

First Unitarian Church of Providence

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

February 13, 2019

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
Kate Bowden, Personnel Liaison
Sam Cole, Community Life Liaison
Nancy Weiss Fried, Social Justice Liaison
Cynthia Roberts, Spiritual Development Liaison
Carson Cole, Youth Observer (absent)

Church Staff Attending

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

Guests attending

Joe Fisler, Commitment Drive
Cynthia Rosengard, Commitment Drive and Welcoming Congregation
Claude LeBeouf
Ralph Mero

OPENING

6:45 PM - Check In

- Opening Words (Claire)
- Call to Order – Chalice Lighting and Covenant Reading
- Welcome Guests & Observers

CONSENT AGENDA

- Meeting Minutes – January
- Motion: Expenditure policy – Partner Church
- Motions: \$300 for variety show/Budget Congregational Conversation/Accountant's FY 2018 closing statement

Cheryl made a motion to accept the consent agenda, Jay seconded – approved unanimously.

John announced that the plate collection for the Partner Church was \$857.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Guest Speakers)

- **Commitment Drive (Cynthia Rosengard & Joe Fisler)**

Cynthia and Joe challenged PruComm members to commit before drive opens (and be the first leadership group to do so!). Pledge cards were distributed and collected.

- Joe said they want to continue with the “generosity as spiritual practice” theme this year, but are implementing a few new strategies.
- The team went to most generous givers with face-to-face asks. These asks are completed.
- The team is in the process of approaching various groups within the church – Deacons, PruComm, Chalice Circle Committee, RE, etc.
- March – five Sundays to outreach to regular members, new members, etc.
- Team is not setting a dollar target on campaign. Emphasis on individuals deciding what makes sense for them.
- Will be using the tree again – with dots showing where folks fit. Hearts on name tag as last year but different color.
- Online giving is new this year.

John asked for PruComm members to match up with new members on new member Sunday on March 10. David, Cheryl, Roberta and Jay volunteered.

- **Welcoming Congregation Certification (Cynthia Rosengard)**

First U got involved with Welcoming Congregation movement about 12 years ago. This is a UUA designation that the congregation is taking intentional steps to be more welcoming and inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The UUA is encouraging Welcoming Congregations to engage in Five Practices of “Welcoming Renewal.”

1. Becoming a Welcoming Congregation
2. Having “welcoming” worship services
3. “Welcoming” days of observance
4. Welcoming Congregation training modules (UUA would provide)
5. Support a welcoming “project” – raising money for LGBTQ supporting organization

Jay moved that we start the process and put a team together to pursue renewal process. Tiffany seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Minister (Liz) – See written report. Highlights:**

Twenty-four in new member class – nice broad section. Many new members express that they want closer connection beyond Sunday programming.

- **DRE (Cathy) – See written report - Highlights:**

Interfaith comfort packs for foster children (First UU RE and Temple Beth-El)

Tech Connect – Youth connecting with older members for technology assistance (Smart phone / tablets, etc.

Taco Fiesta was a success.

Virtual gathering on Zoom for volunteer teachers.

Wholly Family service was a huge success. Lots of positive feedback.

- **Church Administrator (Nancy F.) –Written report - Highlights:**
Security and safety book and floor plans are in development for first responders in case of emergency.
UUA annual certification process was completed on 1 February.
- **Treasurer (David / Roberta) –**
Things are good – 58% of year. Expenses on track; income slightly above projected.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Epic Theater / Athenaeum**
Deal has fallen through. Theater did not agree to cost for building managers. However, three more Athenaeum events scheduled.
- **Sound System**
Report is delayed. Needs more time – on March agenda.
- **Recent Bequests**
\$400,000 bequests – naming church in wills, most targeted to the Preservation Endowment Fund.
\$37,000 outright donations toward \$1000,000 preservation fund goal.
- **Ask the PruComm Table**
We have held two so far. The next will be held on March 10 (Jay and Sam), April 14 (Claire and Caroline), May 5 (Kate, Nancy).
- **Loaves and Fishes Mission**
Will need to buy cabinet with funds from plate collection.
Looking to store cabinet in vestibule where chairs and tables are stored (working with Nancy F.).
- **Sanctuary Meeting with Three Presidents –**
Met with Liz, Kathy A. and Judy O. Vetting process reviewed and will be followed.
Agreed to hire an immigration lawyer in the event of another sanctuary guest.
It was suggested that report on what was learned be generated for congregation.

MINISTRIES, PERSONNEL, STRATEGIC PLANNING

- **Personnel (Kate) –**
Follow up calls with David Pyle. Looking at vacation policy and sabbatical policies.
- **Strategic Planning (Caroline) –**
Looking at more of a five-year horizon. Align where we are as whole leadership team.
Dedicate spring to planning and implementing a leadership summit – some hard conversations to bring everyone on board with direction we want to be headed. Plan for ways to get congregational input. Bring in third party facilitator by January 2020.
- **Community Life (Sam)**
Transylvania Team met regarding trip – 8-10 people committed to going.
Potluck Suppers – World Affairs or Commitment Drive for March – or possibility of having a dessert and coffee potluck for Variety Show, March 23. PruComm to donate desserts.
- **Social Justice (Nancy) –**
No Report
- **Spiritual Development (Cynthia) –**

Cynthia has worked out some meaningful connections with committees in different ways. Thinking of role as consultant. Meet with various groups and created connections. Suggestion to connect with Cynthia Rosengard and small group ministry work.

- **Stewardship (Tiffany) –**
Thank you to everyone for pledges.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Board Discussion: Love Beyond Belief – how should this evolve beyond Chalice Circles? The role of the PruComm? Communication?**
History (Spring, 2018) – Committee on Ministry identified need to channel new energy in church, (people wanting to go deeper, making more meaningful connections). Identified Love beyond Belief as mechanism to help us along that path. Need to get more common experiences to engage on more emotional level. Create more small group ministry experiences / opportunities.
Changes in worship.
Put First U stamp on where we want to take this.
Not a problem to solve, but a process we need to live.
Suggestion to retrospectively harvest outcomes to connect the dots for congregation.
Many of the benefits are felt rather than seen and therefore difficult to point to. What can we say to help people understand what we understand. Process of “discernment.”
Affect theology – Embodying our faith.
- **David moved that we go into executive session to Discuss Letter to the Congregation. Tiffany seconded. Executive Session began approximately 8:40PM. Executive Session ended 9:08.**
- Due to the late hour, it was decided to meet again on February 21 at 7 PM for another Executive Session: David Pyle’s Report - discussion, selection of recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Next meeting

- Date: March 13, 2019
- Time: 6:45 PM
- Opening / Closing Words – (Caroline)

Closing words - Claire

9:20 PM **ADJOURNMENT** - Tiffany moved to adjourn, David seconded. Approved unanimously

SUBMITTED by CLERK
Claire Rosenbaum