

First Unitarian Church of Providence
Prudential Committee Meeting Notes
May 8, 2019

ATTENDING

Prudential Committee

John Simmonds, President
Jay Glasson, Past-President
Cheryl Bartholomew, President-Elect
David House, Treasurer
Roberta Groch, Assistant Treasurer (absent)
Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk
Caroline Mailloux, Strategic Planning
Tiffany Reed, Stewardship Liaison (absent)
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, Director of Religious Education
Nancy Forsstrom, Church Administrator

Guests attending

Ralph Mero
David Francis

Note: There are 2 meetings this month. The primary focus of this meeting will be on the budget.

OPENING

6:45 PM - Check In

- Opening Words (Cynthia sent; Cathy read – Cynthia was running late)
- Call to Order – Chalice Lighting and Covenant Reading
- Welcome Guests

7:00 PM CONSENT AGENDA

- Meeting Minutes – April
- Ordination – Lisa Garcia-Sampson
David made a motion to remove Lisa's ordination from the consent agenda. Jay seconded. Unanimously passed. (See discussion below at end of meeting)
- Jay moved to accept April minutes. Cheryl seconded. All approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Minister (Liz)** – Guns to Plowshares service May 12. Planned reads for PruComm (Inside the Large Church) and Staff (When Moses met Aaron) – Need plan for how / when this happens.
- **DRE (Cathy)** – See written report. Planning for next year. Coming of Age service will happen on 5/19.
- **Church Administrator (Nancy)** – See written report. Kate and Nancy have been researching who decides when church closes in the summer. Not finding a decision-making process in writing, she suggests that church closes last two weeks of July. (July 21 - August 5).
- **Treasurer (David/Roberta)** – We are about \$6,000 ahead on income. There are some possible errors. We may have a \$5000 surplus from set-aside for medical deductibles. \$5000 discrepancy on a pension. Therefore, potentially another \$10,000 that needs verification with Walter when he gets back.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Steward of Partnership Award** – Tom Getz received UUA Steward of Partnership award. He would have received in Spokane at GA this year, but will be deferred until 2020 GA in Providence.
- **Giving Assessment Update** – John spoke with “Stewardship for Us.” They worked with us several years back and their recommendations resulted in increased giving. This would involve a weekend long assessment. Last time they worked with finance and stewardship committees. This effort did increase giving in congregation.
- **Commitment Drive Update** - \$470, 800 in pledges to date.
- **RRAC – 3rd Person** – Right Relations Advisory Committee – includes Minister PruComm president, and third non PruComm member. Carol Adams has been doing this – thank you, Carol. Jay has volunteered to be new third person when he leaves the PruComm in June. His nominatino will be an item on agenda for annual meeting.
- **GA 2019 delegates** – We have four delegates; some will attend virtually.
- **GA 2020 update** – History committee agreed to give tours of church and have materials available. They will come up with schedule. Jacqui Nye gave name of person at airport to contact regarding a table at the Airport. Alliance may take care of this.
- **300th Anniversary** – Committee met with Liz. Plans for October 2020. Planning for celebratory items – T-shirts, etc. Janet Downing Taylor came up with design for necklace. Children to come up with children’s t-shirt design. Plans for a banner

with timeline. Parish House Potluck devoted to the 300th Celebration in January. Liz is planning services devoted to history of church.

- **Facilitation - Coordinating Team** – Facilitated conversations – coordinating team will consist of John, Caroline, Wendy Oliver and will meet with peer facilitator in early June.
- **Meeting House Entrance** – Recommendation for wireless security. Contractor may do this for us. E.F. O'Donnell has done a great job.
- **Technology Team - Leadership** – Kathy Fisler is stepping down as team leader. Bill Kotef is moving into this role. Kathy will stay on the team.
- **Books for PruComm/Staff Read** – Books are in. PruComm – Cheryl will let all PruComm members know timing and process for read and discussion.
- **Cabinet-Loaves & Fishes Mission** – Cabinet is in – on wheels for mobility.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Board discussions):

• **Volunteer Recognition – Target 22nd May** – Award announcers need to get Bios to Jay and John by 5/22.

• **Draft Budget Proposal (David/Nancy)** – Nancy presented graph showing amazing growth in pledge numbers AND amounts. Hopeful outlook for growing financial commitment.

David presented a straw budget with 3% staff increase plus two highest priorities from Jan meeting. (¼ time pastoral care position, Tech upgrade) also maintenance and capital costs for repairs that are necessary. Repair air conditioning so it dehumidifies as well as cools.

Reviewed Prioritization list. Those with added priorities since January explained them. Strategic Planning, Giving Assessment, Thandeka workshop weekend with Soul Circles (Small Group Ministry), Lay Pastoral Care Training Materials, Lisa Ordination, Peer Group Facilitation, Membership Coordinator extra work time, Sabbatical expenses, Youth Music Director (Children's performance Christmas Eve; Work with older children). Cathy also pointed out the the increase in RE budget reflects increase in pre-K registration requiring a Sunday morning staff position.

Jay made a motion that we move into executive session for budget discussion. Cheryl seconded. Carried unanimously.

Kate made a motion to move out of executive session. Nancy seconded. Carried unanimously.

David moved that we accept budget created after prioritization process be presented to congregation on 5/19/2019. Nancy seconded. Passed unanimously.

• **Lisa Sampson-Garcia Ordination Discussion (From Consent Agenda)**

Lisa Garcia-Sampson is seeking ordination from our church. She will appear before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee – the credentialing body of the UUA – in December, 2019. The purpose of this motion is to seek congregation approval to ordain Lisa. She has estimated that it will cost approximately \$1500 to host ordination activities

The congregation needs to vote on this at the annual congregational meeting in June. The motion would read: *“We, the members of First Unitarian Church of Providence, agree to ordain Lisa Garcia-Sampson after she is credentialed for service by the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Ministerial Fellowship Committee.”*

David proposed an amendment to add to the motion, *“ assuming funding is available outside the budget.”* Cheryl seconded the motion and agreed to lead the effort to raise funds for this purpose– the proposed amendment carried unanimously.

Jay moved to approve the amended motion for a vote at the annual meeting. David seconded. Passed unanimously.

The remaining agenda items below were deferred to the May 22 Pru Comm meeting agenda.

• **Congregational Meeting – 19th May/Sunday plate discussion**

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

• **Deacons Report & Re-Envisioning**

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

NEW BUSINESS

- None

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

1. Add amended Motion for Lisa’s ordination to Annual meeting agenda for approval
2. Add nominating Jay as third person on RRAC to the annual meeting
3. Volunteer recognition award announcers get bios to Jay and John by 5/22
4. Add vote to hold Lisa’s ordination at First U to annual meeting agenda.

Next Meeting:

- **Date:** May 22, 2019.
- **Time:** 6:45 PM
- **Opening/Closing Words:** (Tiffany)

Closing Words (Cynthia)

10:39PM ADJOURNMENT – Jay moved to adjourn Cheryl seconded. All approved.

SUBMITTED by CLERK
Claire Rosenbaum