

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL

Tuesday, January 15 2019
Children's Chapel

Attending: Susan Bartlett, Judy Curby, Ted Hess-Mahan, Laurel Farnsworth, Sharon Sisskind, Erin Splaine, Jon Reuman (BOT), Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:05 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Judy

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 – December. Laurel moved to approve, Ted seconded, all present voted in favor, motion passed.

Staff Update

Erin

- Jaelynn Linares started today as the new Membership Coordinator; she has a background in tech. There was discussion of what she will be doing in her position.
- Christmas – over 700 people attended services on Christmas Eve.

Report on BOT Meeting - Sharon

- The bulk of the meeting was to go over budget priorities.
- Discussed the document that Chris Krebs had prepared about budget goals.
 - Allocate \$7000 of \$10,000 to building reserve; hoping to get remainder.
 - There was discussion of recent problems with the volume level of the speakers at the front of the sanctuary. Laurel will be checking with Jud about the issue.
 - There was a question and discussion about whether some of the listed initiatives had dollar amount allocated to them; Jon said that the Board had not done that. Their goal was to give strategic direction.
 - There was discussion of whether the Board had considered adding staff to the priority list; Jon said it had been in the initial list but was deleted in the end.
 - Laurel – Allen House is coming online next year; looking to start programs. There are a number of churches in Newton that need physical maintenance; could staffing be shared?
- Lucy Boyle has accepted a position to be on the financial oversight committee.
- Discussion of restoring funding for Social Action Committee
- Discussion of ministerial review – would be due in the spring, but delaying until fall due to other activities and to avoid rushing the review. Ellie Crocker-Morse will be responsible.

Financial

- Review December expenditures – no questions, seem to be doing reasonably well.

FY20 Annual Budget Drive - priorities – already discussed above.

Gender-neutral bathrooms – Update

- There was discussion of options after the last Ops Council meeting; the thought was to temporarily make the bathrooms in the classroom corridor one-gender, and make those near the Parish Hall gender neutral. Those present agreed that this was acceptable.
- There was a suggestion to hold a meeting after the February 3 service to answer questions from the congregation. Sharon agreed to co-chair; Erin will attend.

Should FUUSN have an AED and Narcan available?

AED (automatic external defibrillator) and Narcan- discussion; decision was made not to have either. The police station across the street as well as the fire station at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue have both and are likely the best options. The suggestion was made to post the address of the building so that people will know when they call 911.

Update: Committee issues/reports

- **FUUSN parking situation – status and timing.** Ted – has talked to those responsible in Mark Development. They will not be ready to begin construction until May/June 2019. They will construct FUUSN's parking lot before the current bank lot is closed. There is some staging needed for their construction; Santander will need to move into trailers in the current Santander parking lot. Will put out reminders (in order of service) as to available parking areas.
- **Status—updating committee information on the web.**
 - The Over 60s have developed their information; may need editing.
- **Database-use by RE & membership**
 - Ted – Jaelynn will be able to help with Realm. Seems to be a generational issue as to whether people use it.
- Laurel – Fran received a request this afternoon from Betsy Simmons about having a program on Dying Well, on a Saturday in April. The question is whether there would be a charge. Best if she could have a committee sponsor it (Social Action, Lay Ministers, or Over 60s).

Next month's newsletter article due February 12: Laurel will do and will include calling 911 and the building address.

Thank yous - Julia Huston for Christmas pageant; Pat Rohan for chairing membership director search committee; Jonathan Lillienfeld, Erin Haas, Ron Mayville for Christmas trees.

Meeting adjourned 8: 40 p.m.