

First Unitarian Church of Providence
Prudential Committee Meeting Notes
September 12, 2018

ATTENDING

Prudential Committee

John Simmonds, President
Jay Glasson, Past-President
Cheryl Bartholomew, President-Elect
David House, Treasurer
Roberta Groch, Assistant Treasurer
Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk
Caroline Mailloux, Strategic Planning
Tiffany Reed, Stewardship Liaison – *Absent*
Kate Bowden, Personnel Liaison
Sam Cole, Community Life Liaison
Nancy Weiss Fried, Social Justice Liaison
Cynthia Roberts, Spiritual Development Liaison

Church Staff Attending

Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, Minister
Cathy Seggel, DRE
Nancy Folsstrom, Church Administrator

OPENING

6:30 PM – Pru Comm photo

6:45 PM - Check-in; Opening Words - John (Kristen Armstrong)- Chalice Lighting – Call to Order

CONSENT AGENDA

7:00 PM – June minutes not available at this time.

Motion for funds for emergency repairs, parking lot and lighting, seconded and approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

7:03 PM –

- **Minister (Liz) –**
 - Thandeka effort is around corner. Need support of PruComm members to get word out. Monday night lecture “Got Race” is open to the public. Other events are for church members and friends.
 - Lay ministry – New England Region now has David Pyle (military chaplain) as adjunct available to do lay ministry training as well as advise on personnel / staffing options.
 - Nancy will be doing Liz’s meeting scheduling.
 - Liz read new staff covenant developed and signed by all staff at staff retreat.

- **DRE (Cathy) –**
 - Fresh additions – Huddles, optional 15 minutes with Cathy at 10AM to meet with anyone for inspiration, questions, support, etc
 - Thandeka communication. Cathy will share Facebook post, electronic posters for dissemination.

- Positive feedback on resource book – Susan Frederick-Gray
- **Church Administrator (Nancy) –**
 - Glad she was able to work and get oriented during summer. Jaime and Wally are great partners / co-workers.
 - Waste disposal negotiations rates were reported to go up. Nancy negotiated a fair lower rate.
 - Nancy questioned policy about who should have keys. She will establish key box. Tag existing keys. Document who has keys with sign in/ sign out policy at office.
- **Treasurer (David / Roberta) –** 16.7% of year; 22% of income in. Expenses on track.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

7:26 PM –

- **Security** – Camera outside front with software in office. Video saved for 24 hours. Alarm system can be set up for only the perimeter as needed. Four panic buttons – no sound; alert goes directly to police. 3M film to secure office windows is being researched and costed and glass to door to youth group is being made more secure.
- **Sound System** – Committee headed by Neil Bartholomew will work with consultant funded by Buff Chase. Jay made motion for PruComm to execute contract with sound consultant that has been presented to us for purpose of having him provide assessment of the sound needs of the meeting house for both worship and music and – seconded by David, approved. Thanks to Buff Chase for funding this assessment.
- **Love Beyond Belief** - Beth Armstrong has agreed to be coordinator of activities for the LBB activities. She will be point person for the week's activities. PruComm support is needed to get word out and attend events.
- **Restoration Status** – Work on contract almost complete. Once complete will need to release \$115,500 of hold back funds. \$170,000 between what was pledged and what has been received. David will check on intentions of remaining pledges. Would like to see about doing work on Benefit Street internal entrance. We need some landscaping at front entrance. This was not included in contract. Fred and Nancy Weiss-Fried and interested others will be working on design. Need to consider programmatic function of front space as well as aesthetic. Will come up with a proposal for input. Clock will ring from 8AM to 8PM, starting at 2PM Saturday. David will check on railing that is missing from Southeast steps.
- **Electrical Panel replacement** – It is completed; needed to prevent fire hazard.
- **Common endowment Fund UUA** – Will be getting a report on feasibility later this year.
- **Electronic / Credit Card Payments** – Tiffany looking into this with Nancy F.
- **Congregational Meeting and Partner Church – Refresh weekend** – Tom Getz has requested PruComm to attend refresh weekend events 10/12 – 10/14 to reenergize partner church activities. Congregational conversation will take place on 9/23 after services. Issue to discuss is Partner Church and Hungarian Unitarian Church policy on marriage as only between a man and a woman.

MINISTRIES, PERSONNEL, STRATEGIC PLANNING

8:06 PM –

- **Personnel (Kate)** – Martha Rice Sanders (Committee on Ministry) and Kate met with Liz regarding Pastoral Care and weak spots. David Pyle will be able to assist with assessing this as well as long term staffing needs.
- **Strategic Planning (Caroline)** – This will be informed by Thandeka work.

- **Community Life (Sam)** –
 - “All parish supper” renamed to “Parish House Potluck.” Responsibility and assignments made. Community Band Sing-along is program for first parish potluck – 9/21/2018. Schedule: 5:45 doors open – Dinner around 6:15. Program around 7:15. A few Saturdays with earlier start: 12/8 and 4/13.
 - History Committee starting work on 300 celebration. Work on a publication and live presentation of some sort. A contract with New England Stained Glass to see about glass jewelry, etc. from old glass window shards. Work on records on history on race. Megan Smith will head the 300 anniversary team.
 - Caring Network leadership resigned. Cynthia Rosengard helped organize logistical care needs (cards, calls, meals, rides, etc.). She will also help with longer term re-visioning of this and also tie to newer lay ministry concept – trained group of lay ministers.
- **Social Justice (Nancy)** – Nothing to report
- **Spiritual Development (Cynthia)** - Has been building relationships with various committees. “Conscious Grieving Group” changing their name. Music committee needs to be reestablished and chair designated.
- **Stewardship (Tiffany)** – Not present.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8:25 PM –

- **Proactive Budget (David)** – Proposing that committees / programs/ ministries estimate what desired, unrestricted budget would be BEFORE pledge campaign in March – perhaps by November or January at the latest. Congregation can then rate or prioritize importance of desired items. Purpose is so we can tell congregation that we need XX amount to do what we need, to inform goal of pledge drive. Finance committee will also be looking for other ways of raising funds – rental, other.
- **Board Discussion:** How to encourage more interactions amongst committees within ministries? How can we get to fewer social justice initiatives without volunteers leaving or becoming discouraged?
 - Branding? Identifying with the effort? Overarching mission
 - Social justice efforts fall into three categories - advocacy, service, learning
 - Do issues the congregation votes on carry more weight? Do these things matter? E.g., Black Lives Matter vote – happened, banner hung, not much since
 - Consider resuming Council on Ministries which used to meet a few times a year as mechanism to identify common goals across ministries.

NEW BUSINESS

9:01 PM-

- David proposed March 23 as possible date for a Fundraising Variety Show
- Parking lot – Jay shared what will be happening with the parking lot lighting lot – Will work with an electrician, dig a trench, put in PVC piping for electrical wiring around lot. Asphalt covering with base coat at first, final coat in the spring.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request Sandy Schacht to show location of panic buttons before services on Sunday (Jay did this before end of meeting)
2. Signatories with bank for credit card before leaving

3. Ministry liaisons talk to committees to form unrestricted budget identifying a) those few important items that are needed to maintain and grow program and also, b) wish list for what would be good or nice to have.
4. Update Neil to move on sound system contract.

CLOSE

9:05 PM – Close

SUBMITTED by CLERK
Claire Rosenbaum