**First Unitarian Church of Providence**

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

May 12, 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

**Guests**

Kate Niles

Alison Green

Lee Rodman

Chris Sanzo

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

**6:45 PM - Gathering**

**7:00 PM Opening Words – (**Roberta) – Gerry Garcia

**Covenant Reading**

**Call to Order – 7:02 PM**

**April Minutes** - Motion to accept minutes of April meeting as submitted (Michael/ Cheryl). Approved Unanimously.

**May Treasurer’s Report –** **See report** – 83% of year; 72% spent. Non-endowment income 80.5%. We may end the year with surplus, but still to be determined. Thanks to staff for keeping expenses low. Pledge data – just a little bit worse than this time last year.

Fiscal Year 2020 net assets report was shared. Background: Outside accountant comes in quarterly to review all of our accounting. We need to take snapshot of net assets at some point during each year and have PruComm review and approve. Usually this is done in September once old fiscal year is closed. That action was overlooked in September of 2020. Net Assets report as of June, 2020 is being shared for approval now. **Motion: To accept the Net Assets going forward as of June 30, 2020 as presented to PruComm (Roberta / Michael).** Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**:

* **Minister (Liz) –** Continuing to work on all goals. There has been some media attention on vaccine equity work with Howard Jenkins and. Some news from Merciful Conversations group expected in June. Liz shared that she and Rob Hardies will be leading a walking pilgrimage over West Highland Way in Scotland for a week in May of 2022. Opportunities for reflection daily, community building, Celtic spirituality, etc. She would like to look for ways to make financially accessible for one or two folks who could not go otherwise. Need to build in protections in the case that this would not be possible due to COVID.
* **DRE (Cathy ) –** A lot going on. Family of story has been theme this srping. She worked with Elizabeth Allsworth on story of mission statement. Senior High Bridging happening on Sunday. Assembling teacher appreciation packets. Spiritual Pathways team is planning multi-platform activities. Planning listening circle for parents to explore this. Taught faith development course at Harvard Divinity School. Fabulous group of twelve students.
* **Church Administrator (Nancy) –** COVID testing continues. Numbers are down and have shortened hours. (May become a vaccination site for BIPOC community – rollout has been delayed because they are still working on who will be administering the vaccine). Working on commitment drive and follow-up. Working on the auction. Goes live on Friday at noon. Working on book of notes and memories for Fred to be presented on last day. Volunteers in the office are doing well. Some groups who meet at the church are coming back. Working on the annual report. Committees with activity are submitting their reports.
* **Liaison updates**
  + **Spritual Development (Elizabeth) –** Elizabeth has reached out to committees regarding mission statement.Has met with worship and will meet with music.
  + **Social Justice (Greg)**  – Rainbow task force is making progress. Yard signs are up. Hope to have painted stairs by June 6. Steve McCloy has organized volunteers. Adlers has donated paint. Max P. is working with contractor on regulations and details of flag pole installation. Art Collective is considering Atrium painting project. Requesting $300 from surplus funds from 2020-21. Art Collective has raised $1000. $500 allocated from Building and Grounds 2021-22 budget. Total cost is $3100, Contractor is $1300 in labor. Issue will be tabled until May 26 budget meeting.
  + **Congregational Life** – **(Louise) –** Lee Rodman spoke for the Mosaic Steering Team. The team has met six times since late March. First U has made it clear that we are not racist. It is time that we began to take action to become ANTI-racist.
    - The team’s first and biggest recommendation is to invest in a series of professionally led, experiential workshops and also the creation of a plan for continuing anti-racism work after workshops. The Steering Team interviewed three training companies. Our first / best choice, Wayside Equity Training Center, was also a little less than other two - $11,500. They offered the best balance of workshops for larger number of congregants to push culture change toward anti-racism plus two strategic planning sessions for future planning for equity work moving forward.
    - Second recommendation is to refresh images in minister’s parlor to reflect who we are now and to become more welcoming.
    - Third recommendation – Offer opportunities for people of color to connect with identity based UU groups - BLUU and DRUUM.

Michael shared that some money may be available under a “new initiatives” line item for these efforts. PruComm members are urged to read all related documents in the googel drive before the May 26 budget meeting and come prepared with any questions. Liz wants to meet with the Mosaic Steering Team to talk through some of her questions.

* + **Strategic Planning** – **(Beth) –** See mission statement work.

**DISCUSSION:**

* **Special Meeting –** We need to hold a special meeting in the church parking lot to take care of two motions before the annual meeting on June 6.

Motion: to suspend requirement to hold all annual, financial and special meetings on the church premises until such time as the church is open for public worship.

Motion: Suspend need for the PruComm approve nominations 30 days before the annual meeting. (Exact wording will be disseminated and announced from the pulpit during the next two Sundays services). The special meeting will be held live int he parking lot on Sunday, May 23, 11:45AM.

* **Interim Music Search Task Force –** Things are moving quickly. Job posting is out including on our website. Task Force is accepting resumes. Have developed a calendar for the team. Plan is to complete vetting all written resumes by June 6. Hope for final three candidates. Process for zoom interviews. Job posting has been disseminated to the UUA, AUUMN (UU Music Directors Association) , RI Chapter of American Organists Guild, RI Music Educators Association, Berkeley College of Music, Providence College, Community Music Works.
* **Mission Statement –** (Beth) – Mission statement was unveiled at Sunday service, May 9. Jim Corbin designed a beautiful logo. Coffee hour was devoted to response to mission statement. People did not have time to sit with this before coffee hour feedback sessions. Elizabeth did a listening sessions with worship committee. Plans one with music committee. Three congregational conversations are scheduled. Most of committee will be at all three. Entire congregation has not had chance to give feedback yet. Mission statement team will get together and discuss what has been heard and consider any potential changes before a vote.
* **Commitment Drive -** 269 pledges todate - $426,000. 64 pledges uncommitted to date, but can mostly be counted on. These would constitute an additional $68,000. $494,000. Roberta has identified another source of money – $22,000 in Lippet fund which will be available by next December (previously devoted to boiler replacement) – This woudl bring our total to $516,000. There may be other funds that are available. Average pledge is $1400. Many people have increased their pledges. With a discount 92%, we are left with a budget just under $500,000. We are still within range of our proposed budget. This will allow for level funding with cost of living increase for staff.
* **Bridging Team –** They are engaged in hopeful plan to open in September (but not promising anything). Community zoom meeting planned, date TBD.
* **Budget Priority Meeting – May 26, 6:45PM**

**Closing Words** – (Roberta) Billy Collins

**9:32PM - Adjourn (**Michael/ Edie **)**

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk