Calendar

Sunday, November 11
10:00 a.m.--The Great War, My Father, and Me
by Les Lyons
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby & child care

Tuesday, November 13
6:00-8:00 p.m.--Youth Group Pizza Party and
organizational meeting.

Sunday, November 18
10:00 a.m.--Intergenerational Thanksgiving
Service
10:00 a.m.--No R.E. classes, baby care only
6:00 p.m.--Board meeting (at Prairie) with
potluck
7:30 p.m.--Fall Parish Meeting (see story)

Sunday, November 25
10:00 a.m.--A Woman Minister? A panel of
clergywomen from various denomina-
tions discuss their experiences & what this means about
religion.

Sunday, December 2
10:00 a.m.--The Year 2025, Peace on Earth:
The First 10 Years by Les Lyons

Report: Prairie Sister City Project Benefit
Thanks to everyone who came to the even-
ing of slides and music of the Soviet Union
on October 26. Donations and the sale of
Russian food netted $83.35 for the Sister
City Project (Madison with Voronezh, Soviet
Union).

Next Prairie Fire Deadline: November 18
PRAIRIE R.E. TOY BENEFIT

On Sunday, November 18, immediately after the service, there will be a To Benefit for the Prairie R.E. This is your chance to find educational toys for year round gift giving to your children, grand children, nieces, nephews, neighbors, and friends. Every sale will increase the bonuses and profits that will purchase materials for our R.E. program, especially the nursery. Special thanks go to Vickie Swetz of Discovery Toys who will donate her sales profits to Prairie's R.E. Program.

Discovery Toys are fun with function. All help children learn skills through play. Over 100 toys for ages from birth to adult are available in the 99¢ through $20 price range. Right after service on November 18 there will be a short demonstration of the benefits of Discovery Toys, followed by open house browsing. Orders will be delivered early in December. If you can't attend on the 18th, Vickie Swetz and Mary Beth O'Halloran both have catalogs. Please do some of your Christmas shopping on November 18 to help the Prairie's R.E. program find more toys for all our children's development too.

R.E. CORNER, continued

color, especially light/bright colors.
Balloons - especially small ones.
Fabric scraps - all sizes and colors.

Sunday comics

UNICEF BOXES: Remember to return your Halloween boxes that were collected for UNICEF. There will be a middle schooler to collect them next Sunday before the service.

YOUTH GROUP: All middle school and high school youth are invited to join the Youth Group. It will meet twice a month for fun, discussion, learning and socializing. For more information contact Gail Ostler, Lynda Lewis, or Casey Steinau.

The Youths first meeting will start at Rocky Roccoco's (across from Westgate, behind Bishop's) at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13. After dinner they will return to Prairie for an organizational meeting that will end at 8:00 at Prairie. Non-Prairie friends are welcome also. All youth Must have a permission slip to participate (duplicate this one for friends).

TRIP PERMISSION

has my permission to participate in the Youth Group activities, including trips during the regular meeting times. I waive any and all claims against the Prairie Society for any accidents which may occur.

Date ___________________ Signature ___________________

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CLIPBOARDS

Sunday School Snacks
Nov. 11 Fredericka Schilling
" 18 ?

Kitchen Cleanup
Nov. 11 Barbara Polacheck
" 18 ?

Building Cleanup
Nov. 11 ??
" 18 ??

Nursery Helper
Nov. 11 Brent Haglund
" 18 McKees

Room Arrangement
Nov. 11 Rosemary Dorney
" 18 ?

NOTE FOR PARENTS FROM MARY BETH O'HALLORAN

There will only be baby care on the 18th and 25th of November. No "child care".

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

People interested in forming a Christmas choir to sing at Prairie's Christmas service, for carol-singing at nursing homes and other places, and to assist the Sauk City congregation on December 16: please meet on November 11 at Prairie after the service.

AGENDA: FALL PARISH MEETING, SUNDAY, NOV. 18

On Sunday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m., the regular Fall Parish Meeting will be held at Prairie. All members are urged to attend. Friends may attend but may not vote.

The agenda is as follows:
1) Minutes of Spring Parish Meeting (these are printed in this newsletter; please read and note your corrections in advance; bring the minutes with you.)
2) Committee Reports
3) Old Business
   A. Capital Fund
4) New Business
   A. 1985 Budget

INTERNATIONAL CRAFT SALE BY DAVE ZAKEM

On Sunday, November 25, at Prairie after the service, I will be having a sale of some of my international arts and crafts including baskets, cloth, posters, ceramics, and many other one of a kind items. I have more than I need and would like to share my collection with people having a fondness for world cultures. I will sell at very reasonable prices and give a generous contribution to Prairie.
Prairie U-U Society Spring Parish Meeting
at the Society Meeting House, April 29, 1984

A quorum was reached and the meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. Previous minutes were read, and corrections were suggested. The motion by Alice Bullen to accept the minutes was seconded by Aileen Nettleton; and passed on voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Bob Dopp reported for Carol Dopp that 26% of current year pledges have been paid with one-third of a year having passed, but that in real dollars, we are $1500 ahead of last year. He reported that 100% of the interim budget pledges were received. In "Other Income", we have collected $730.85 at a pace equal to the $2000 projection. He reported we currently have 65 pledging units - up from 55 last year.

The lack of an joint Finance-Housing Report as authorized at the November meeting was questioned by Pat Watkins. The report was not ready though certain actions have occurred regarding raising special funds.

Barb Park moved that we refer the joint committee report to the November meeting, and that the Secretary be ordered to include the original motions in the report of this meeting. Seconded by Aileen Nettleton and passed on voice vote.

(11-13-83) Geoff Bonser moved that we institute a capital improvement fund, as a segregated fund to be defined at a late date, and that the funds be earmarked for window replacement and sound insulation - the priorities of which are to be set by the Board. Seconded by Fran Remeika. Peg Stevenson moved to divide the motion into two parts: the first, Moved to establish a capital fund for windows and sound insulation and to include any monies from Proseeds directed into it; and secondly, Moved to establish fund raising drives for the capital fund. A motion was made by Julia Bonser to refer both motions to Finance and Housing Committees to report back at the next meeting.

TREASURER: Mel Micke distributed accounting sheets to general confusion among the members. The interim expenditures fell below the expected expenses with $1407.55 carried over. The figures of current expenditures are attached to this report. At the date of the meeting: Savings account had $1836; Checking account has $3613; Seligman cash management account #1 had $3353, and #2 had $3216.(3 times the mortgage payment).

Aileen Nettleton asked if we have enough money to allow some spent on improvements, and requested the Board look into it. Fran Remeika suggested we acquaint ourselves with the different funding buckets used by the Treasurer. Al Nettleton spoke about the nature of the budget and our Treasurer's use of the money. Pat Watkins asked that we devise some particular means to raise money for special needs and place that money in specified accounts.

Lance Green expressed concern that our funds are held with management groups that invest in armaments. He volunteered to investigate the current holding companies and recommend more progressive alternatives if warranted.

Jack Jallings questioned an item from the interim budget. Mel was able to reconcile the figure to his satisfaction.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Erin Bosch read a letter of resignation from Director of RE, Dayle Haglund, to the dismay of the membership. She reported that attendance is running 32 children with a projected enrollment of 56 children for the next RE year. Erin suggested we strengthen our continuing discussion on space. She reported that most of the RE teachers have been recruited for next year. Erin spoke of a proposed change in the bylaws to allow a younger person to join the congregation following a tutorial apprenticeship program. She expects to propose this change in time for the November Business Meeting. Erin Bosch moved that we recognize the fine contribution given the children of our Society by Dayle Haglund, and direct the Secretary to write a letter of recognition. Seconded by Dorothy Wetherby and passed by acclamation. The priorities for a new RE Director are first a Unitarian-Universalist person from Prairie Society; secondly, a U-U from First Society; thirdly, a religious liberal; or lastly, a person with educational background if not liberal religious training. Les Lyons felt this last alternative may not be acceptable. Dick Bonser suggested we search within the Channing-Murray group for an alternative. Metje Butler said we should have the option of hiring a non-U-U.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Al Nettleton submitted a written report (attached) and summarized that the committee had been looking into issues of growth.
1. U-U is a rapidly growing denomination.
2. Prairie attendance has increased.
3. Building is nearing capacity.
4. UU advise is that our current size is volatile yet we should not set limits on our growth.
5. All indications are for continued growth.
   Al also advised that the internal organization activities of Prairie Society be addressed by the new LRP Committee members.

