

GUCCI Meeting Minutes 7/7/2021

Grant from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG)

- Grant appreciation letter & revised budget to be sent to HFPG has been drafted. Claire will sign on behalf of Bob.
- Check will go to First Church as previously agreed.
- Claire would like to debrief with those involved in the initial grant writing to prepare for and pass the baton for a sustaining grant.

Update on Working Groups (WG)

Program WG has only met with coach. Meeting 7/8 with coaches, Claire, and liaisons. Set up first full session meeting soon. How do they split up the group? Doesn't have to be equal split. Divide where passion is.

Nuts & Bolts WG has met twice. Subgroups working on different tasks. This is a very task-oriented group. Talking to attorney / accountant firm and working nicely together. South Church finance committee has some concerns about making a budget for next year. WG will put together a budget for combined entity. Each entity will budget for 2022 as if separate. Each group worried about GUCCI expenses - reminder these costs are not being paid out of the SCC/FCC operating budgets. What do we plan for when we work on the separate 2022 budgets? Pandemic impacts?

Staffing/Communications/Technology WG

Two meetings so far. Off to a slow start, but getting traction this summer. Some First Church members are leaving this committee. Good work from Jen Gorman who created a needs assessment - who are we serving, etc. Assessing paid staffing and communications. Staffing more important (different) than communications. Seminaries are seeking intern locations. General concern that people don't want to be talking about merger in December. Reality is that we need to take the time it requires. And that means sometime in 2022.

Property WG

Two property tours are now complete. Meeting with coach on 7/8 at the YMCA to talk about tours and the process needed for assessment.

Unite WG

Peg Giles will join GUCCI & be the First Church Unite liaison. Need to set up a meeting with this WG to include Claire and Coach to reset; identify parameters, affirm goals. Waiting to align schedules. A married couple on GUCCI - Peg & Bob want to be sure GUCCI is ok with them both being on GUCCI. All agreed Peg "has her own mind" and this is OK.

GUCCI updates need to reinforce:

Patience is needed. These working groups are not making decisions. They will do analysis, make broad brush proposals/recommendations which will become part of a future vote. All is for the good of the whole, which is bigger than just our two churches. It includes the communities we wish to serve.

Next meeting is Wed 7/28.