

## OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL

Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Eric Haas, Sharon Sisskind, Amanda Graff, Barbara Schmitt (BOT), Erin Splaine (at 7:45 p.m.), Linda Ross (asst clerk);

Called to order 7:05 p.m.

### **Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Laurel**

#### **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:**

- January minutes - Karen moved to approve the minutes; Jud seconded the motion, unanimous approval, motion passed.

#### **Staff Update - Amanda**

- Curt Lamb had been in touch re summer services
- Starting to think about RE for next year. Will be doing OWL and Coming of Age (neither done this year).
- She is wondering what will happen with assistant ADRE position
- Coffeehouse – some youth are enthusiastic about doing virtual coffeehouse this year.
- General sentiment is that it is not safe to do OWL over ZOOM. She has partnered with Planned Parenthood to provide a three-part series for those who were in OWL last year as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders (OWL had to end early in 2020 due to COVID).

Erin

- Excited about budget drive team coming together

#### **Report on January BOT Meeting – Laurel**

- Welcomed Hattie Kerwin Derrick
- Thank yous to Pat Rohan for outreach; Bob Feldman for chiming; Amanda for Christmas services and pageant; Karen and Fran for 2<sup>nd</sup> PPP proposal.
- Erin – Amanda is working with the RE committee about things that energize people
- Long discussion about Allen window
- Erin – we will be co-sponsoring Rowan's ordination in a couple of years and need to include the costs for this in a future budget

- Long discussion about how Board should partner and/or support the Racial Justice Ministry and yet not overshadow them
  - Christine Lookner volunteered to be the official Board liaison to RJM
  - Question about whether we were doing anything with Myrtle Baptist – apparently not
  - Amanda as leading an LREDA group on the UUA Widening the Circle, and will bring back to FUUSN
- Discussion about sign language – should we be signing FUUSN services
- Long-term budget forecast presented; no questions
- Brief discussion of inclusive meeting self-reflection

## **Financial**

- Review January expenditures and updated forecast – Karen
  - Look good
  - They have been moving funds around to pay for roof repair
  - Laurel – repair may start as early as March 1
  - Have been watching two variable categories – snow removal and energy for heating
  - Susan – question – the finance committee had given an extra \$50,000 to the Board of Investment; Karen clarified that the \$50,000 was from last year. Amounts will be adjusted and there will not be as much of a surplus carried into next year.
- Status PPP loan – Karen
  - Application has been submitted for the same amount as last time (~\$77,000); waiting for response.
- Status of COA funds held by BOI – Karen
  - Karen had forgotten to ask about restrictions on funds, sent email today
  - Amanda - COA scholarship is \$585 per child for the year.
- Musician's concert benefit - May 2 or 16, to be determined
- Board priorities for FY 22 budget – primarily doing what is necessary to keep FUUSN up and running.

## **Building & grounds FY 22 budget proposal - Laurel**

- Laurel had sent out the proposed budget by email earlier today.
- Almost every line is flat from the current year's budget
- 3% increase for cleaning (Henry)

- The amounts for major maintenance and building were increased because these reserves were depleted to pay for the roof and need to be replaced as quickly as possible.
- Discussed items that could be reduced (painting and floor replacement) if necessary depending on budget

### **Update: Committee activities**

- Summer services format (virtual vs in-person)
  - Discussion – Curt Lamb seems to be in favor of Zoom
  - Concern that there will not be sufficient vaccinations to have indoor services
  - Option of outdoor service? Several mentioned that it is noisy outdoors and hearing is a problem.
  - Erin would like our first indoor service to be in the sanctuary
  - Consensus was that summer services should be on Zoom.
  - Karen moved that summer services be on Zoom and that there be no in-person social activities until at least the fall. Eric seconded, unanimous yes votes, motion passed.
  - Discussion of possible ways to have socially distanced RE
- Web redesign – Jud
  - He had a sent draft proposal to OC members and tech help group
  - Next step is to ask for proposals from web designers
  - Expects that the proposal will fit best with an individual freelancer
  - He will start looking for designers
  - Long discussion of what is needed and how to proceed
  - Decision to have a few people look at websites from other UU churches and see if there is one that is easy to navigate – then consider the designer that developed them.
- Potential youth coffee house
  - Some youth had approached Amanda about doing a virtual youth coffee house
  - First planning committee meeting will be held this coming Sunday. Future plans will depend upon how many people attend the meeting.
  - Question about whether it would be a fundraiser or not
  - Question about potential date for coffee house – possibly mid-April
- Social action budget status – Eric
  - Eric sent email to Peter Smith but has not received an answer. He received an email the next day (coincidentally) from Eileen Kurkoski. She has been in charge of the homelessness and hunger task force) under Social Action, but will now be co-chair of social action. A donation was recently made to the Women's Lunch Place from Social Action.
  - Social Action group seems not to be very interested in doing new things at this time. They are seeking new members to inject some energy into their activities.
- GA delegates – Jud

- Two people are interested in being a delegate; one is attending but doesn't want to be a delegate.
  - Susan will send the two names to the Board (Pat Rohan and Barbara Deck)
  - Suggestion for Jud to send another "ask" to the list to see if anyone else is interested.
- Printed directories – email exchanges – Sharon
    - A number of people really want a paper directory
    - Long discussion about how many people want a paper directory,
      - § Could people print their own – there may be a security issue with emailing addresses and telephone numbers.
      - § Membership committee adamantly against charging for directory, although it seemed that a small charge might work (cover printing and mailing costs)
  - Communications: too many political emails on general list?
    - Discussion of the issue
    - Discussion of whether a policy change is needed
    - Issue will be postponed to future meeting

**Thank yous** –. none

**Meeting adjourned** 9: 23p.m.