

September 19, 2017

Attending: Susan Bartlett, Jeannie Chaisson, Laurel Farnsworth, Ted Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley, Kit Ryan (clerk, for Linda Ross)

Staff: Erin Splaine, Minister, Rowan Van Ness, Sam Foster

Board: Brooke Foucault Welles

Start: 705PM

PRIOR TO MEETING ACTION:

Via Email - from Laurel Farnsworth, September 7, 2017. Susan is away so this request has come to me. RE parents would like to do their September social action project after service on Sunday, Sept. 17. They would like to have a bake sale table at coffee hour and possibly a pet treat activity in the upstairs kitchen. There may be a children's parade to get attention. They will be raising money to help animals either locally or in flooded areas. They don't want to line up volunteers and have us say no, so they are asking for approval.

Four members voted yes via email, and the motion was approved.

APPROVALS:

- Minutes: June. Laura made motion to accept minutes, Jeannie seconded, unanimously approved
- CWB request for April 8, 2018 concert:
 - Lois (Shapiro?) requests use of the sanctuary
 - Erin: there will be 2 separate CWB concerts in a month, different audiences
- § Beneficiaries of Coffee House funds will be discussed in future
- § Erin is OK w the CWB using the sanctuary
- § Jeannie made motion to approve, Laura seconded, unanimously approved
- September children's social action event (email vote):
 - Stuffed Animal Parade, was not an RE (religious education) event; fund-raiser + pet supplies were donated
 - Laurel: Coffee Hour, was not intended to be endless fundraiser
 - Jeannie: noted when children collect the offering they elicit more donations
 - Erin: in past have had offertory moved to earlier in service to include children, so they can see congregation contributing financially for FUSN's support
- Safe Congregation: the Safety and Evacuation plan was developed into a policy: Susan will resend
-

STAFF UPDATE:

- Erin: this is her 1st Ops Council meeting since her sabbatical
- Last 2 Sunday services went well; the 1st Sunday (Water Ceremony) had many families in attendance, w 243 attending in the sanctuary; the next Sunday there were 185 in the sanctuary
- Plan to add RE attendance to the sanctuary attendance data
- Building attendance data will be similar to other congregations, allows comparison with other congregations
- Ferry Beach: upcoming
- Recent months have had a number of farewells, most recently Marion Bullitt: her memorial service will not be until Feb18
- Safe Congregation: discussed at BoT (Board of Trustees) retreat
- § Will need Safe Congregations policies
- § Will require an overarching effort coordinating over FUSN's various groups and activities
- § Erin & Rowan have been attempting to provide momentum
- § Continues to be a goal, need BoT and Ops member to help to coordinate: Brooke will/may be the BoT representative; Jeannie represent Ops w Susan as a resource, and present to the congregation
- § Associated issues include

- CORI (criminal offender record information)
- CoA (coming of age) policies; progress in development of these has been slow, but we have ethical, moral, financial obligations to address them
- UUA has resources available
- Affected groups include care crew, lay ministers and staff members

§ Brooke: Safe Congregation issues fit well with concerns of congregants w younger families, need address what is safe to ask

○ Mandy Beal: pending ordination, will follow w fellowship position; FUSN needs to plan with Lincoln for funding her ordination.

· Rowan: This year 110 now registered in RE, last year 85 (end of year was 150)

○ Diversity: 23 of the registered children were identified as “not white”

○ OWL (Our Whole Lives), 7&8th grade, 2nd year of 5th grade, adding K1 for first time

○ Living the Principles: will start in October, w a principle/month except December; intergenerational in scope; planning to bring congregation around common theme

§ Lynn Holbein & Julia Huston will lead multi-generational social action efforts

§ Staff led activities include ‘Pizza and Principles’ to explore what the principles mean

§ Integrate w Chalice Circles and service

○ 7 children in RE carry epipens for peanut allergies; have added signage to the lower level classrooms

§ Ferry Beach and Sandy Island accommodate nut allergies in the dining hall

§ Brooke: suggested age appropriate talks to children, as there are in schools

REPORT ON BOT MEETINGS (August and September):

· Andrea: Sept report on the BoT meeting. Reported highlights to include:

○ Living the Principles plan for the upcoming year

○ How to get people out of “silos/sandboxes”

○ Getting Chalice Circles re-energized

○ The Adult Faith Development Task Force to shift to an implementation team

○ How many kids attending RE attend although their families are not members?

○ Demographics have changed; we have ~150 children, w increasing diversity as compared to the adult population

○ Cathy Morocco discussed what is the upcoming agenda for the BoT, and possibly creating a new covenant

○ Allan Hartman & Jackie Rohan talked about name options; BoT did not vote, decision is for the congregation

○ Lynn Holbein & Dick Bail talked about Refugee Ministry; there will be a meeting about topic after Sunday service Sept. 17: motion was made to join the Newton religious community cluster

· Jeannie: August report:

○ Discussion about the upcoming Financial Summit

○ Financial Summit goal is to understand issues, not necessarily solve them

○ Susan: Erin, Judy Curby, Brian Burba and I are planning for the Financial Summit

§ Mark Ewert will not be invited for this event, the group needs to work on issues, to include: what are the various groups involved for financial management; what are the challenges; and how we might begin to plan for a successful annual budget drive

○ Erin: where are the financial tension points? FUSN has 3 ways to give (annual budget drive, capital campaign, and planned giving/wills); we need improved communication with the congregation about money/finance

FINANCIAL: Laurel; Finance (Committee), met last week; ahead on pledge drive collections, also on collections

· Status updated financial policies: Dan Brody made recommendations for policy updates; deferred until after Financial Summit.

FUSN DATABASE: Sam presented Realm database; (handout: included policy questions to be addressed)

- Reviewed background, Icon database still in use.
- RE data to be available in Realm database
- Demonstration: individuals/families may set privacy levels; can be used to send internal messages; set calendars; no financial data currently tied in

UPDATES:

- Schedule November and March committee chair meetings: November 18; March 10 2018
- Room rental agreements: when to use short vs. long forms: discussion included, if there is alcohol, it should require the long form
- B&G work update: Laurel emailed, included handout (This Summer's Building Work)
- Social Action: get list of planned fundraising. Jeannie will pick this task up again; Susan will send information to Jeannie
- Ops priorities (Handout, 2017-2018)

THANK YOUS: Discussion for Andrea to write.

- Laurel: would like to thank Val Miller and Gregg diBiaso for moving furniture, donated by Allan & Anne Hartman, to Sam's office
- Erin: Kim Shanks for Nursery facelift
-

End: 909PM