

FUUSN Committee Chairs Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 2020

12 noon

Attending: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Wendy Haskell, Curt Lamb, Judy Curby, Elisabeth Greer, Jud Leonard, Bobbie Sproat, Bruce Kimball, Sandy Jones, Jacqui James, Dave Griswold, Josh Cohen, Michael Costello, Rob Gifford, Sharon Sisskind, Connie Adkins, Kit Ryan, Linda Ross

Susan Bartlett – introduction

Budget drive -Elisabeth Greer, Rob Gifford, Michael Costello – budget drive is being run similarly to previous years. This year we will have ability to do online pledging, as well as pledge party registration. Elizabeth has backup plan in case parties have to be cancelled due to coronavirus concerns; online pledging will help with this. She asked that those present announce that they have pledged at the beginning of any meetings they will be holding to encourage support.

Michael – working on making stewardship role more community-building.

Over 60s – Connie Adkins and Wendy Haskell – committee is thriving; almost more going on than they can handle, including 6 or 7 lectures, a book group, a writing group, creative salon, special interests/activities (online), gathering after Evensong.

Question – Judy Foreman has written a book and wanted to sell it here; was told no, but John Nichols was selling his book that day. Explanation – John sold his book in lieu of payment. Connie asked that the Ops Council discuss whether book sales could be permitted in the future when the author is speaking at FUUSN.

Wendy – memorial board – has been used during 3 memorial services – was successful.

Legacy Circle – Bruce Kimball – the main initiative this year is to elevate the profile of the Legacy Circle. They have a table once a month, have had posters made, will continue annual social gathering in the fall.

Nominating Committee – Bruce Kimball – they have met, have a spreadsheet of all of the officers and are trying to determine who wants to stay in their position. They will be looking for volunteers for offices.

Investment committee - Dave Griswold – looking to move all investments to socially responsible investments. There are now a number of such funds that they are investigating; he thinks FUUSN will be 100% in socially responsible funds by the end of 2020.

Holiday Fair - Kit Ryan - Raffle quilt – she will be sending out an email to see who is interested in working on it for the 2020 fair.

Holiday Fair - did very well last year, especially due to Denise Bousquet's jewelry appraisals.

Services Auction – Pat Rohan (report submitted after the meeting)

The auction netted somewhere in the vicinity of \$15,000. This is down about \$4,500 from last year primarily because we lost four summer home donations. Most of the items we had sold so we had plenty of bidders, just not enough big ticket items to auction.

Member Services Pat Rohan

Rosemary is working out great. A quick learner with good instincts on what works well. She is a pleasure to work with.

Tomorrow we will be showing the videos of members which were taken by Michael Flynn, edited by Jaelynn Linares and uploaded to the website by Greg Sullivan. Of course, anyone can see them on the website anytime. The videos highlight why adults and kids come to FUUSN and are intended to encourage new folks to try us out. This project was spearheaded by Saul Lookner.

Either tomorrow or next Sunday, we will be rolling out our Purple People Greeters. Greeters and members of the Member Service Committee will be wearing purple stoles which identify them as folks that newcomers can talk to for information or anything else. This was an idea that Rosemary brought to us, and was further developed by Suzanne Greelish. My wife Jacki made the stoles.

Upcoming Events: St. Patrick's Day FUUSN fun night, Newcomer Potluck, New to UU Class and hopefully New Member Welcome Sunday if we have enough new members

We hope to enlist some new members to the committee. We have lost some committee members to retirement and other committee members have been limited because of work pressures, health issues, or other FUUSN related activities.

Financial oversight – Josh Cohen – the committee is there to review financial procedures as opposed to investments.

Sharon Siskind – here as Ops Council liaison to several committees.

Racial justice ministry – Jacqui James – this is the 6th year of the committee; the first 5 were spent on raising consciousness. They decided that this year it was time to ask people to make a commitment to do something – hence the name change of the committee. They have diversified their membership by adding younger members and

more members of color. The program has 6 modules. The first meeting in January was to train the members in the process. The next meeting was scheduled but had to be cancelled due to conflicts. Another meeting is being planned. A book group is being held this year, headed by Jacqui and Barbara Deck – the UU common read, *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* (young people's version). *Between the World and Me* will also be the topic of another book group..

Judy Curby – Ops Council – treasurer of FUUSN.

Finance Committee – Laurel - Brian Gill held a meeting after the service last week to discuss the budget with the congregation. Committees should submit budget requests to Brian – he will be sending them a notice in this regard.

