

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES Final

December 21, 2021

Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Wayne Everett, Eric Haas, Demi Stathoplos (BOT), Dan Stoll, Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:05 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading – Karen

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:

- November minutes – Karen moved and Jud seconded that the November minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.
- Susan emailed the OC on Dec. 6, 2021, asking permission for FUUSN to participate in the Healthy Baby/Healthy Child program sponsored by Boston Public Health nurses. Five members emailed a yes, and the participation was approved.
- Susan emailed the OC on Dec. 10, 2021 that a friend of Brooke FW would like to rent the parish hall for a Bat Mitzvah luncheon Saturday March 26th. The luncheon would be for about 150 people, and they would pay the standard rental and cleaning fees. Four people emailed approval (Laurel after checking to make sure that the number of attendees was within the limits for the space), and the event was approved.
- Barbara Bates requested permission to have a New Year's labyrinth in the Parish Hall. After discussion of the request, it was decided that limitation of the number of people in the hall should be limited in some way, possibly by a reservation system, and that no more than 3 people at a time should be in the hall. Attendees should have had 2 COVID vaccinations plus a booster. Laurel moved and Karen seconded that this proposal be approved. Five voted in favor, 1 opposed, motion passed. Eric requested that we get Erin and Amanda's input before the decision is finalized; Susan will ask.

Staff Update – not done because neither Erin nor Amanda were in attendance

BOT November meeting – Karen

- Discussion about re-opening
- 8th principle team gave presentation, long discussion
- Discussion about annual budget drive
- The team to select the interim minister was decided, and members will be Stephanie Kendall, Barbara Schmitt, Chris Krebs, Naomi Wolfe.

Financial - Karen

- November expenditures – doing OK.
- Fair did well financially, netted about \$18,700
- Tree sales netted about \$5,900.
- Services auction probably will not take place; committee will re-visit in February 2022. If not held, there will be a loss of about \$18,000 budgeted income.
- Still below budget for staff salaries.

- Loss of rental income due to parking lot closure – Laurel
 - New Philharmonia Orchestra withdrew
 - Children’s theater workshop withdrew
 - Dorshei is having a hard time with FUUSN’s COVID protocol and no parking lot. They will be moving their Tuesday class to Second Church, at least temporarily.
 - Other groups are meeting in person in the building – e.g., Tai Chi, exercise, AA.
 - There is the potential of a discussion with the city to see if they will assume liability for the lot so it can be used.
 - Discussion of ramifications of parking issue and alternative parking.

Continue reopening FUUSN building

- COVID update - case numbers are going up with Omicron variant
- Coffee hour
 - Discussion of how to continue, including whether a beadle should again be hired to make the coffee as opposed to individuals purchasing it.
 - Susan will email Amanda and Fran as to whether they have any leads on someone who might be a coffee beadle.
 - Consensus is to continue outdoors as long as people attend

Membership issues

- Welcoming Heather Beasley Doyle (new membership coordinator, beginning in January 2022) – need input from Erin
- Greeters – challenge to find folks
 - Wayne is taking this over for the next couple of months
 - He will probably ask for volunteers via the email list
- How are newcomers received on Zoom services?
 - Will have lay minister who is running Zoom make contact with new people

Update: Committee activities

- Social Action – Susan and Eric will touch base after the New Year
- The vegan dinner club (Julia Huston) is interested in holding potlucks at FUUSN – consensus is no, Susan will contact Julia
- Committee chairs meeting – Feb. 5 or 12, 2022 – Susan will arrange

Thank yous – For Holiday Fair – Sandy Jones and Ruth Comstock, co-chairs; Kit Ryan for quilt and silent auction; Barbara Schmitt and Connie Stubbs; Denise Bousquet. Trees – Todd Farrell, Brad Hollister, Eric Moore.

Demi asked for help in finding people to be Annual Budget Drive Chairs – some discussion of issue.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.