

First Unitarian Church of Providence

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

March 23, 2022

ATTENDING:

Prudential Committee

Odile Mattiauda, President

Michael Cappelli, Past-President

Joan Richards, President-elect

John Dooley, Treasurer

Rick Richards, Assistant Treasurer

Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk

Edie Warren, Personnel Liaison

Beth Armstrong, Strategic Planning

Louise Sloan, Community Life Liaison *absent*

Greg Kniseley, Social Justice Liaison

Alison Green, Spiritual Development Liaison *absent*

Vacant, Stewardship Liaison

Ex-officio - Liz Lerner Maclay, Minister

Carson Cole, Youth Representative

Church Staff Attending

Nancy Forsstrom, Church Administrator

Roger Peltier, Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care

6:45 PM – Gathering IN PERSON

Opening Words – Greg

Covenant Reading -

Call to Order – 6:55PM

Announcements –

- COVID is on the rise again in Europe, however, the BA2 variant is more like a cold lasting a day or two for those vaxxed and boosted. The COVID Committee meets next week. Masking during services will likely stay in place for a while since we are not checking people's vaccination status.
- Erica Barron, UUA consultant, will be working with us on role clarity, communication, team building and mission and priorities between the board and the staff. She has asked for contact info of PruComm members.

February Minutes – Motion to approve February minutes (Rick /Edie) was approved unanimously.

Commitment Drive – (Rick) Team recruitment is completed. Pre-pledging is underway. Team will be oriented on March 28. Five testimonials during services are scheduled. The sermon on Sunday, April 10 will be on the commitment drive. Wrap-up will take place in May. Rick distributed pledge packets for PruComm members and asked all to pre-pledge in the next few days. He reminded that PruComm members are chief stewards of the church financially and otherwise. Requested that PruComm members also give visibly during Sunday collections. PruComm members are asked to make First U pledge a larger gift than to any other non-profit. Also, consider First U in estate planning.

Treasurers report and Budget (John) – We are currently at 66% of the year. Much of the spending is below that. Income is at around 75% which put us in a very good place. John reminded that PruComm will need to vote on how Roger Osborne annuity funds amounting to \$290,000 get spent. As noted, some possibilities include creation of a Sabbatical fund, increasing New Initiatives fund so that we can use interest as planned, development of a communications staff position. We also need to purchase technology that would allow for hybrid conferencing. Members were also directed to review the communication from David House proposing that funds be used for the building maintenance gap. PruComm will discuss these various options at the next meeting.

Motions – (History Committee Request and Website Policy)

Motion: Allocate \$4000 for history committee from surplus funds to pay Brown graduate assistant to continue on First Church Involvement with the Business of Slavery in Rhode Island (Odile / Joan) Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To adopt the website policy as shared with PruComm materials. (Odile / Edie) Unanimously approved.

Interim Music Director Resignation – Jeff Allard has tendered his resignation as Interim Music Director effective June 12, 2022, a decision based on his own personal career path. To quote Jeff's resignation letter, "My experience at First U. has been nothing short of remarkable. I have immensely enjoyed working with the staff and have greatly appreciated the support given to me by Liz. I very much admire her leadership, and that of the entire staff. The people of this community have been incredibly welcoming and supportive, and I must offer my sincere gratitude for this fact. Let me reiterate that my choice to depart is entirely based on my changing vocation and my own personal needs." **Motion: To accept Beth Armstrong as Interim Music Director for one year starting July 1, 2022.** (Edie / Joan) Passed unanimously. A search committee will be developed to search for a permanent Music Director. Beth will need to resign from PruComm as strategic planning liaison. Emails will go out to the congregation, music committee and choir this evening.

Reports (Highlights only) –

Minister (Liz)– (See written report) – Additionally, together Joan and Liz decided to postpone joint PruComm / Senior minister evaluation until at least Spring of 2023 since we are all in such an unsettled space right now.

Administrator – (See written report) – Not in report, we have developed “text to give” capacity through REALM which will make pledging very easy.

Assistant Minister (See written report) – Pastoral Care Network refers to an array of pastoral care work – Care Crew providing meals, rides, cards, etc.; Excellently trained lay ministry team; Also, two trained chaplains to help with end of life and other pastoral concerns. Planning for May Breakfast for the Caring Crew.

Social Justice Liaison (Greg) – Community Collection applications are available for pass through Sunday collections. Due date is April 30. Suggestion that recipient organizations provide leaflets or flyers on their work to include in orders of service in the future whenever possible.

DRE – Cathy – (See written report) Cathy Seggel’s has proposed May 22 as her last day.

DRE Search (Michael) – Alison is leading search committee for the Interim Director of Religious Education. They have received six or seven applications to date. There are four strong contenders. Committee is contacting references at this point.

Celebrations and Volunteer Recognition – Reviewed nominations for volunteer recognition. Continue to nominate others and more discussion and decisions will be made at next meeting. Reserved space for Colt State Park June 12 for end of year and to celebrate 300th Anniversary. Perhaps Community Band could play. **Motion: To set aside up to \$3000 to cover costs of Cathy’s farewell celebration. (Joan / Odile)**

Meet with Max Pounder regarding plans for accessibility accommodations – April 13 - 6PM

Proposal from Peter Bowden – Creating a digital ministry proposal. To be discussed at next meeting.

Closing Words - Greg

Chalice Extinguishing

Adjourn – 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Rosenbaum
Clerk