Metje Butler moved that the President inform the congregation of the nature of Proseeds at monthly intervals. Pat Watkins and Aileen Nettleton cautioned against adding burdensome duties to the Presidency. Erin Bosch and Julia Bonser said we already recognize Proseeds. The motion failed on a show of hands, but the finance committee took note of fund raising needs.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS: Barb Park said Prairie had been active in regional and area contacts. We have had members attending area conferences. We have had two members on the Board of the North central Area Council (Barb Park as President, and Peg Stevenson as Secretary). Casey Steinau represented our group to the Area Council as a youth representative. Barb noted Sid Peterman's visit to the November board meeting and reminded us of the valuable ideas that can come from such contacts. She relayed information of the new District Executive position created for our region by the UUA. She suggested we write this person with an Upham Woods invitation or somehow get their help and expertise working for Prairie. Barb spoke about the "Growth Book" experience and how it might help us get organized for the future. Fall seemed a preferable time to run the program. Barb also said that District and Area costs and fees will remain the same.

Les Lyons nominated Barb Park to be the Prairie U-U representative to the Area Council (a two-year term). Seconded by Jack Jallings and passed by acclamation.
MEMBERSHIP: Alice Bullen reported we have three new members since the November meeting and were expecting more in May. She said that current membership in Prairie stands at 110 members in total. Alice said the next three Thursday evenings would have the new member orientations. Barb Park reported on the orientation series for new members and said we would be reducing the frequency from twice to once a year. Jack Jallings spoke of the history of membership in our society and how it might be reassessed. A discussion of the nature of membership followed.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Dorothy Wetherby spoke in Bob West's absence. She reported we that we have had a program every Sunday. Good show, Bob!

SOCIAL ACTION: Lance Green reported on the good support Prairie showed to the 'Sanctuary Project', and how well received and supported Mary Mullen's activities had been. Lance would like to separate social action information from other U-U information spaces.

UPHAM WOODS: Jack Jallings and Dick Bonser volunteered to head Upham Woods registration. Dorothy Wetherby volunteered to lead in program development. Al Nettleton said "expectations of the nature of Upham Woods" and the community spirit experienced there should be readdressed within Prairie.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES: Les Lyons reported with recommendations (see attached) for Bylaw changes, and a slate of nominations for Prairie Society Board Offices and Committee Chairpersons. Mike Briggs asked for any other nominations for the offices. None were made. Dick Bonser moved that the recommendations for offices be accepted. Barb Park seconded the motion which passed with unanimous voice. Lynda Lewis moved that we elect both members to the Committee on Committees and G.A. delegates at one time. Seconded by Rick Ruecking and passed. Votes were cast by secret ballot. * Elected to be our G.A. delegates were Les Lyons and Barb Park.* Elected to the Committee on Committees: Lee Bullen, Barb Park, and Anne Reardon.

HOUSING AND PROPERTY: Dick Bonser reported on the work done by the committee in the past year. These included installing a new door, getting bids on the replacement windows, work parties, and removal of an aged tree from the back property line. Metje Butler brought up the subject of dyeing the meeting room drapes. Pat Watkins moved that particular items of building maintenance be referred to the Housing and Property committee. Seconded by Barb Park and passed by consent.

Dick Bonser moved that we spend no more than $2500 from cash reserves for replacement of the basement windows. Seconded by Geoff Bonser. Discussion was held with Les Lyons questioning the necessity of these windows. The motion passed with some dissenting votes.

