

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES Final

January 18, 2022

Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Wayne Everett, Eric Haas, Heather Beasley Doyle, Naomi Wolfe (BOT), Erin Splaine, Amanda Graff, Anne Watson Born (until 8:05), Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:03 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading – Eric

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:

- Jud moved and Wayne seconded that the December minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.
- Susan forwarded an email from Erin on December 26, suggesting that FUUSN services revert to Zoom only, given the rapid increase in COVID Omicron cases. After an email exchange, the consensus was to agree with this suggestion.
- There was an additional email exchange on December 28 and 29 discussing whether renters and other groups could continue to use the building. The consensus was that they could if they wished (especially Pine Village), but must follow all relevant government regulations (e.g., masks must be worn at all times).

Staff Update

Amanda

- Emphasis has been on the pivot from in-person to Zoom
- 5th graders participated in a story for all – a success
- A hike in the Blue Hills is scheduled this coming weekend for Coming of Age
- She is participating in the meditation group, re-starting tomorrow

Erin

- Focus has been on the pivot to Zoom
- Christmas Eve was beautiful
- Welcome to Heather

BOT December meeting – Wayne

- Nathan Persampieri was voted in as a member of FUUSN
- Long discussion regarding the use (or lack thereof) of the Santander parking lot and loss of outside income
- Approved the decision to stop in-person worship and switch to Zoom for January
- There is concern about getting 3 people to head the annual budget drive
- Discussion of priorities for the interim minister
- Discussion of what kind of reception to have for Erin's goodbye
- Discussion of furthering the rollout of the 8th Principle to the congregation

Financial - Karen

- December expenditures – looking OK
 - Income
 - Church fair \$21,000
 - Holiday trees \$25,000 income; net was about \$6,600
 - No winter fund raiser (services auction)
 - Temple Dorshei will be moving to Second Church due to dissatisfaction with FUUSN's COVID protocol
 - Pine Village remains as a tenant
 - Orchestra pulled out due to lack of parking
 - Expenses
 - In line with expectations
 - UUA dues – have paid $\frac{3}{4}$ of amount due

Continue reopening FUUSN building

- COVID update - When to resume in-person services
 - Discussion
 - One suggestion that another couple of weeks of data is needed before a decision can be made
 - Another suggestion that the decision not wait until the next Ops Council meeting – consider setting parameters and/or having another meeting before the next schedule one
 - Parameters to be used?
 - Published case numbers? Not accurate due to home testing
 - Incidence rates?
 - How much lead time does staff need? Amanda felt that staff needs as much as possible. Parents want in-person programming.
 - The second half of the infection curve may not parallel the first half. There was a suggestion to re-examine the infection numbers at the next Ops Council meeting on Feb. 15, possibly re-open Feb. 20 if case numbers are down.
 - The consensus was that Susan will track infection numbers. At the beginning of February, the Ops council will discuss infection trends by email or Zoom. The decision as to when to re-open may be made then, or may wait until the next scheduled meeting on February 15.
 - Susan will write up this information to go to the congregation as an update about the Ops Council plan for re-opening.

Update: Committee activities

- Parking – Laurel
 - Demi had asked Laurel what else we could do to develop parking, and asked her to come to the next BOT meeting to discuss. The special permit for construction of a parking lot behind FUUSN has expired, and a new application could be subject to additional requirements from the city.. That plan gave FUUSN 18 parking spaces.
 - Robert Korff has expressed interest in constructing a parking lot for FUUSN whenever he decides to go ahead with construction at the Santander building site.
 - Demi had asked about putting a parking in front of FUUSN; Laurel does not think the historic commission would ever give permission.
 - The city of Newton has not shown any interest in taking over management of the Santander parking lot.

- The cost of constructing a parking lot behind FUUSN would be \$200,000+.
- Social Action
 - Eric and Susan had had a brief conversation about Social Action's dispersal of funds.
 - There will be a meeting with Susan, Peter Smith, and Eileen Kurkoski to discuss the need for transparency with the BOT and the congregation of how money is dispersed
- Committee chairs meeting Feb. 12, 10 a.m. – 12 noon on Zoom
- Communications – replacement for Greg Sullivan needed
 - Lengthy discussion
 - People who might be good for this position
 - Discussion of whether some staff could help with this (website)
 - Staff would need training
- General Assembly delegates
 - Jud had sent out an email asking for interested people to contact him
 - He would like to have delegates selected before March when the registration rates go up
- Membership committee
 - No meeting since the last Ops Council meeting
 - Heather will be having a meeting of the membership committee shortly to touch base, followed by "regular" meeting starting outreach program

Thank yous – Pat Rohan for continuing to help with membership committee. Amanda suggested RE volunteers; she will put together a list and bring it to the next meeting. Anne Watson Born for Christmas Eve music. Erin will send a note to the readers at the Christmas Eve services. By email after the meeting; Sharon Sisskind, Pat Rohan, Lynne Karlson, and Karen Davis for their work on the membership coordinator selection committee.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.