

## **First Unitarian Church of Providence**

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

May 24, 2023

### **ATTENDING:**

#### **Prudential Committee**

Joan Richards, President

Odile Mattiauda, Past-President *absent*

Hillary Salmons, President-elect

John Dooley, Treasurer

Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk

Dana Borrelli-Murray, Personnel Liaison

Peter Laarman, Strategic Planning *absent*

Louise Sloan, Community Life Liaison

Lisa Voutes, Social Justice Liaison

Alison Green, Spiritual Development Liaison

Andy Wilby, Stewardship Liaison

Ex-officio – Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay (by speaker phone)

#### **Church Staff Attending**

Nancy Forsstram, Director of Operations

#### **Guests**

Rick Richards (Signage)

Steve Kloeblen (Green Team)

### **6:45 PM – Gathering / Chalice Lighting / Covenant Reading**

Opening Words – (Joan) - Rilke

### **Call to Order – 6:46 PM**

### **Approval of May 10, 2023 Minutes**

**Motion:: To approve the minutes (Joan / Alison) - approved unanimously.**

**Green Team Presentation (John Dooley / Steve Kloeblen)** – John commended the Green Team for following the budget request process for groups making specific requests. They have proposed efficiency measures to reduce the church’s electricity consumption. Step 1: An energy audit by RISE recommended converting all lighting to LED. This project is underway and will be completed this summer. Already approved cost of \$5,725 with an annual savings of \$2,250, so will be paid back in less than three years with continued ongoing savings. Step 2 – Purchasing electrical energy and renewable energy credits through non-profit PowerOptions Collaborative. Eighteen month contract. Through these two steps we can reduce 41 tons of CO2 emissions, while cutting out electricity costs by over 35%. There is the possibility in the future for reaching

out to other faith communities to form a collaborative to purchase directly from the Solar Farm being constructed by the Episcopal Church of RI for additional cost savings.

**Signage Presentation (Rick)** – At previous meetings, the signage task force presented concepts for two types of signs, vertical and horizontal. PruComm approved the vertical sign option. The task Force identified a designer who would charge \$3,000 to design a vertical sign, not including the cost of materials or labor to construct the sign . It was shared that there are church sign companies who will include the cost of a design with the purchase of a sign. PruComm agreed to charge Nancy Forsstram to contact three different church sign companies and get three different bids (and designs) and consult with the Task Force for their recommendation to PruComm. Rick will take this information to the task force.

**Budget Presentation (John)** – The commitment drive was successful. Much thanks to Rick Richards and Diane Baxter. We are very close to the \$500,000 target in pledges. We have a \$1700 surplus in the proposed budget. We even anticipate that there may be more and better revenue fundraising opportunities next year. There are many unreimbursed expenses for staff (especially Roger and Mandy). We have asked them to keep an accounting of all non-reimbursed expenses. As we get into the year, we may want to increase those expense line items. We are paying our fair share of UUA dues. Our current operating expenses and operating income are well on target. Endowment is consistently growing in spite of the 5% percent that we take out each year. Next year, after analysis, we will plan for an annual set aside for sabbaticals. Because of larger capital expenses that are looming, PruComm and the Finance and Development committee will be analyzing and coming to the congregation for a decision on a Capital Campaign plan during the next church year. We need to have a more robust buildings and grounds committee and develop a schedule for routine maintenance as we are coming out of COVID. **Motion: To approve the budget as presented (Hilary / Joan). Passed unanimously.**

**Director of Religious Education Search (Dana / Alison)** – Mandy, Dana, Hilary, Alison and Liz will meet and report on progress toward creating a search committee at the June meeting. Guidance from UUA on process for forming search committee could be helpful. Our own search committee process could / should be addition to the policy manual. Timeline will necessitate getting the posting out early (by January 1, if possible). Potential DRE candidate pool will be small as many DRE's have left profession after COVID. We will need to be making an offer by April.

**Volunteer Recognition**– Joan will ask Ted Martin to present to those he nominated for Pillars of the Church. PruComm made three other recommendations for Volunteer Recognition. Joan will make those presentations.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Technology – Finance and Development Committee** – The Finance and Development committee has met and reviewed the proposal for the Meeting House Audio Visual Project.

They came up with a recommendation for funding this proposal. **Motion: Upon the recommendation of the Finance and Development Committee, we will invest \$35,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for the \$70,000 Meeting House Audio Visual Project as proposed by Audio Visual Task Force. The remaining \$35,000 we will borrow from our Line of Credit and conduct a targeted fund drive to pay back the Line of Credit (Hillary / Andy) . Motion passed unanimously.**

It was noted that when making the targeted asks for this fund drive, donors should be informed of plans for a larger capital campaign next year to cover other large capital expenses (e.g., organ, accessibility modifications, kitchen, etc.)

**8:17 PM - Closing Words - Joan**

**8:18 PM - Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk