

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES Final

October 18, 2022
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Wayne Everett, Eric Haas, Anne Watson Born, Bob Persons (communications and membership, until 8:20 p.m.), Heather Beasley-Doyle (until 8:20 p.m.), Parisa Parsa, Devin Shmueli, Kate Thibeault (after 7:45 p.m., until 8:20 p.m., Stephanie Kendall (after 7:50 p.m., until 8:20 p.m.), Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:05 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:

- Karen moved and Laurel seconded that the September minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.
- By email
 - Laurel sent out the proposed term sheet of the parking lot proposal and asked for comments. Several voiced approval; one was opposed; one did not feel it would be advisable to use a large amount of the endowment for FUUSN to build the parking lot itself.

Report on September BOT meeting – Laurel

- Parisa reported that she has completed Phase II of interim minister training
- Devin – volunteer guide is new name for teachers. Good start to year
- Chris reported on the Ops Council meeting.
- Long discussion of parking lot proposal
 - § Demi had David Griswold attend and give a presentation on what taking 1/3 of endowment would mean for FUUSN's financial future (the amount estimated if FUUSN were to build its own parking lot). FUUSN would lose 1/3 of income; would need to find a way to make it up.
 - § The Board is uncomfortable with making a deal with Mark Development for 99 years, and he has not been willing to give that up.
 - § Debrief on Board retreat
 - § Transition time for congregation
 - § History project
 - § How to balance between connection and social action
 - § Parisa discussed the role of the interim minister

- She will help set up a transition team; members cannot be on the search committee for the new settled minister, or Ops Council or Board, or other significant committees
- Transition meeting Oct. 23

Staff update

Parisa

- Concerns about attendance at services; she is working with Fran to check numbers
- A number of things going on outside services to connect people
- Working on transition because Heather will be leaving as of October 31
- Memorial service for Candy Saunders this Saturday, Roberta Humez in June 2023
- Lay ministers had a retreat last Saturday
- Beginning in January, will be experimenting with different ways of including joys and sorrows in Sunday service

Devin

- Continuing with Coming of Age
- Looking to have first youth group event in mid-November
- Implementing a Children's Council
 - children will have a say in what is covered spiritually
 - 3 children at a time, K-5th grade, rotating every 3 months.
- Will be getting 1/3 refund from the Thompson Island Coming of Age trip that was cut short due to bad weather
- Averaging about 20 children attending RE weekly, about 30 for spirit circles

Financial – Karen

- September expenditures
 - Pledges continue to come in at good pace
 - B & G – finance committee upped forecast for utilities; electricity \$35,000 to \$45,000, gas \$20,000 to \$25,000
 - Positive net income at end of September
 - Too early in the year for expected increased utility expenses to hit expenses
- Christmas tree expenses – Eric
 - He has not received the contract yet
 - His team is down 2 people, will need more help

Website update – Heather gave a slide presentation

- Pointed out the role of a good website
- Reviewed several UU websites that she considers good
- Costs of new website – she thinks it may require about \$25,000
- Discussion of long term maintenance and updating of site
 - Would likely require additional staff member, at least part-time
 - Heather is sending out an RFP for developing a new website this week
- Discussion of old and new website and Realm

B & G issues – Laurel

- Status of parking lot expansion

- Board is inclined not to accept the proposal because of the 99 year commitment
- She is waiting for the Board to tell her the decision so she can take the next step.
- Mark Development city land use meeting was fairly positive; no comments or discussion about FUUSN parking lot.
- Status of dishwasher
 - The new dishwasher was delivered on Friday, but it had been damaged, so it was returned and another one delivered.
 - Electrician has to install new line in order for dishwasher to function; plumber has already connected it.
 - Should be operational this weekend, but someone needs to learn how to use it.
 - Bob Persons will get instructions from the Internet if someone sends him and Chris the appliance number

FUUSN Covid Protocols

- Mask protocols
 - RE activities-masks are currently optional
 - Sanctuary-plan to make masks optional as of Nov 1
 - Linda pointed out that the website already says the as of Nov. 1, masks will be optional
 - Some congregants asked for certain rows to be designated mask required
 - Laurel recommended that pews on both sides of sanctuary be designated mask required due to circular air flow
 - This requirement is in place in other UU churches
 - Decided that 6 rows on each side of the sanctuary in the back will be mask-required
 - Laurel moved and Eric seconded that masks will be optional in the sanctuary except for the last 6 rows as of Nov. 1, 2022 , unanimous approval, motion passed
 - Question raised as to whether there is a point where mask requirement might be reinstated; FUUSN will be following state and local recommendations
 - Coffee hour
 - There is a desire for coffee on 10/23 and 10/30-
 - Decision is to allow coffee as long as there is staffing
 - Community breakfast-October 23
 - There are now enough volunteers
 - Halloween party-October 28
 - Will be bringing in food
 - Eric moved that masks be optional in the Parish Hall starting Oct. 23, 2022, Laurel seconded, unanimous approval.

Update: Committee activities

- Social Action – Eric has no update at this time
- Membership
 - Reboot of Dinners for 7 – November 12
- Ops-any in-person meetings? –those present are fine with Zoom meetings

Thank yous – Bill Duset, Chris O'Donnell, Kate Thibeault, Julia Huston for Ferry Beach

Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.