

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES November 2019 FINAL

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Children's Chapel

Attending: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Sharon Sisskind, Eric Haas, Amanda Groff (RE), Christine Lookner (BOT), Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:05 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Eric

Covenant

As we, the members of this Council and staff, gather to serve this congregation in leadership, we commit to ourselves and to each other: to be present and prepared for the work of this meeting; to listen well and contribute respectfully; to balance both our short and long-term visions with fiscal responsibility; to support the decisions of the Council; to uphold the democratic process; and to lead with goodwill and faith in the work we can accomplish together.

Approvals:

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- By email on November 12: Erin called Susan to poll Ops Council on the following request. John Nichols has written a new book. He would like to preach one Sunday at FUUSN. He would not want an honorarium for preaching but would like to make his book available for sale during coffee hour. Erin proposes that he preach Feb.16—President's Day weekend and that book sales be allowed. Email vote: 5 yes, motion passed.
- Minutes-August & September. Sharon moved and Laurel seconded approval. 5 votes in favor, motion passed.
- Music Sunday collection for RIM - Jud moved to approve and Eric seconded; votes 5 in favor, motion passed.
 - Activities at FUUSN that are free and open to all FUUSN attendees: vegan dinners, swing dancing lessons, yoga (all at no charge for facilities). Jud moved to approve these activities and Sharon seconded, 5 votes yes, motion passed.
 - Social Action & RE fundraising activities
 - Eric had spoken to Lynn Holbein about a list of social action fund-raising activities. He has the list but does not have it with him; will forward to OC. These activities include the Concord prison outreach (gift bags), items for asylum seekers, WLP collection of gloves and winter coats (November through February), Healthy Baby Healthy Child December, UUA boxes, alternative gift fair. Laurel moved and Eric seconded approval of all of above; votes 5 yes, motion passed.

Staff Update – Amanda

- Rosemary Dean started as membership coordinator (she also took part-time job at Newton Cultural Alliance). Doing well so far.
- Erin doing well, still needs to take it easy.
- RE going OK, most of her focus is on children's RE program and Coming of Age.
- Working on hiring a temporary part-time person to bridge until February, then do broad search for full time religious educator position. Part time position has been posted and has several applicants.
- Last Saturday started the Pledge to End Racism program. 25 people have started training to lead the program; Amanda took part.
- OWL moved from youth room to basement; Laurel and Amanda discussed some logistical issues related to move.

Report from BOT – Eric

- Long conversation about ministerial review process
- Discussion about stewardship council – he had sent the second draft of a charge to the council to OC by email; that document is still under discussion by BOT.

Financial

- Review October expenditures
 - Laurel – it's early in the year so haven't spent much on utilities yet.
 - More prior year pledges are coming in than were budgeted.
 - Budget is ahead in part because of two open staff positions.
- Legacy: WNOV matching funds memo. A letter from Brian Hicks regarding this issue had been distributed prior to meeting; there was agreement to send on to the board.

Update: Film screening & copyright issues – Jud

- Julia Huston sent report to Anne Watson Born – there is a special exemption for religious institutions for using music. This exemption does not apply to stage performances or films, so films cannot be shown at FUUSN without permission. Susan – there is a church film library; can join and show films for about \$300 per year (but films not of interest).

Status: Data privacy work with Julia Huston – Jud

- Jud is will talk to Julia about current status of work

Status: Fellowship dinner

- Will be held May 2.
- Saul Lookner will be in charge

Review Ops Council priorities

- Database – Jud had spoken to Elisabeth Greer about what they would like from the database.

- Would be nice to be able to make notes that only budget drive can see, that would carry over from year to year
- Ability to prepare personalized pledge letters
- Large number of people are lacking email address in Realm database
- Susan requested that Jud send list of the items to OC.
- Opscouncil@FUSN.org is now active; successfully tested during meeting

· Communications

- Jud had reviewed FUUSN web pages and put information into spreadsheet that was distributed with the agenda.
- Jud will be meeting with Greg Sullivan and Bruce Henderson on Sunday to prioritize and decide how to solve the most urgent problems
- Sharon gave input from the Committee Chairs meeting – felt that there was a need for an SOP on how and whom to communicate certain information.

Members were asked to review remaining priorities to see if other action is needed in the near future.

Newsletter: Next month's newsletter article due November 26—Sharon. Suggestion was made and accepted to write about the success of Legacy Circle.

Thank yous – Devon Welles, Aimee Lambert, Eric Moore –COA coordinators for extraordinary work to get program up and running this year. For yard sale – Denise Bousquet, Connie Stubbs, Sandy Jones.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.