

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL

Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Sharon Sisskind, Eric Haas, Erin Splaine, Linda Ross (asst clerk);

Called to order 7:10 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading -Sharon

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.

Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

- Laurel nominated Susan as chair, Sharon seconded
- Karen nominated Laurel as vice-chair
- Unanimous approval of both motions, both motions passed

Approvals:

- By email, prior to meeting
 - Susan sent an email containing the final budget to members of the Ops Council on May 31
 - All approved; sending of budget to the BOT approved
- May minutes
 - Laurel moved approval, Jud seconded, 4 in favor, 1 abstention, motion approved,

Staff Update – Erin

- Kudos to staff for transitioning to online environment
- Anne will be helping, doing choir and vespers over the summer

Report on May BOT Meeting –Sharon

- Congregational appreciations- budget drive people, COA people, Sandy Island team – about 30 people in total
- Update on staff
- Discussion about annual meeting (already completed)
- Fran comes in at least once weekly, Judy on occasion

- Contingency plans for fall/winter/spring with COVID
- Governance – ministry review by Ellie Crocker-Morse, how and when to make available to congregation
- Financial oversight committee – members elected:
 - Dede Vittori
 - Josh Cohen
 - Lucy Boyle
- Money donated in memory of Alan Hartman, placed in BOT designated fund
- Strengthening the stewardship culture; decided to set up a team to address this. Chris Krebs and Ted Hess-Mahan will join that team.
- Issues to tackle in coming months
 - Foster inclusion
 - Resolving breaches in the covenant
- Revisit FUUSM mission statement?
- Racial justice training program – postponed until at least September
- Appreciation for retiring members – Will Kisiel, Clark Lakomski
- New members – Barbara Schmitt, Brian Hicks, Sienna Lerner-Gill, Brian Burba

Financial

- Worship: summer services budget
 - Lois Shapiro has been providing music for summer services; has been paid less than what she is paid for other services.
 - Laurel moved to pay Lois \$200 per summer service; Eric seconded. Laurel questioned whether volunteers had provided music in the summer in the past, or could in the future; discussion. Vote - unanimous approval, motion passed.
- Keeping track of specific pledge updates
 - Question about whether there is system for this
 - Karen will check
- Use on on-line platform for plate collections - Sharon
 - Could do via Realm; there is a cost associated with it – transaction and credit card cost
 - Might be best to put something in newsletter and ask for contributions
 - Apparently many people have administrative privileges on Realm; probably should review. Access is modular.
 - Further discussion of how to accomplish plate collections – Jud will contact Zoom to see if they have a mechanism for that.

- Erin – there is a question about whether there can or should be special collections next year; will need to be addressed shortly.

Update: Building closure

- When to make decision on date to re-open
 - Eric suggested making this decision later in the summer
 - Jud – need to consider who or what needs advance notice
 - Erin – should consider the moral aspect of re-opening – e.g., should choir be singing; will it be safe for all congregants? Can everyone who wishes attend with social distancing restrictions?
- Decision was to postpone making a decision until later in the summer
- The Ops Council will continue to meet over the summer
- Pine Village
 - Laurel – the governor announced that day care could open last week if a center's plan was approved,, but regulations for the plan were not announced until this week.
 - Pine Village's plan is for staff to start June on 22nd, children on June 29th, pending plan approval
 - Laurel suggested that staff not be in building during day care hours
 - Long discussion about options for staff and Pine Village staff and children to enter, exit, and use the building
 - Pine Village will be contacted and given options for entrance and exit
- The stained glass window over the balcony contains image of a slave. At the time it was installed it was meant to be an honor. (Photos of window and history about its meaning and installation were emailed prior to this meeting.)
- Discussion about the meaning of window and what to do about it.
- Erin suggested contacting the racial justice ministry and get their opinion; this option was approved.

Update: Committee issues/reports, including:

- Ops meeting over the summer will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
- Do we need BOT/Ops rep at summer services? After discussion, no decision was reached; Susan will check with Chris Krebs.
- Confirm RE, Finance, B & G chairs
 - Finance – has not had a meeting yet; hoping Brian will continue as co-chair with Karen (she is willing)
 - Laurel – will chair B & G

- RE – Susan will check with Amanda
- Membership summer picnic – will not be held
- Bell concert ? Laurel thought Bob Feldman was planning one. No one else had knowledge of this.
- B & G work update
 - Sprinkler system has been installed
 - Plants are in
 - Parish Hall has been painted
 - Parish Hall floor has been refinished

Thank yous – Coming of Age co-leaders Eric Moore, Aimee Lambert, Devon Welles; Sandy Island – Denise Bousquet, Barbara Schmitt, Susanne Greelish; budget drive team Elizabeth Greer, Julia Huston, Michael Costello, Rob Gifford.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.