**First Unitarian Church of Providence**

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

March 10, 2021

**ATTENDING:**

**Prudential Committee**

Michael Cappelli, President

Cheryl Bartholomew, Past-President

Odile Mattiauda, President-elect

Roberta Groch, Treasurer

Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk

Edie Warren, Personnel Liaison

Beth Armstrong, Strategic Planning

Louise Sloan, Community Life Liaison

Greg Kniseley, Social Justice Liaison

Elizabeth Allsworth, Spiritual Development Liaison

Stewardship Liaison – vacant

Assistant Treasurer - vacant

Ex Officio - Liz Lerner Maclay, Minister

**Church Staff Attending**

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education

Nancy Forsstrom, Church Administrator

**Meeting was held remotely via zoom due to COVID-19 Emergency.**

**6:45 PM - Gathering**

**7:01 PM Opening Words –** Odile – From Rupi Kaur – The Sun of her Flowers (2017)

**Chalice Lighting & Covenant Reading**

**Call to Order – 7:02 PM**

**7:02 PM - February Minutes** - ( Michael / Odile) Approved Unanimously

**7:03 PM - March Treasurer’s Report –** **See report** – 67% of church year has passed. 57% of budgeted expenses. 74% of pledges received. Total income at 69%. Roberta shared some pledge data compared to last year. There is not much difference from last year’s numbers, so we are in good shape. Pledge reminder letters were sent out and there has been some positive response from that in February. Budget committee voted to recommend a budget. More to come on that in upcoming meetings. Line of credit with Washington Trust is up for renewal – currently $0 balance, but gives a potential “emergency fund.” Roberta will consult with Finance committee on this. Michael will find out deadline for renewal.

**REPORTS**:

* **7:15 - Minister (Liz) – See written report –** Highlights: Faith in Science effort continues; Evolving relationship with Bethel AME; Winter mailing went out; Working with RI Coalition against Gun Violence for sensible gun control legislation along with Guns to Plowshares clergy coalition.
* **7:18 PM - DRE (Cathy ) –** Highlights: Facilitated UUA common read, Breathe:A Letter to My Sons by Imani Perry; Facilitating discussion group on “Widening the Circle of Concern” report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change; Helping to reimagine job description for music director for youth and community; Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You - discussion for Sr. High youth and middle school; April First U 4 You family mailing planned; Planning a Passover multi-generational service and the Senior High Bridging multi-generational service in May. Working on how to reimagine looking forward to both digital and in person presence – Consulting with UUA and other UU RE programs. Pandemic will end for different folks at different times – most vulnerable last. Spiritual Pathways Team feeling out families. There is high interest, but hesitancy, in returning to campus. We need to keep communication going. Considering outreach to all families in April to manage expectations. LREDA Colleagues are guiding thinking. Many layers for children, youth and parents. Different challenges for RE than congregation as a whole. Planning a session in April – parents and guardians as sexuality educators (Since OWL was not offered this year). Milwaukee virtual GA – need to get delegates from First U.
* **7:31PM - Church Administrator (Nancy) –** Two groups of volunteers – COVID Testing (16 volunteers). Front desk volunteers – one person for each day. Volunteers helped with latest First U 4 You mailing. The commitment drive mailing went out today. Each mailing is 450 pieces. Working with Roberta on the budget. 501(c) 3 application has been completed and submitted. Waiting to hear back from IRS on this. Pledges are starting to come in (even before mailing went out). We will need to relocate food pantry storage from Sanctuary basement. Possible location in shelves to be built in Haynes room – proposed plans are coming from Max. May need to consider how we are using all of our spaces for best multi-use.
* **Liaison updates**
  + **7:40 PM Congregational Life** – **(Louise) –** Cohort of five people on Mosaic Steering Team, including two from PruComm. Need a male member. Women’s Alliance has hosted amazing speakers. Art Collective will be considering diversity and inclusion issues from Mosaic proposal. Bookstore committee wants to rename bookstore in memory of Irene Allen. Decided against an online bookstore. Need an introduction of the Mosaic committee to the congregation – aim for next Friday’s Newsletter (3/19).
  + **8:02 PM Social Justice (Greg)**  – Proposal to have rainbow flag / symbol in church to symbolize welcome to LGBTQ community. Greg will pull together group to work on this. Greg will bring recommendation to April PruComm meeting.
  + **Spritual Development (Elizabeth) –** no report
  + **Stewardship** - no update
  + **Human Resources** – **(Edie)–** executive session
  + **Strategic Planning** – **(Beth) – See discussion of mission statement below.**

**DISCUSSION:**

* **8:15PM - Mission Statement –– Motion: (Michael / Odile) That the PruComm endorse the mission statement as developed and presented by the task force, based on input form First U members and friends over the last three years.** Motion passed unanimously.

Beth shared concept of “Modular” mission statement. Opening statement – two sentences; four bullet points; tagline. One format is more “poetic” with cascading visuals. Committee stands strongly behind every word and concept of the mission statement. They propose that the congregation vote to accept this mission statement at the annual meeting in June. Discussion: How this statement helps PruComm set priorities, let newcomers know what we are about, teach our children values we believe in. Beth proposed that task force meet again to be ready to develop context document and to develop rollout plan for next three months.

* **8:42PM - Recommendation from Bridging Team –** **Motion: (Edie / Elizabeth) That we accept the current recommendation of the bridging team to continue with virtual services throughout the summer.** The motion passed unanimously.
* **8:45 PM Commitment Drive –** Thanks to all who are assisting with the Commitment Drive. Asking for 5% increase in pledges from all of PruComm if at all possible. Please pledge. PruComm members are asked to send video or statement of “What First U Means to You” to Nancy.
* **8:49 PM (Michael / Cheryl) Motion to move into Executive Session. Executive session ended 9:56 PM**

**Closing Words** – Odile – Form Bettina Love “We want to more than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the pursuit of educational freedom” (2019)

**9:58PM Adjourn (**Michael / Edie **)**

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk