

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL  
October 19, 2021  
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Wayne Everett, Eric Haas, Amanda Graff, Linda Ross (asst clerk);

Called to order 7:02 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:**

- September minutes - Laurel moved and Jud seconded that the September minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.
- Approval needed for ministry/music collections
  - Christmas, Flower Sunday collections go to Minister's discretionary fund
  - Music Sundays
    - § Fall collection goes to NBARC,
    - § Spring collection goes to music program (pending confirmation).
    - § Jud moved that the above collections be approved; Karen seconded,, unanimous approval, motion passed.

**Staff Update – Amanda**

- She offered the youth coordinator position to an applicant today; waiting for a response. Could be for 5 or 7 hours weekly.
- Ferry Beach – small but successful
- Looking forward to children being vaccinated.
- Hope to hold RE outdoors until November, but it is weather-dependent
- A bit of controversy over mentors' meals; in the past, dinner has been provided because the meeting starts at 6 p.m., but haven't been able to due to COVID restrictions
- Wi-Fi –she tested in the chapel, choppy reception. May need booster or other equipment.
- She had purchased 2 tents but only have been using one. Considered returning but will hold off for now. Laurel – could use them during yard sale to shelter people waiting to enter if it rains.

**BOT September meeting –.Jud**

- Amanda reported on RE; 33 children attended, 48 registered
- Racial justice ministry reported on activities.
- The team working on the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle needs a leader.
- Racial justice pledge workshops have been attended by 10% of the congregation
- It was suggested that an audit be done of FUUSN practices to make sure that things are not being done that could be offensive to special groups.
- Discussion of parking lot issues – bank parking lot is now fenced off.

- Some concern about FUUSN's structural deficit; will be discussing with Ops Council

### **Financial - Karen**

- September expenditures – nothing worrisome to report, in positive balance through September
- Status of Comcast termination
  - Tom Bean is planning to write a letter to Comcast objecting to the charge
  - Fran has been told not to pay the charge

### **Continue reopening FUUSN building**

- Update live streaming
  - Pretty sure that the issues with streaming have been resolved
  - People are signed up to run the system for at least the next couple of weeks; Anne is working on this schedule.
- Updates/changes needed to procedures? - things seem to be going OK
- Greeting prior to service will be outdoors until it is too cold. After that, it will be done in the Narthex and back hall. Those who need or want to go into sanctuary and sit down can do so.
- Coffee hour
  - Discussion of how and where to hold
  - Consensus was to hold outdoors, weather permitting
  - Consensus was to start this coming Sunday, October 24 (music Sunday)
  - Boxes of coffee will be purchased from Dunkin
- Discussion of the tracking of potential new members (people who had asked for the Zoom link for the service). Wayne will follow up.

### **B & G issues**

- Parking update
  - After last Ops Council meeting, there was a meeting with Robert Korff and associates. He said Santander (not Mark Development) closed the lot because they still have a lease and were concerned about liability. As of now, there is no change in the status of the lot closure.
- Status of building occupancy work
  - Laurel spent several hours walking through the building with the inspector. He asked for several changes but was less stringent than the consultant.
  - Emergency lighting is needed in the sanctuary and Laurel is working on it.
  - Limit of 49 people in the balcony because there is only one exit; that restriction is not true for the second-floor room.
  - Exact numbers for each room will be posted once the final plan is approved.
  - Drawings have been sent to the city, waiting on approval

### **Update: Committee activities**

- Membership coordinator search & Membership committee – Wayne had sent an email with minutes from the committee meeting shortly before the Ops Council meeting
  - Plant-based eating group proposal
    - Susan sent an email on October 7 with a request from the plant-based eating club to hold a vegan chili cook-off in the area behind the building where Christmas trees are sold. There was an email conversation regarding this issue, and Julia was asked for more details.
    - Julia Huston had sent an email response which was distributed.
    - Brief discussion of issue
    - Laurel moved that the vegan chili cook-off be allowed to proceed; Jud seconded the motion. Unanimous yes votes, motion approved.
  - Kit has asked if she could display the raffle quilt in the narthex; consensus was yes.
- Yard sale & holiday fair
  - Yard sale staffed and in process
  - Will start advocating for holiday fair after the yard sale
- Lois Shapiro wants to hold a benefit concert in the sanctuary for Afghan immigrants in the Boston area, in the spring
  - There was discussion of the request
  - One concern would be fund raising for the same cause twice (NBARC)
  - Erin needs to give approval
  - Organization that will receive and distribute funds must be identified
  - Laurel will send Lois an email and ask for more information
- Christmas trees - Eric
  - Tree group had a meeting
  - 400 trees have been ordered, scheduled delivery 8 a.m. on Black Friday

**Thank yous** – Chris Welles for help with streaming (Susan will write), Chris O'Donnell and Julia Huston for Ferry Beach

**Meeting adjourned** 8:48 p.m.