

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
Children's Chapel

Attending: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Judy Curby. Sharon Sisskind, Rand Stone, Ted Hess-Mahan, Erin Splaine, Amanda Graff (RE), Josie Greene (BOT), Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:00 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Laurel

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:

Minutes – January - Judy moved to approve the January minutes; Laurel seconded the motion, all voted to approve, motion passed

February – Judy moved to approve the February minutes; Laurel seconded the motion, 3 voted to approve, motion passed

Staff Update

Amanda

- Busy time of year for recruiting volunteers, especially for Coming of Age
- Fellowship dinner – many attendees (children – 37). Will be having circus activities.
- There will be a youth table at the Fellowship dinner
- Two job searches are underway
 - Assistant RE director
 - Youth programs coordinator
- Youth will be visiting Sanctuary Boston this week

Erin

- Budget drive and pledge parties are ongoing – the sharing seems deeper this year.
- Lay ministers have been talking for a while about how to re-organize the program. They will be meeting with David Pyle on March 30 (UUA regional representative for these issues) to discuss – including Care Crew reorganization. Will probably take 1 ½ to 2 years to accomplish the reorganization.

- Judy suggested letting the congregation know what UUA does for us; perhaps a newsletter item.

Baptismal Font – There have been longstanding discussions of what to do with it, given that it is barely used. There is another church that would be interested in taking it as a permanent loan – they may be coming to look at it. Discussion of who makes this decision? It probably should be proposed to the Board and let them decide.

Financial

- Review February expenditures
 - Utility costs higher than budgeted – seems to be due to usage.
 - High snowplowing costs for last storm, will probably use budgeted amount
- UUA dues
 - Dan Brody brought item to Board that he thinks we should be paying as a fair share congregation
 - Susan thought we should go over how this amount is calculated so that we can inform the congregation. Judy offered to look at this.

RE FY 20 budget - Amanda

- Makes sense to keep budget request the same as this year
- Have underspent budget this year so far.
- Coming of Age will be happening next year, didn't happen this year. She is suggesting an increase of \$2,500 for this program.
- There is a fee for children to participate in Coming of Age. After discussion, there was no consensus on whether this is just for Thompson Island, or for the program. Judy can check to determine this. There is a fund (currently \$9,000) to pay for children whose families cannot afford the fee.
- Judy moved, as decided by the Board, to re-allocate the money in the RE search committee budget to be used for a consultant to assist Amanda in her first year as director of the RE program. Laurel seconded. All voted yes, motion passed.
- Amanda should send her final budget request to Brian Gill, by April 1.

Board of Trustees idea for “dashboard” monthly information

- The goal would be to keep track of certain items monthly, to potentially forestall issues before they snowball.
- Jon Reuman's dashboard model was reviewed and discussed. Josie discussed why the Board was interested in the data. Items discussed include:
 - Who would input data
 - Should visitors be tracked
- Judy will make up a sample spreadsheet

Update: Committee issues/reports

- Report on committee chairs meeting
 - Updating committee information on the web
 - Realm was discussed and demonstrated

- B & G; rental for theater group – Laurel
 - Children’s theater workshop is currently being run at City Hall, needs new space. Would use the stage, Parish Hall, and upstairs kitchen, 3 days/week after school.
 - Probably would be here September 2019 - March 2020
 - Laurel gave the director a quote of \$1200/month; the director asked for \$1000/month. There was discussion of amount to be charged; consensus was to stay with \$1200/month, with a 3 month trial period.
- Bathrooms update: map and signs
 - Susan showed the signs to be posted on the classroom corridor restrooms on Sundays to make them single sex.
 - All bathrooms are currently labelled as gender neutral
 - A handout of FUUSN showing the location of all bathrooms was distributed; these will be made available.
 - Effective date of bathroom change: April 7, 2019.
- Data security work
 - Julia Huston’s law firm will be reviewing FUUSN’s data practices and come up with IT policy.
 - Rand
 - First step will be cataloging what and where data is stored; this is mostly done.
 - Employee data should be included
 - He will set up a meeting with Amanda to discuss RE information
- GA delegates – need to solicit delegates.
 - Ted – registration fees increase May 1. He will work on organizing.
 - Housing opens March 1.
- New to UU class: Saturday April 13. Someone from Ops Council attends to discuss their role. Laurel volunteered because she will already be here, doing a tour of the building for the class.

Saul Lookner sent an email – he had to get a band at the last minute for the fellowship dinner; he asked if the band could have a free event in the Parish Hall on June 8 in exchange. Consensus was that this was acceptable if there are no conflicts with the space..

Next month’s newsletter article due April 9: Ted – request for GA delegates.

Thank yous – Eric Moore, Laura Thompson, Lorenz Glaser, Dani Patrick for Youth Coffeehouse,

Meeting adjourned 9:08 p.m.