

## Fall Parish Meeting

### Order Of Service - Nov 24th, 2024

**Prelude:** "Sing My Sorrow Away" by Joyce Poley. Performed by the Prairie Choir, directed by Barb Park, accompanied by Tuppence Van de Vaarst

**Welcome:** Ken Skog

**Chalice Lighting** by Debra Faulk

The chalice lit among us is a beacon  
 A beacon of hope, in a world in crisis  
 A beacon of possibility, made manifest in community  
 A beacon of warmth through our interconnections  
 A beacon of light illuminating our shared wisdom  
 A beacon of connection by our being together

### Announcements

### Joys/Concerns & Welcoming Guests/Visitors

### Parish Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Vote to approve the Spring Parish meeting minutes from May 19, 2024
3. Vote to approve the minutes from the Nov 12, 2024 parish meeting
4. Finance update and vote to approve Prairie's 2025 Budget
5. Vote on on approval of candidates to serve on the Committee on Ministry
  - Johanna Hatch - 3 year term
  - Avalon Haykus - 2 year term

**Motion:** Accept the slate of candidates as presented

6. Endowment Planning update and vote to approve establishment of an Endowment Planning Committee. *See the full motion on the back of this page.*

7. Informational announcements from the Board

8. Accept Committee reports

9. Closing words by Ben Atherton-Zeman

As we extinguish the flame on our chalice, we ignite it inside ourselves.  
 Our commitment to our mission and to one another is an unquenchable flame.  
 Let us remember that we are not alone until we light this flame next time.

10. Adjourn

### Greet Your Neighbor

---

#### Prairie UU Society Bond of Union

We, the members of Prairie, wish to associate ourselves together in a religious community which affirms that we share a common humanity, that we need one another, and that our futures are inescapably bound together. Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences, and deepen our emotional sensitivities. We would sharpen our ethical awareness and broaden our sense of social responsibility. We would stand tall in our quest for integrity of life, yet not at others' expense. As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another.

## Agenda item #6, Motion:

**Moved** that the Board establish an "Endowment / Planned givings funds" Planning Committee to:

1. Consult with an attorney to draft governing documents for an endowment fund and / or Reserve funds management and use policy.
2. Present the endowment and/or Reserves use and management plan for congregational approval at a future parish meeting.

### Endowment Features:

- **Purpose:** Fund activities that advance Prairie's mission and vision.
- **Type:** Quasi-endowment, allowing capital use in exceptional circumstances.
- **Beneficiaries:**
  - Activities of Prairie UU Society.
  - Activities of outside organizations (optional).
  - Consider if one or two funds are needed to allow for funding outside social justice issues - a mission value for Prairie.
- **Investment:** One (or two) funds for the above beneficiary categories. Investments with moderate risk are expected for returns to exceed spending over time. Consider prioritizing ESG (socially responsible) and low cost investments.
- **Distribution:** Annual distribution of 4-5% of prior 3 years average value of assets.
- **Endowment / Reserves (management) Committee:** Board of trustee members and/or other members elected at a Parish meeting.

*(Agenda item #6, Motion continued)*

### Planning Committee Composition:

- Finance Chair
- One or Two Board of Trustee members.
- One Prairie member nominated by the Nominating Committee (no parish vote needed).
- The Planning committee will disband after parish approval of documents that set up the Endowment / Reserves management and establish an Endowment / Reserves (management) Committee.

### Initial Funding:

- Loucks family gift. (\$25,000- \$50,000)
- And / or Prairie reserve funds

---

### Announcements

#### **Next Sunday's Service: "Citizens' Climate Lobby's Strategy for Legislative Success" by Ken Skog**

The Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a grassroots organization with over 200,000 members across more than 420 U.S. chapters, representing nearly every congressional district. Its overall goal is to Build political will to act on Climate change. This talk will describe how CCL's focus, strategy and tactics hold the potential to successfully advocate for federal legislation addressing climate change, even amidst political division.

**Next Sunday in RE:** Cook & Learn activities will focus on the Christian Christmas story.

---

#### **Humanist Union Meeting - Dec 1, 12:30**

"Our Place in the Cosmos" presented by John Wunderlin starting at 12:30 in Prairie's annex. John will present a discussion of astronomical scale and distance followed by his journey into astrophotography. John has been a lifelong space and science enthusiast and amateur astronomer.