

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES Final  
February 21, 2023  
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Eric Haas, Wayne Everett, Chris Krebs (BOT), Parisa Parsa, Devin Shmueli, Bob Persons (7:18 p.m. – 7:55 p.m. ) Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:00 p.m.

**Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading – Wayne**

**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 Jud seconded that the January minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.

**Building and grounds FY '24 budget – Laurel**

- Not very different from last year
- 6% raise for maintenance staff
- Restored the painting line that had been deleted for the current year
- Increases in utilities costs
- Workman's comp increased – it is a political construct and was depleted during Covid; needs to be replenished
- Major maintenance – will depend upon what is decided for projects such as the stairway into the basement.
- Discussion of the estimate for putting in basement entrance (\$476,000, plus costs of additional toilets, heating, etc.). Will need to be sent to BOT for discussion.
- There is currently \$130,000 in the building fund; will be about \$144,000 at the end of the fiscal year.
- Wayne moved to approve the FY'24 buildings and grounds budget; Jud seconded; unanimous approval, motion passed.

**B & G issues – Laurel**

- Solar proposals – Bob Persons
  - Reviewed the proposals from the 621 Energy company that had been sent out with the agenda
  - 621 Energy has already done a number of solar installations, including churches with historic preservation requirements and has obtained waivers for those.
  - The best way to do this project is for FUUSN to buy the system outright at a cost of about \$141,000 – however, FUUSN would receive an incentive payment,

as well as a payment (Direct Pay) from the Inflation Reduction Act that would decrease the cost by 30%

- Payback period - after 6 years, FUUSN would be making money
- Laurel – FUUSN will have to take down part of the old slate roof and replace it with asphalt at a cost of approximately \$50-60,000.
- The rubber flat roof is sound but the seams are leaking; it will be more difficult to maintain with the solar panels in place.
- The solar panels would be at a very low tilt angle and would be weighed down to avoid blowing off, rather than being fixed to the roof.
- There was a question about an estimate for building floating panels over what would be a new parking lot. This cost would be about double that for a roof system. However, a canopy system would also generate more electricity. Payback time would also double.
- Long discussion about options, costs, and payback time
- Bob Persons will get updated estimates and an estimate for canopied panels and send to Susan

### **Staff Update**

Parisa – they are all doing well as a team, just in time for Anne’s sabbatical.

- Good attendance at FUUSN history sessions. There were some technical glitches in recording the information but they are working on it
- They are interested in setting up another session, especially for families with children who could not attend other sessions.
- Have received good suggestions from the congregation about the minister’s portraits
- What remains is a way for the congregation to come together when there is conflict
- A question was raised about what is being done about Vespers while Anne is away; Parisa will discuss with Anne.

Devin

- Feb. 11- they had a trip to Temple Reyim with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders; they will be organizing a reverse visit soon
- Feb. 12 – about 26 youth and mentors prepared lasagnas for the homeless. On February 15, served about 90 people
- March theme is belonging – continuing their discussion of how to give back to FUUSN. Spirit circles will offer the chance for adult/Ops Council participation (How to give time, talent, treasure)
- Will likely be having other congregations (children) participate in OWL next year; working on fee structure options

### **BOT January meeting – Eric**

- Discussion of the establishment of the search committee for the new minister
- Discussion of possible future staff structure; Parisa is working on this – will need this information for the budget
- Long discussion about social action committee although no conclusions
- Chris – congregation survey will be sent out in March; hopefully will be completed in about 4 weeks. Looking for input about people whom the congregation would like to see on the search committee, among other things.

**Financial – Karen**

- January expenditures – nothing surprising on income side; pledges coming in on schedule; services auction made at least \$15,000 (rough figure).
- Expenses – everything in line; utilities may come in a bit less, workman's comp more. \$26,000 in the black through January.
- Susan talked to Dan Stoll today; the budget drive kicks off on March 5. The budget team would like the Ops Council and BOT members to pledge by March 3 so that they can announce "they already have \$xxx" pledged on March 5.

**FUUSN Covid Protocols** – consensus is that no changes are required.

**Update: Committee activities**

- There will be a committee chairs meeting on March 18. Susan is looking for agenda items, and several were proposed. Susan will find out an available time and room and notify everyone
- GA delegates
  - FUUSN is allowed 9
  - 2 people have expressed interest
- Should FUUSN have a compost service? Discussion –no one is sure of the amount of compostable material that FUUSN produces, especially outside of the community breakfast Susan will check.

Thank yous – Racial Justice Ministry (Bill Holland) for Blacknificance. Pat Rohan, Christine Lookner, Karen Bottar, Stephanie Kendall for the services auction. Valentine's Day dinner - Meg Holland, Melissa Kogut, RoseAnn Murray, Barbara Niles, and Julia Wolfe

**Meeting adjourned** 8:40 p.m.