The Board recommendation to rent the building to the Cornerstone Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ on a temporary basis was brought to the floor. The next two hours were used in a general discussion of this matter.

* Questions areas raised by members included:
  1. the proposed times of usage, and our current scheduling;
  2. rental rates as related to our costs, and, or prevailing market rates, deciding equitable charges, prorating building costs, flat fee, use fee;
  3. our needs for protection through lease and insurance;
4. Use intensity: number of people proposing to use the building, number of times per week, and for how long;
5. Our past rental arrangements, did we get preferential treatment;
6. Need to contact last lessor;
7. Our loss of privacy;
8. Concerns with permanency and fairness;
9. The pressures and problems of a quick decision;
10. Building supervision or increased need for janitorial services;
11. And other neighborhood concerns such as noise, and parking.

A motion for referral of the question to the Housing and Property Committee was made by Al Nettleton. Seconded by Dick Bonser. A friendly amendment was made by Mike Briggs that the H-P Committee report back to the congregation on the third Sunday in May with the answer to the questions raised for a decision at that time. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Two items of consensus could be gleaned from the above discussion.
1. That we not lease the building at a time earlier than late afternoon on Sundays. This is the time members feel we must reserve for ourselves.
2. That we make a good faith effort to extend ourselves and rent the building. This sentiment was voiced as recognition of, and appreciation for, the help we have received in the past.

The Spring Parish Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m. until the third Sunday in May at a time following the regular program.

Secretary, 

Rick Ruecking
May 14, 1984
Spring Parish Meeting reconvened on May 20, 1984:

The meeting was reconvened by Mike Briggs in the Prairie Meeting House, on May 20th, 1984 at 11:45 a.m. Those members in attendance constituted a quorum.

Mike reiterated the rental question and turned the floor to the special Housing and Property Subcommittee Chair, Rick Ruecking. Rick described the items of consensus gleaned from the minutes of the past meeting, and relayed the answers to questions raised at that time. He reported on discussions held with members of the Cornerstone group, and reported that a second rental offer had been extended by a violin teacher.

The discussion then centered on the price that should be charged any group using our meeting house on a regular basis. This was an emotional discussion with some members expressing disappointment at the manner in which we living up to our expressed beliefs. Others felt that we were pursuing rental agreements in a less than practical fashion (ie. losing money), and that we should be more business-like.

A motion was made by Al Nettleton to allow the special subcommittee to offer a year's lease to the Cornerstone Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ at a rate of $200.00 for 32 hours of building use per month, and to the violin teacher at a monthly rate of $250.00 for the period June 4 through August 24th, and give the subcommittee a 10% bargaining flexibility. Seconded by Mel Micke and passed on a voice vote.

Some final notes:
The time spent discussing these matters resulted in one party finding other rental space.
The church group declined our offer because the available times were really not convenient for them.

A few proposals were made as a result of this process:
- a. that we rewrite our rental flyer to reflect more realistic rates;
- b. that we more vigorously pursue other renters;
- c. that we utlize the building more ourselves;
- d. that we rethink our standards and practices;
- e. that we make decisions with more speed.

Secretary
Rick Ruecking
June 12, 1984
HOW PRAIRIE VIEWS ITSELF

Approximately 30 people came out to the Growth Workshop led by Carol Ruxton on Saturday, November 3. Part of the morning was devoted to an exercise of perception, and participants were asked to list the characteristics within a list of 5 categories which were felt to enhance growth and to inhibit growth.

