

## FUUSN Committee Chairs Meeting

November 19, 2022

Attending in person: Susan Bartlett, Dan Stoll, Bob Persons, Jud Leonard, Bill Holland, Gayle Smalley, Wendy Haskell, Connie Stubbs, Christine Lookner, Gordon Moriarity, Laurel Farnsworth, Connie Atkins, Pat Rohan, Wayne Everett, Eric Haas, Julia Huston, Peter Smith, Linda Ross (clerk)

Attending on Zoom: Parisa Parsa, Kate Thibeault, Brian Gill, Sandy Jones

### Representing:

Christine – Racial justice ministry

Bill Holland – Racial justice ministry

Stephanie St. Pierre - Religious exploration

Connie Atkins -Over 60s

Wendy Haskell – Over 60s

Laurel – Ops council, finance

Gordon Moriarity - Bylaws

Wayne – membership, Ops Council

Susan - Ops Council

Eric – trees, Ops Council

Jud – Technology, lay minister, Ops Council

Connie Stubbs - Membership

Pat – services auction, UU delegates

Dan Stoll – database, member services

Bob Persons - communications

Gayle Smalley – preservation

Brian Gill – budget

Kate –Annual budget drive

Sandy Jones – holiday fair

Peter Smith – social action

## **8<sup>th</sup> Principle Discussion- Christine and Bill**

Introduced 4 questions for which everyone wrote a response.

The four questions:

1. How do you think the eighth principle will impact your committee this year?
2. Has the leadership of your committee/group taken the pledge workshop? If not, why not and are you interested in taking it THIS CHURCH YEAR ?
3. Is there a specific item you can personally ( & privately, if you wish ? ) commit to accomplishing with your committee THIS CHURCH YEAR that will live up to the eighth principal.?
4. Understanding that institutional racism is sometimes hard to see by everyone, is there an example ("evident", or not/ "micro" ) of institutional racism ( in policy, practice/ habits or in a physical presence) at FUUSN that you think should be addressed to help dismantle racism?

Several people gave responses:

Kate – how to include people of lesser means; consider giving time in lieu of money. Connie spoke in support of this approach.

Laurel – just attended UU Mass Action about how to align their work with social justice. A person could take this on in lieu of money.

Julia – asked if non-UUs could take the pledge workshop. Bill will discuss when the next workshop is scheduled.

Pat – is one of 3 delegates to UU Urban Ministry. One of their goals for the year is to expand knowledge and involvement of FUUSN with UUUM.

Devin has incorporated new lyrics to a song about the 7 principles to include the 8<sup>th</sup> principle.

Stephanie – Devin has been creating lessons with books about racial justice, and next year will be bringing in a guest who works with the unhoused population.

Peter – a number of years ago, a group of people from social action went to Myrtle Baptist to listen and meet people. Out of that, FUUSN members helped MB prepare meals for Long Island shelter for years. FUUSN could renew their relationship with Myrtle Baptist.

## **Committee Reports**

Bill (racial justice ministry)– continuing to offer pledge workshops; one small group is running currently. They have lost a couple of members who were on the steering committee. They are trying to regenerate enthusiasm. Would like to support connections among people who have done the workshop.

Stephanie (children's exploration)- Devin has been working on a children's council and youth group steering committee. He is also working on getting the youth group up and going; they

are going to an escape room tonight. There is going to be a Christmas pageant, They are working on building bridges.

Connie Atkins (over 60s)– trying to get more involvement of members. . One focus this year will be on senior housing.

Wendy (over 60s)– to help with involvement, they will be pioneering “project partners”. This means that when there is a project to be done, members could call on one person in the cohort to do one specific task, rather than being in charge of entire project. She listed the events that the group has sponsored since February.

Laurel (buildings & grounds)– Parking lot – BOT and Mark Development could not come to an agreement, so the potential arrangement for a new parking lot will not happen. The BOT is now looking at options for FUUSN to build and finance the parking lot.

She is happy for people to notify her of issues with the building or grounds. It is best to do this by email.

