

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL
Tuesday, July 21, 2020
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Sharon Sisskind, Eric Haas, Amanda Graff, Erin Splaine, Chris Krebs (BOT) Linda Ross (asst clerk);

Called to order 7:05 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading -Susan

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:

- June minutes -Laurel moved to approve the minutes, motion was seconded, unanimous approval, motion passed.

Staff Update

Amanda

- She is working on a togetherness rock garden. Packages with rocks were dropped off to families to be decorated; she is looking for a place around the FUUSN building to place and make a garden, perhaps under a tree in front. May open the project up to the entire congregation after children's garden completed.
- "Anti-racism and You"(book) being discussed by a book group that she is leading; would like to meet (socially distanced) on FUUSN grounds at some point.
- Thinking about programming that will keep everyone connected over the coming year.
- Hiring for assistant RE director– two candidates remain (one withdrew); hopefully will decide and make a hire soon.

Erin

- Ministerial review process- there was relatively good attendance at the first congregational meeting and good conversation.

Report on June BOT Meeting –Susan

- Chris Krebs re-elected chair, Christine Lookner vice-chair
- Spent time reviewing structure and function of board, hopes and aspirations for the coming year.
- Long discussion of ministerial review report

- Question about how people can get a paper copy of the report if desired; Chris will investigate
- Question about who responds to report; the committee is a board-appointed committee, so the BOT responds.
- People with permission to access and post to website; Greg Sullivan, Fran Clancy, Jud Leonard, Bruce Henderson

Financial

- Review June expenditures – Karen – pledges from this year and last coming in better than expected.
- Use of on-line platform for plate collections – discussion postponed.

Update: Building closure

- Re-opening for FUUSN
 - Laurel – the maximum number of people that can be in the sanctuary with current rules for social distancing is 60, including staff. Sanctuary plus balcony is 6000 sq ft; attendance can be 10 people per thousand square feet, so 60 people.
 - The usual attendance at a service is much more than 60 people per service (180-250).
 - Lottery for attendance?
 - If 60 people attended, service could still be live-streamed for those who could not attend
 - Air exchanges – Laurel - none in sanctuary, it is recirculating. Parish Hall can have outside air exchanges, as can all other places in building, although there will be a cost to institute use of equipment. It would be expensive to add outside air circulation to sanctuary. Could HEPA filters be added to sanctuary? Laurel did not know, could check.
 - Lengthy discussion of options, pros and cons.
 - § Safety
 - § Inclusivity
 - Consensus is that building will not be open for the fall; the focus should be on how to optimize virtual services and activities.
 - Jud – would like to see us thinking creatively, e.g. joint service with Myrtle Baptist and/or other UU groups. Look for opportunities rather than limitations.
 - Laurel – GA offered many good ideas; presentations can still be watched online.
 - Sharon – could we attend services at other congregations? Consensus was yes.
 - Erin – would like to get Zoom “minds” together to see what else can be done to optimize interactions.

- Should small in-person gatherings be promoted? E.g. book groups. This would need to be done carefully. Should people outside of staff be in charge of such meetings? Discussion of topic.
 - § Jud – consider putting up an outside event tent for meetings? Erin – thinks meetings should be limited to one or two small groups
 - § Amanda – was thinking about holding a youth group hike and some kind of celebration for Coming of Age youth.
- Susan – the council needs to decide how long to stay closed and when to announce decision to the congregation.. Jud – suggested saying that we will be closed for the year but will re-assess as the year progresses. Consensus was that the latter was a good approach.
- Holiday Fair – cancel? – Laurel – thinks it could be broken up into pieces so that some parts could take place. E.g. wreaths in narthex, jewelry in Alliance room; control access of number of people. Specifics to be thought out and discussed in the future.
- Erin – suggested looking ahead at the entire calendar and figure out how to handle events.

· Pine Village return

- Teachers are returning next week, students Aug. 3.
- Laurel is having difficulty figuring out how to get Dorshei into the building with Pine Village present. Thinking about renting to Dorshei on Sunday if services will not be held; also perhaps the New Philharmonic orchestra for rehearsals.
- Further discussion about use of building..

· CONCLUSION – The decision about closing for the year, with reassessment as the year progresses, will be presented to the BOT next week for comments. Laurel is the Ops Council representative at that meeting and can present and handle questions.

Update: Committee issues/reports, including:

· Laurel – there is a leak that she thought had been fixed but has not; water is leaking into the sanctuary near the tower. Work is to be done to try to locate and repair the leak.

Thank yous – Kim Shanks, who has officially left the RE Council. Discussion; would like to give her a gift as well as a card; Susan will follow up.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.