

**First Unitarian Society in Newton
Operations Council Minutes – October 18, 2016**

Present: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, John Brennan, Kate Mason, Andrea Kelley, Judy Curby

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 in the Children's Chapel.

No staff members were able to be at the meeting, and Clerk Wendy Schwartz was also unavailable.

Invocation / Chalice Lighting

Approvals:

September Minutes approved 6-0

Additional cost of \$2,830 for the handicapped ramp approved 6-0

Communities Without Borders jazz concert fundraiser approved 6-0

Report on BOT meeting

Andrea reported on the Board of Trustees meeting.

Financial

· **Review year-to-date spending**

No issues

Faithify campaign

Approved 6-0

Update: Committee issues/reports, including:

- **B&G—niche plaque prices**

Cost of the plaques has increased. As a result, Laurel recommended increasing the cost of the niches from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Approved 6-0

- **B&G-review property insurance & liability coverage**

Laurel will review

- **Fire safety plan status (November report)**

- **Fundraising activities—need to obtain fundraising activities from Social Action; have music fundraising; need RE**

The proposed list of Social Action Fundraisers for November and December (but without specific dates) was reviewed. There was some concern that there may be too many fundraisers planned for this period. Kate and Susan will meet with Social Action to convey these concerns.

- **DLT**

Kate reported on the Developing Leadership initiative and ideas for communicating “opportunities for engagement” within the congregation. Kate described a possible poster/kiosk that could include names and faces of committee chairs and thereby help members of the congregation to more easily connect with the various committees and activities at FUSN. More information will be available at the upcoming Committee Chairs meeting.

Laurel noted that the Washington Street hallway to the Parish Hall can only safely accommodate one chair rack. Often two chair racks are stored in this area. There is not an obvious location to store the second chair rack so a viable solution will take some more thought.

There was a general discussion about the status of the search for a new Membership Coordinator. It was the understanding of the Operations Council that the search undertaken over the summer may not have been successful. No one on the Operations Council had been available to serve on the summer search committee but Andrea Kelley is now available to join the search committee as the Operations Council representative, if the search is continuing. Operations Council members agreed that they would like to have a presence on the search committee, and thanked Andrea for her willingness to serve on it.

Review priorities from retreat

It was noted that the Ops Council will look into rates and discount rates for room rentals. Andrea will coordinate.

Thank yous

Thank you will go to Vern Ellis for Ferry Beach coordination.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53.

Minutes prepared by Judy Curby.