**ENHANCERS**

1. Physical Space: Ownership, permanence, flexibility, economical,
2. Organization/Structure: Simple, flexible, participatory,
3. Leadership: Enthusiastic, variety of perspectives, includes "new blood" on committees, accessibility, commitment,
4. Program: Diversity, reflects members concerns, stimulating, participatory, educational, comfortable style,
5. Finance: Casual money attitude, lack of pressure, voluntary pledging, no plate passing,

**INHIBITERS**

Lack of space; poor acoustics, uncomfortable, unaesthetic,
Rapid turnover of board officers, too few workers, lack of continuity, poor decision making,
Too casual, uneven quality, unrealistic expectations, burnout, unmet counseling needs,
Lacks long range objectives, lacks religious and spiritual content, over-intellectualization,
Not enough money, too much reliance on volunteers, attitude is too casual, not enough pressure to contribute, reluctance to discuss money,

**CONSENSUS OF GOALS FOR EACH CATEGORY:**

1. Begin to plan for inevitable growth probability; (Growth)
2. Provide adequate space for programs and continued growth. (Physical)
3. Change the By-laws to enhance continuity on the Board of Directors. (Structure)
4. Hire a part-time person to support and assist in programming and administrative functions. (Leadership)
5. Programs should more clearly meet both the spiritual and non-spiritual needs of the Society. (Programs)
6. Design and implement a financial plan which will permit us to fulfill our goals. (Finance)

Having set some goals and integrated them into the proper Society components, we now need to 1) establish objectives in each category,
2) have brainstorming activity,
3) evaluate and prioritize activities,
4) develop a timetable and assign responsibilities,
5) co-ordinate planning and activities,
6) re-evaluate and replan.

Thank you Carol Ruxton for coming to help with our Growth Workshop! It was a good and important experience for Prairie. We need to continue to develop and grow.

Thank you Pat Watkins for summarizing this valuable days work for us and having it ready to include in this PRAIRIE FIRE.
## PROPOSED 1985 BUDGET

### OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program: Lay ministry compensation</th>
<th>1984</th>
<th>1985</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program expenses</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Song books</td>
<td>50</td>
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**Total Program**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1,700</th>
<th>1,850</th>
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### Religious Education:

1) Director's salary
2) Preschool teacher
3) Preschool aide
4) Conferences and training

**Total Religious Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1984</th>
<th>1985</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,700</td>
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### Denominational Affairs:

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>UUA Annual Program fund</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Midwest District dues</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>107</td>
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<td>North Central Area Council dues</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>UU Service Committee</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>General Assembly scholarship</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>UUA Pamphlets</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>GA Banner</td>
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**Total Denominational Affairs**

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### Membership:

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<td>Directory (150 copies)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Name tag holders</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Prairie sheets</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>15</td>
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**Total Membership**

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>100</th>
<th>115</th>
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### Office:

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<td>P.O. BOX</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>410</td>
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<td>Contingencies</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minutes, stamps</td>
<td>75</td>
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**Total Office**

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<th>565</th>
<th>585</th>
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### Ceremonies:

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### Housing and Property:

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<td>Mortgage</td>
<td>4,286</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>1,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janitorial</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>390</td>
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**Total Housing (Operating)**

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>7,311</th>
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### Other:

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>1985</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Planning</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upham Woods Scholarship</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Fire: 26 @ $47.60/Issue + $40 Permit 1,000</td>
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<td>1,280</td>
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**Total Other**

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<th>1,430</th>
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**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$16,217</th>
<th>$17,856</th>
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HOW MUCH ($$$) DOES PRAIRIE MEAN TO YOU?

The things for which people spend their hard-earned money is one indication of the value judgements they make. By raising your pledge you are raising your degree of concern for the values of Prairie. Your pledge is an important measure of your commitment to Prairie.

We have a proposed 1985 operating budget of $17,856 which would require an average pledge of $365 from each pledging unit.

Pledges are our major source of income. Please consider a generous financial contribution for Prairie. We're a healthy, active society who needs your support.

-------------------------------------------

PRAIRIE UU SOCIETY
Pledge to Operating Budget 1985

NAME(S) _______________________________ PHONE __________

ADDRESS _______________________________ ZIP __________

In support of the Operating budget, it is my/our intention to give the amount shown below:

Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly / Yearly $ __________
(Circle One)

SIGNATURE _____________________________ DATE __________

Please return form to Carol Dopp, 5010 Marathon Drive, Madison, WI, 53705.

Payments on pledge should be made to Mel Micke, 636 Sheldon Street, Madison, WI, 53711.

10/84