

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES DRAFT

Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Sharon Sisskind, Erin Splaine, Christine Lookner (BOT), Amanda Graff (after 7:20 pm) , Eric Haas (at 8:30 p.m.- his Internet was out), Linda Ross (asst clerk);

Called to order 7:05 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Karen

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:

- By email – Sept. 24, 2020 – from Susan - FUUSN needs to make a donation to UU the Vote similar to that which we would pay for a guest minister (\$350). While Erin as minister has discretion for use of the pulpit, she wanted to make sure no one had any issues with this donation to UU the vote. No one expressed any concerns.
- September minutes - Laurel moved to approve the minutes; Sharon seconded the motion, unanimous approval, motion passed.

Staff Update - Erin

- Wants to make sure Ann Watson Borne gets full support
- She does not think outdoor caroling can occur due to social distancing issues.
- Wondered about making plans to support the congregation depending on what happens on election day.

Amanda

- RE year started the beginning of October. She is happy that people are showing up, esp. 4-6 grade. Great pre-school start, youth group is meeting.
- Regina is doing great
- Adult faith formation – Suzanne Buchko is helping to coordinate.
- Conversation is starting about the Christmas pageant. It will be pre-recorded.
- There is an in-person outdoor meeting this Saturday afternoon at the Cove.
- She is attending LREDA Falls conference this week. The Commission on Institutional Change report will be main topic, discussing how people of color are faring in congregations.

Report on September BOT Meeting

- September meeting not held due to Board retreat

Financial

- Review September expenditures – Karen
 - She continues to be astounded at the pledges coming in – doing very well.
 - Pledges from prior year continue to be fulfilled.
 - No update from tenants; Pine Village is in the building and paying rent.
 - No outside expenditures
 - There may be a significant reduction in utilities due to building closure
 - Will be an expenditure soon for purchasing Christmas trees
 - Overall good report
 - Laurel – building
 - Fire department decided we need some new fire alarms
 - After the building alarm went off one day, the fire department determined that the annunciator piece of equipment on the outside of the building had rotted, shorting the system and setting off the alarm. It is being replaced.
 - Grace Church has applied for Community Preservation Commission Funds to repair their tower; there is a question about whether a church can be given those funds. If they are approved, she is thinking about applying for money for a new roof for FUUSN.
 - She had been contacted by a violin teacher who wanted permission to use the building for a recital; Laurel said that she would ask. The consensus was no.
- On-line platform for plate collections
 - Email was sent out re platform for plate collections
 - Collection will take place after service, at beginning of coffee hour
 - Erin thinks it should be introduced by a member of Ops Council
 - Sharon was under the impression that Gordon Moriarty was going to introduce it and rationale
 - Suggestion to put instructions into Zoom chat toward the end of the service
 - Susan raised a question about special collections; some discussion, but no one knew their origin. Erin will try to trace this.

Update: Committee plans for the coming year

- Website – status – Jud
 - Had a meeting to discuss how things would work
 - Rosemary will be involved in keeping web site up to date
- Christmas tree sales – Eric
 - Order has been placed for 200 trees, ½ of usual number.
 - Would like to have trees delivered the Sunday before Thanksgiving but not decided yet.
- Holiday Fair – Laurel
 - Had an outdoor meeting with leaders of the sections of the Holiday Fair
 - The feeling was to do the fair only for the congregation
 - The set up would be as described in the email she sent out - baked goods in the Alliance Room, jewelry and Silent Auction in the Parish Hall, wreaths in the narthex. Trees will be for sale then also.
 - The Governor has increased the number of people who can congregate in a space from 16 to 25.
 - Long discussion about the feasibility of doing a modified fair

- If held, opens the possibility that some people may not understand why this can be done and not other activities
 - How to control entry?
 - Sharon moved that we go ahead with a greatly scaled back fair with wreaths in the narthex, baked goods and gingerbread houses in the Alliance room, and very few items in the Parish Hall, just for FUUSN community (no advertising). Jud seconded. Discussion – suggestion of even further scaling back; no items in Parish Hall.
 - Sharon amended her motion to delete items in the Parish Hall. Vote – 5 in favor, motion passed.
- Racial Justice Ministry and Allen window – Erin
 - RJM has not met as a group yet since the window was covered.
 - Some people have expressed an interest in seeing what the window looked like.
 - Erin would prefer not to send out a picture of the window; would like to send out the RJM description and report to congregation; will see what they say at their upcoming meeting.
- Outreach to congregation – Membership and lay ministers leading. Pat Rohan and Jud have been working on a plan. There was a question about what to do if an issue is raised by the person being contacted. Jud – the question can go back to Pat Rohan. Ministerial issue should go to the lay ministers. Operational issues should go to the Operations Council. Susan – probably good to make both Pat and Jud aware of any issues raised.
- RE – Amanda – hopes to go through registry and find those people who have not been in touch since COVID started and contact them. She will make a list and do a first pass at contacting them.

Thank yous – To the people who worked on the hiring committee. Thank you letter to Erin O'Donnell as chair, ask her to thank the rest of the committee.

Meeting adjourned 9:06 p.m.