling \$114,820.

Social and Environmental Justice Team

Submitted by Meighan Pritchard

Working with Earth Ministry's legislative priorities, the SEJ Team supported two bills during the 2021 legislative session: The Clean Fuels Standard and the HEAL Act. The congregation voted to support these bills, and they both passed. Thank you to all who responded to prompts to contact your legislators in support of these bills. As a result, environmental justice must now be a consideration in passing legislation (HEAL Act), and all new light-duty vehicles registered in Washington as of 2030 will need to be electric.

The SEJ Team also collaborated with St. James, Seattle First Baptist, and Bet Alef to host a virtual showing of the documentary *Kiss the Ground* and to lead a discussion session afterward. This successful collaboration may lead to further efforts.

The new Antiracism Book Group has read four books to date and had some profound discussions. We are taking seriously the call to confront the racism inherent in our culture and present (like it or not) in ourselves.

This work on antiracism and white privilege prompted the SEJ Team to check into collaboration with others in the work of racial justice in our city. We are looking at joining a coalition of faith and BIPOC-led organizations in Green Buildings Now, a project to make Bethany UCC a resiliency hub on Beacon Hill in its low-income community of color.

Other areas of interest: bail bonds reform, getting out the vote, and homelessness.

Weter-Roberts

Submitted by Cora Trujillo

The purpose of the Weter-Roberts Endowment Fund is to provide grants that "do the work of the Church" and are "consistent with Christian values". These grants can be to fund mission projects or scholarship aide to members and friends of Prospect. The Weter-Roberts Board met April 24 by ZOOM. We decided on the following disbursements which were approved by the Church Board;

Community Lunch on Capitol Hill: \$1,000

Camp N-Sid-Sen scholarships for campers: \$1,000

Amara Oden: Scholarship support for seminary education: \$1,000

Dave Mampel: To fund clown performances for charity events: \$550

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete, WA: To support their ministry to a community experiencing widespread poverty and addiction: \$500.

Amy Miller: To purchase school supplies for low income students: \$250.

The members of the Weter-Roberts Board are Jack Force, Suzanne Fry, Robin Russell, Patsy Severson and Cora Trujillo. All members plan to stay on the board next year. Jack Force and Suzanne Fry will be co-chairs.

Worship and Music Team
Submitted by Meighan Pritchard

Our Sunday worship crew of Kia Sams, Jerry Sams, and Brian Russell has become expert in the technical logistics involved in creating and running worship services on Zoom. This is a gifted, committed, and resourceful team. Between creating a virtual choir and using music recorded in “the before times,” we have been able to keep music a vital part of our worship. These formats are not the same as singing in person or feeling the vibrations of the organ foot pedals surrounding us. But they are amazing and keep our choir actively involved.

Porch drops and mailings of Advent and Lent packets at the height of the pandemic sparked conversations and connections at times when we felt most isolated in our homes. The lighting of Advent candles in our sanctuary and various music recordings there remind us of our connections to that space.

One of the advantages of remote worship is that we are not bound geographically. Kia and Jerry decamped to Hawaii for months and were still able to provide music, tech assembly, and running of worship services. When they had less reliable internet, Jerry trained Tom and Jane Braziunas to run the service.

We have heard a variety of guest preachers, a number of whom have commented favorably on how we are creating worship. In recent months we have created weekly themes for photos and art. The Sunday after Christmas featured Dana Durasoff’s paintings.

Jan Kinney put together several slideshows around specific themes, e.g., All Saints Day/Dia de los Muertos and Christmas Eve nativity scenes. Kia created a rich worship experience using her composition set to the poem “The Marshes of Glynn.”

For some months, the Worship and Music Team has been working on what the transition to a hybrid service will look like in the fall. Jerry Sams and others are exploring what equipment will be needed to allow worship in person that includes those attending remotely. We look forward to trying out these new worship possibilities in the coming months, and we very much look forward to the day when we can greet each other in person on Sunday mornings.

Financial Summary

Balances

Umpqua Checking (through May 31, 2021)	\$42,351.04
United Church Foundation Osgood (through March 31, 2021).....	\$300,962.64
United Church Foundation Weter-Roberts (through April 12, 2021).....	\$97,681.42
United Church Foundation Parker Cook (through March 31, 2021)	\$8,230.48
Special Funds	\$16,468.20
Special Offerings Total Received (July 2020-May 2021)	\$1,869.00

Income and Expense Statement (June 2020 to date) and Proposed Budget 2020-21 follow.
(Detailed financial report available upon request to the church office.)

2020-21 by the Numbers

Active Members as of June 13, 2021	76
New Members Received 2020-21	7
Confirmands Received	0
Members Lost By Death	0
Friends Lost By Death	1
Carol McRoberts	
Members removed from active status	0
Members Transferred	0
Births in 2020-21	1
Lila Ann Rennebohm	
Baptisms in 2020-21	0
Marriage and commitment ceremonies	0

Proposed Prospect Church Structure, July 2021

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

(POC=point of contact)

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Meighan Pritchard206-322-6030

Sabbatical Pastor

Amara Oden

Director of Music

Carol "Kia" Sams.....425-776-7267

Custodian

Jeff Mitchell206-437-7330

Office Manager

Karen Eisenbrey206-322-6030

Church Board

Moderator: Cora Trujillo

Board Members: Dave Kidder, Louise Morehead, Sam Rennebohm, Patsy Severson (treasurer)

Treasurer: Patsy Severson

Financial Secretaries: Consi Javier, Phillip Maxwell

Trustees

John Daugherty (chair), Terri Dowling, Suzanne Fry, Roy Hardman, David Kidder, Jerry Sams

Maintenance: Roy Hardman

Sexton Emeritus: Bob Bakke

Public Relations: Karen Eisenbrey

Coffee Hour: Scheduler - Judy Hooper

Facilitators – TBD; Special coffee hours – Barb Force, Jane Doggett

Memorial Reception Coordinator: TBD

Concert Dessert Coordinator: Kathy Mahan

Ministry of:

Godly Play: Cora Trujillo, Jane Braziunas

Gratitude and Generosity: Meighan Pritchard, Pam Puglisi, Rick Russell, John Shrader, Cora Trujillo

Membership/Community connections:

TBD

Social and Environmental Justice:

Rosemary Bell, Jane Braziunas, John Daugherty, Roland Holloway, Kathy Mahan, Louise Morehead, Meighan Pritchard, Rick Russell

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

St. Mary's Food Bank: Barbara Force

Bible Study: 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 and Suzanne Fry (co-chairs), Robin Russell, Patsy Severson, Cora Trujillo