

## OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES Final

December 20, 2022  
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar (until 8 p.m.), Wayne Everett, Eric Haas, RoseAnn Murray (BOT), Devin Shmueli, Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:07 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:**

- Laurel moved and Karen seconded that the November minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.
- By email
  - Susan forwarded on December 8 an email from Bob Persons asking if he could bring "4 Our Future" signs to FUUSN for distribution to interested congregants. Susan recommended that he work through the environmental committee and Demie; all agreed as did Demie. Susan sent a follow up email on December 9 asking for approval for this activity to have a table at coffee hour; all approved.
  - Susan forwarded on December 13 an email from Parisa asking whether the Christmas Eve collection go to Chaplains on the Way in Waltham, an organization that works with the homeless. All approved.

#### **Staff update – Devin**

- Working on his new role and different ways that the community can work with RE.
- He will be working with Lifespan RE and events that they would like to work on for Sunday morning.
- Chaplains on the Way in Waltham; their executive director will be speaking to pre K – 7<sup>th</sup> graders in January; they will be making breakfast casseroles for the unhoused and will be delivering.

Coming of Age will be making breakfast casseroles for a week for Chaplains in January

#### **Report on November BOT Meeting - Susan**

- Parisa activities
  - She has been making pastoral visits to a number of congregants, including those at Cabot Park Village. She is looking for more multi-generational activities.
  - She is working with member services and communications committee on the web site and Realm

- She is working on talk backs after service
- Parking lot update
  - Barbara Schmitt will take the lead determining financing
- Budget drive leaders
  - Dan Stoll, Barbara Niles, and Kate Thibeault will lead
  - Kit Ryan had volunteered to be an apprentice if someone will take over as secretary
- Search committee for new minister
  - UUA recommends calling everyone in congregation and asking for suggestions
  - Above thought to be too onerous, but need to get congregation involved
  - Looking for ways to avoid the “usual suspects” as committee members
  - Zoom and in-person meetings
  - Google survey
  - Stephanie Kendall and Chris Krebs taking lead on describing what is needed, schedule for presentations, and developing Google form; the search committee is not selected until June 2023.
- History of FUUSN – RoseAnn Murray and Hattie Kerwin-Derrick
  - January 26 Zoom meeting
  - January 29 in person 12-2 p.m. discussion
  - Paper panels will be posted for people to write down ideas; these will stay in place through the services auction
  - Process ends March 5

### **Financial – Karen**

- November expenditures
  - Everything in line with expectations
  - Holiday fair – netted \$22,000 (\$18,000 budgeted)
  - Trees – to date, \$22,000 cash sales and \$8,000+ on credit cards, total \$30,000 (will be more, not all credit cards processed yet).
  - Working on services auction

### **B & G issues – Laurel**

- Little library proposal from Lauren Dale for RE committee
  - Newton has no regulations about little libraries
  - Laurel wondered about control as people leave books
  - She is thinking about taking down a small space in the hedge in the middle of the circular drive and having the box at the edge of the sidewalk.
  - Lauren already has the box
  - Will have to wait until spring; ground now frozen.
  - Karen moved to accept Lauren Dale’s proposal, Jud seconded, unanimous approval, motion passed.
- Insurance for COA Parish Hall party rental – not needed per Laurel
- Congregant question about the possibility of renting parking spaces at Second Church
  - Laurel – they might be interested during the week; however, they rent on Saturday to Dorshei (Second Church declined to allow FUUSN parking for the fair for this reason); have their own service on Sunday.
  - Jud – they recently posted no parking signs

- Laurel – will be having a meeting with a contractor and structural engineer in January to get some kind of ballpark estimate for the proposed basement entrance.
- Pine Village has been bought by a Canadian company; she and Fran had a phone conversation with the new owner and mentioned a new playground. Pine Village only needs half of the current playground space to fulfill regulations. The new owner indicated that they would gladly swap playground space for additional parking.

### **Special Collections – should they be resumed**

- One person spoke in favor; noted that the organization should be of relevance. Four or five special collections per year is enough
- Another person had some reservations about giving the collection money to the Social Action Committee; need more input from the rest of the organization.
- An additional person voiced similar concerns to the above.
- Another person noted that in other congregations that he has been part of, there was a vote of congregants as to who gets the money
- Devin noted that second collections are done by other congregations; other congregations he has been part of also voted congregation-wide as to who got the money.
- Susan – will convey to the BOT that the Operations Council is supportive of second collections, the process should involve more than just the social action committee

### **FUUSN Covid Protocols**

- Updated metrics – case numbers are going up in Middlesex County and Massachusetts
- Short discussion – consensus is to maintain the same protocols but continue to monitor the incidence.

### **Update: Committee activities**

- UUUM Pews Project
  - A fund raiser for a pew would be separate from the concert fund raiser (held in the spring), and would be held after the budget drive is over
  - One person indicated that it would be good to know what they are planning to do
  - Suggest some type of community event
  - Susan will follow up
- List of committees; delete inactive committees?
  - Memorial committee
    - § Laurel – only 5 niches left; will need plan for how to have more
    - § Discussion of how to possibly have room for more and cost
  - Personnel policy - one person was suggested as a possibility to fill the position
  - Other committees are in flux; will wait to change any of them for now
- Kitchen refrigerator and freezer need cleaning per Ron Margolin

- One person suggested sending an email to the congregation asking for volunteers – or maybe have it as a youth project
- Effort needs coordinator
- Discussion of how best to arrange cleaning

Thank yous – Kevin Hartshorn for his significant donation of jewelry to the holiday fair. Laurel, Kit Ryan, Ruth Comstock, Barbara Schmitt, Denise Bousquet for the holiday fair. Eric for Christmas tree (he will come up with list of people who helped to be thanked in newsletter, after the holidays).

**Meeting adjourned** 8:53 p.m.