Yard sale and Holiday Fair – Sandy Jones. She and Ruth Comstock are taking charge of publicity. It would be great to have access to local listservs for publicity.

Welcoming Congregation – on hiatus.

Climate Task Force - Susan – Demie Stathoplos could not be at this meeting but submitted a written report. FUUSN is 100% green energy (electricity).

Report from Demie:

The FUUSN Climate Task Force met on Jan. 26th to determine our priorities for the upcoming period of time. Our mission is to provide information and opportunities for members to take personal, local and statewide actions to address the climate emergency. Our activities are guided by the IPCC recommendation to reduce our carbon footprint to zero by 2050, to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius. We have developed 5 working groups to address climate priorities (see the working groups below).

We have sponsored a table at coffee hour for two Sundays in November to promote Newton's Power Choice option for 100% renewable electricity, and will have another table this Sunday, March 8th.

We promoted a legislative action in concert with the UU Mass Action, on Sunday, Feb. 16th, where people wrote emails to our state reps and senators to ask that \$ be prioritized for climate action, instead of more prisons.

We have provided regular updates on the FUUSN general list about actions people can take to support climate mitigation and adaptation.

We will be sponsoring a table at coffee hours on Sundays through June, to provide information to the congregation on a variety of actions they can take to mitigate carbon emissions, as individuals, and by supporting policies at the local and state levels.

Our Working groups include:

1. **Extreme Weather response team.** This group develops plans for extreme weather events, which are becoming more frequent, and affect vulnerable people in our congregation. Social connections mitigate harms from extreme weather. Organizer: Nancy Wrenn (wrennnancy@gmail.com)

2. **Newton Climate Action Plan (CAP) team.** Educates the congregation of the role of Newton citizens in implementing the systemic and individual changes required by the CAP, with a goal of reducing the city's carbon footprint to zero by 2050. Organizer: Jay Flynn (jaywflynn@gmail.com)

3. **Climate Legislation team.** We act in concert with UUMass Action and UU congregations around the state to support climate legislation through phone calls, letters and lobbying activities. Organizer: Demie Stathoplos (dstathoplos@gmail.com)

4. **Carbon Footprint team.** Educates our congregation on specific actions we can take to reduce our personal carbon footprint. Organizer: Eric Olson (eolson@brandeis.edu)

5. **Mobilization team.** Mobilizes congregants for local, statewide and national mass actions, such as the Earth Day Youth Strike in April 2020. Organizer: Ruth Comstock (ruthcomstock1@gmail.com)

To join us, contact: Demie Stathoplos at dstathoplos@gmail.com or 413-717-2576

Our current active task force members are:

Barbara Deck

Barbara Niles

Betsy Harper

Bev Droz

Bob Persons

Deb Minard

Eric Olson

George Martins

Jane Brown

Jay Flynn

Joyce Pollack

Roger Luckmann

Ruth Comstock

Building and Grounds – Laurel Farnsworth – budget request has been submitted.

Landscaping will be done in the spring, including a sprinkler system using rainwater in catchment tanks that were installed several years ago.

FUUSN has not had a capital campaign in 15 years (most organizations do every 10 years). Things to consider: install elevator; renovate and repair organ; both very expensive. The roof is approximately 120 years old; will try to replace a portion of the roof next year. Some of the stained glass windows are bowing and need repair; there is a window fund to help cover costs. The newest windows are the worst (bright blue windows).

Lay Services Committee – Curt Lamb – summer services – there will be a music service (Lois Shapiro); Joan Caplan – justice and music; family service – “kitchen table” conversations; probably will be services on workplace bullying, restorative justice; socially responsible careers outside FUUSN (Dwight Golann); institutions vs principles (Curt Lamb). Other suggestions should be sent to him.

Social Action – Bobbie Sproat for Lynn Holbein. They have just published an updated version of their brochure (handed out).

Immigration group – Bobbie – NBARC – Newton Brookline Asylum Resettlement Coalition. Bobbie and Sandra Mahaniah are on the steering committee. They are currently supporting 2 clients, living in Newton. Pamela (from Uganda), living with the Lookners. She still needs support even though she has working papers (the usual endpoint for support). Another single female is living with a family from another congregation and is studying at Bunker Hill Community College. She has applied for working papers.

Technology - Jud Leonard- - they are currently working on installing a new video projector in the Parish Hall (see above). FUUSN’s computer backup system is out of date and may need attention.

Lay ministers - Jud – they are discussing their structure, and are looking at separating the Care Crew from the Lay Ministers. They have a retreat scheduled in several weeks and will discuss this topic then.