

First Unitarian Church of Providence
Prudential Committee Meeting Notes
May 22, 2019

ATTENDING

Prudential Committee

John Simmonds, President
Jay Glasson, Past-President (absent)
Cheryl Bartholomew, President-Elect
David House, Treasurer
Roberta Groch, Assistant Treasurer
Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk
Caroline Mailloux, Strategic Planning (absent)
Tiffany Reed, Stewardship Liaison
Kate Bowden, Personnel Liaison
Sam Cole, Community Life Liaison
Nancy Weiss Fried, Social Justice Liaison
Cynthia Roberts, Spiritual Development Liaison (absent)
Carson Cole, Youth Observer (absent)

Church Staff Attending

Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, Minister
Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
Nancy Forsstrom, Church Administrator

Guests attending

None

OPENING

6:45 PM - Check In

- Opening Words (Tiffany)
- Call to Order – Chalice Lighting and Covenant Reading

7:00 PM CONSENT AGENDA

- Meeting Minutes – 8th May
- Gift Policy
- Plaque for Past Presidents and Pillars
- Verizon Fios & Phone Agreement
- Slate of Nominees

David moved to approve the consent agenda. Cheryl seconded – motion carried unanimously.

MINISTRIES, PERSONNEL, STRATEGIC PLANNING:

• **Personnel (Kate)**

Personnel committee has been reviewing policy recommendations from David Pyle. They also reviewed vacation policies from other churches recommended by David Pyle

and Kate requested to put this on the agenda for next meeting. Kate will connect with new personnel chair. Kate was commended for her service the last three years.

- **Strategic Planning (Caroline)** – Caroline absent. No report.

- **Community Life (Sam)**

Committee members will plan to attend Calendaring meeting June 10. The last Saturday Parish House Potluck was cancelled – not enough response. Some members feel Potluck should skip a program to give more time for socializing. Others feel the program is what draws people out. Need to continue to think through best configuration for Parish House Potlucks to meet the needs of most. Thanks to Sam for efforts to experiment.

- **Social Justice (Nancy)** – No report

- **Spiritual Development (Cynthia)** – Cynthia absent. No report

- **Stewardship (Tiffany)**

Wildly successful commitment drive!!

John reminded Ministry Liaisons to relay back to committees that any fundraising must come to the PruComm for approval. We need to be watchful of donor fatigue. The PruComm sees larger picture and can help prioritize and appropriately time fundraising activities.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Board discussions):

- **Volunteer Recognition – Status**

John and Jay need bios for awardees – see meeting materials for those responsible.

- **Congregational Meeting Update (David)**

David summarized presentation and comments at congregational conversation on May 19. Next year's proposed budget was presented and discussed. We need to raise more income to meet future goals. John pointed out the need for a giving assessment to assess the congregation's capacity to raise funds to meet staff, building, and programming goals. David recommends sending out the full summary budget with the email announcement of the annual meeting. Cathy has arranged for child care for the annual meeting. The announcement should also tell people of this availability.

- **Sunday Plate – motion**

Joe Fisler presented Sunday giving plate concept at congregational conversation (Having an additional Sunday collection per month go to an initiative or project within the church not funded within the budget). The concept was well-received. However, Nancy F. and David pointed out that this would create a negative impact on the Sunday plate line item in the FY '20 draft budget. Therefore, we will NOT put this on agenda for this year's annual meeting on June 2. Rather we will study impact of such a proposal on the budget and propose at next year's annual meeting. This will also allow

for time to develop process for making proposal to PruComm for approval of projects or initiatives to be funded by the Sunday plate effort.

- **Voting Membership Activity (April: 506/+10/-17)**

At annual meeting, members who have made a pledge in the current church year and made payments toward that pledge at least three months prior to the meeting are entitled to vote. A list of these members will be made available for the June 2 meeting to verify voting members.

- **Deacons Report & Re-Envisioning**

See report from Beth Anteri on Deacon's calling in meeting materials. Deacons will be re-looking at their mission during next church year. Suggestion to coordinate this discussion with PruComm and Lay ministry for areas of overlap and collaboration.

- **Gun Violence Awareness Day – 2nd June**

David has arranged for orange glow lights on the steeple to honor Gun Violence Awareness Day June 2.

- **Church Landscaping & Cost – motion**

See proposed landscaping plan and Estimated cost \$15,000 in meeting materials. Max Pounder has taken on chair of Buildings and Grounds Committee. He has many ideas on how to move this project forward. Nancy W-F will share her thoughts and ideas regarding plantings with Max. Cathy will contact Max about a new member who is interested in joining his Committee.

- **Fred's Sabbatical Proposal (Liz) – motion**

Fred has proposed and Liz approved hiring Jay MacCubbin, organist/ pianist/ keyboardist and Beth Armstrong, Music Director, to cover Fred's sabbatical. Each has a weekly rate for the weeks Fred will be gone, including Christmas. Additional funding will come from the Music budget line item if the budget amount of \$7200 is not sufficient. Cheryl moved that we approve these hires for Fred's sabbatical replacement. Roberta seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- **David Smith's music program (Liz)**

David Smith offers an opportunity to UU congregations for music learning over several days, culminating in a worship service that is music-focused. His program teaches congregations arrangements of UU hymns and other songs in a variety of styles. The experience involves rote learning and does not require music reading or trained voices – all teens and adults are welcome. This program would broaden the music experience for First U and we could also invite other UU congregations in the area to participate. This would take place the third weekend in October. Martha Rice Sanders has offered to help with fundraising - \$3000. (As mentioned above, we need to be aware of "donor fatigue." The PruComm needs to be the central decision-maker for fund-raising outside of the budget. One suggestion – to revisit the fund-raising policy as it may be too restrictive around concerts, small fund-raising events or the exclusion of all fund-raising during Commitment Drives.) David moved to approve raising the funds for the

David Smith program, such funding to be raised outside of church operating budget and other church funds. Kate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- **First U – Emergency Shelter: policy/process; ownership; sanctuary**

Question raised as to what response we might have to potential influx of immigrants moved from the southern border to Providence as a Sanctuary City. This is under discussion by First U sanctuary group and other partners. More to come.

- **Sound System Funding & Next Steps**

Portions of design going will be going out to bid (Neil). Potentially looking for another installer who will charge less. In any case, we need strategy to raise money for this project. Neil and Leadership will approach certain members for targeted asks. Once we have some money gathered, talk with Buff Chase for possible match.

- **Calendar Planning Meeting – 10th June**

Cheryl and Sam will facilitate. All should come to this event with their plans and wishes and how their wishes will fit best into the church year. Also, with any budget and fund-raising impacts of proposed events.

- **Annual Meeting - 2nd June**

NEW BUSINESS –

Liz suggested that we should do something special to thank Kevin Carson for his service on June 9. This will be Kevin's last visible time with congregation and we will be commissioning lay ministers that Sunday. Kate will help plan this.

Claire move to go into executive session. Roberta seconded. Carried unanimously. Roberta moved to come out of executive session. Cheryl seconded. Carried unanimously

8:30PM - ACTION ITEM REVIEW

1. **John will invite newly elected slate of PruComm candidates to June meeting**
2. **Jay will send model of bio and presentation for awards**
3. **David will talk to Joe Fislser about Sunday plate proposal**

Next Meeting:

- **Date:** 12 June 2019
- **Time:** 6:45 PM
- **Opening/Closing Words:** (Nancy)

Closing Words (Tiffany)

8:35 Adjournment – Tiffany moved to adjourn. Nancy seconded. All approved.

SUBMITTED by CLERK
Claire Rosenbaum