Christine – Kate suggested that young people could mentor elders on technology.

Gordon (by-laws)– last year, the BOT inquired if people could participate in the annual meeting and vote if they were not present in person but attending on Zoom; this did happen. The question then arose about whether this should be in the bylaws – he will discuss with the BOT in December.

Term limits – for BOT and Board of Investment. Discussion of whether this should be applied to Ops Council and other groups.

Bylaws state that there is one youth person on BOT; have often had 2 part-time. There is an issue when it comes to a vote that needs to be resolved.

Wayne (Ops & membership)– will defer to Connie for membership discussion.

Peter (social action)– Habitat for Humanities worked on a house this fall.

He would like to retire from this committee but there hasn't been anyone willing to take over.

There are 6 task forces, co-chairs. Hunger and homelessness (Eileen), advocacy (Nancy Stanton), global community (Peter), welcoming refugees (Sandra Mahaniah and Bobbie Sproat), criminal justice, racial justice (Judy Friedman), health (Nancy Stanton), environment (Demi).

They received 4 large boxes of socks from Bombas – some have been distributed to homeless groups, and they are looking for other organizations.

Connie Stubbs-- FUUSN needs some new activities that will engage members and encourage new members.

Eric (trees)– needs new volunteers to help out overall, including tree sales. The Christmas trees are arriving Nov.22, and he needs help to unload.

Jud (lay ministers)– The lay ministers been talking about changes, focusing more on pastoral care. They may institute terms of service.

Tech – has been working on internet upgrades; will be getting a new router for the parish hall. There is ethernet through most of the building.

Gayle – question about how much pastoral care is being requested. Jud - variable.

Connie Stubbs (membership)- membership is a great committee. They are working on how to use Realm and how to better use it. Will be redoing the web site; RFP out, 2 responses. Thinking about revamping the newsletter.

There was a Halloween party, and will be a “games for all ages” night in January.

Pat – will be starting breakout rooms for people attending coffee hours in person, similar to what is done on Zoom. People can find the topics of discussion and location of the groups at the membership table.

Pat (services auction)– services auction will be February 4. Discussion of potential auction items.

Julia (plant-based group)– this month is the 4 year anniversary of the plant-based eating club; there are currently 50 people on the active mailing list. It is project based. Currently there is a potluck monthly, a large meeting quarterly, and movie nights three times per year (people watch movies on their own and then discuss). They are starting a book group. They have done field trips, such as to the Animal Sanctuary. They participate in the FUUSN community breakfast. They have an active website within the FUUSN website. They have no staff support and no budget; need some money, e.g., for a design. The steering committee meets once per month. They are discussing how to reach families with children.

Dan and Kate – budget drive. This will be their second year to lead the budget drive, and they plan to take on apprentices for next year’s (2024) leaders. Timing – March 5 will be the kickoff and unveiling of the theme and tapestry that was made last year. March 12-April 2 will be the time for pledge parties. Stewarding will be done differently and will include talking about the time people give, not just money.

Brian (finance)– co-chairs the finance committee with Karen Bottar (she is FUUSN’s treasurer). It is a fairly routine process; they meet monthly to monitor revenue and expenses. Every spring they put together the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Financially, FUUSN has done remarkably well over the past few years during the pandemic (partly due to two payroll protection loans). The primary long term concern is how to increase the number of pledge units. The biggest source of revenue is pledges (2/3 of income). The budget is prepared partly by asking committees for requests for the upcoming year; they have not asked for money from new groups. The largest portion of budget expenses is for staff; second is buildings and grounds.

Bob Persons – commented on advertising outside FUUSN, especially for events that occur outside FUUSN. Fig City News and Patch.com – for online news. Next Door website. Newton Beacon will be starting up early in 2023.

Gayle (preservation)– needs help sorting the archives; allows them to support people who need information from the archives. They have taken on an additional project to highlight history. FUUSN will be having its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2023, and people should be thinking about what they would like to do.

## **Realm database overview**

Dan – Realm – talk to him about what is needed and/or wanted from Realm. He noted that there is an app for Realm.