



COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Pat Rohan (Ch), Laurel Farnsworth, Alan Cody, Anne Hess-Mahan, and Kim Shanks.
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr. Barb Greve, Rev. Erin Splaine and Barney Freiberg-Dale. (Assistant Clerk: Bonnie McDonald)
UNABLE TO ATTEND:	Jeannie Chaisson

1. OPENING WORDS

Pat Rohan read the Operations Council 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."

2. COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL ACTION

Barney Freiberg-Dale attended the first part of the Ops Council meeting to talk about the Council for Social Action (CSA), which is now underway. (For background purposes, the CSA will be taking the place of the former "Social Action Committee.") Although the CSA reports to the Ops Council, Barney mentioned that it is anticipated there may be times the Ops Council Chair will decide an item should go directly to the Board of Trustees.

Barney said the CSA has already begun meeting this summer, and is comprised of the following people: Barney Freiberg-Dale, Lynn Holbein, Alex Marks-Katz (Youth Rep), Alison Leuchtenburg, Randy Block, and Isabelle Thacker. (Ex-officio member: Cheryl Lloyd.) There are six adults and one youth representative. They will generally have three-year terms, but at this point some now have one, two and three year terms. The Senior Minister and Director of Religious Education are included in the activities of the CSA to participate in planning, but are not expected to attend each meeting.

The CSA is in the process of developing forms/applications for projects, task forces, and outside partners. Also, the CSA believes it needs a sunset provision for internal organizations to "re-up" (formally renew their projects) – otherwise they will be terminated. Barney gave an example of the Anti-Slavery Committee, mentioning that when he started his business, Visiting Angels, the committee did not get picked up. He said that a sunset provision for partnerships was overlooked in the charter, and that he will work on this.

Barney also mentioned that the CSA has adopted a covenant; and that it has removed references to 'fiscal responsibility.'

When asked about how the CSA will work, Barney said they are working on defining which issues are *projects, task forces* or *initiatives*.

Laurel asked if the subject of Immigration is part of the CSA's current projects. Barney said that if activists wish to come forward to get support from the CSA/Council, they'll be there for them.

Anne asked about what if someone wants to start something mid-year; and Barney mentioned the CSA would be able to take immediate action, if required. (Anne also suggested that the CSA stay in touch with the Communications Committee.)

Alan asked what the CSA is planning to do to create more inclusive climate to get people involved; and Barney answered that information and announcements about the CSA's projects would be interlaced throughout all discussions, and that they are going to do all they can to build a community around this.

When asked if there were any criteria for a new project, task force or initiative, Barney said it would have to be consistent with UU values—and people would be encouraged to answer which of the seven principles the project relates to.



3. HOUSEKEEPING

Several items fell under this discussion:

A. ELECT OPERATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

Motion: To re-elect Pat Rohan as Chair; Laurel Farnsworth as Vice-Chair.

Vote: Approved unanimously; 4-0.

B. WEST NEWTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Neighborhood advisory committees in Newton's four Community Development Building Grant "target neighborhoods" (the neighborhoods with the highest concentration of low- and moderate-income residents) work with housing and community development staff on the development of the five-year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan. ***The West Newton Advisory Committee is one of these four committees.***

Recently, there was a series of ListServ E-mails exchanged about who should be going to the West Newton Advisory Committee meetings to represent FUSN. In response, Pat attended a meeting and found out that FUSN was not within the geographic area of this group—meaning it could have no vote. Also, the grant-funded projects had already been chosen. These projects include the Cheesecake Brook Area Improvements and Washington Street Corridor Improvements. Pat was unsure of what benefits FUSN might receive from continued participation, but would be open to future ideas and discussions.

C. WEST NEWTON AREA COUNCIL

Pat discovered a new council that is in its formative stages, which may be called the West Newton Area Council. It involves local businesses; and FUSN is within this council's jurisdiction. Pat will be monitoring its development for potential voting and networking opportunities.

D. FLAGS IN SANCTUARY

At a previous Ops Council meeting, it was motioned and approved that a new United States flag and a United Nations flag would replace the old ones in the Parish Hall. Jeannie is coordinating this effort.

E. NEW FUSN LOCKS AND KEYS

Due to multiple reports of FUSN's Sanctuary Door being left open, and for better security, the building's locks will be changed soon and the Building Key Policy (which can be found on the FUSN website) will be implemented. In short, all those who regularly need keys will receive new keys; and others can sign out a key as needed for events, etc.

F. SMALL PROJECT – CHILDREN'S CLASSROOM CORRIDOR

The corridor in the Children's Classroom will be painted a new color. Rev. Erin Splaine will help choose the color soon.

4. LAUREL FARNSWORTH'S CURRENT PROJECTS

Laurel mentioned she had four 'construction' projects in the works:

A. SOLAR PANELS FOR FUSN ROOF – ON HOLD

There may be a tax incentive to the installer to install solar panels this year through the Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, a group working to reduce energy consumption in houses of worship. A model has been sent around, but FUSN's roof situation has made it difficult for an installation to happen simply or soon.

COSTS/BUDGET: ~\$60K for new roof.	ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP/RESPONSIBLE: If we are a viable candidate for a solar installation model, we should consider taking out an endowment fund loan, and paying it back with energy savings.
--	---



B. FUSN ORGAN – NEW POWER SUPPLY

Our consultant has approved the concept, and plan for a new chamber to be built under the Chancel. This chamber will house a new power supply for the wind/air flow through all the organ pipes. We will also install a humidification system in this new chamber to keep all the powered air from drying out the wooden pipes and air passages.

COSTS/BUDGET: \$80K	ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP/RESPONSIBLE: Laurel will be coordinating this project. The machinery is expected to be in around Christmas.
-------------------------------	---

C. LEAK REPAIRS

Construction to repair leaks will start soon, and scaffolding will be up for five to seven weeks on the Washington Street wall side, as well as outside Parish Hall. (This means the visible leaks in the Sanctuary balcony and Headstart Room would be fixed.)

COSTS/BUDGET: \$70K, with \$50K from last year's budget, and \$20K from an anonymous (generous) donor.	ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP/RESPONSIBLE: The \$20,000 anonymous donation will be placed in a temporarily restricted funds account and spent prior to drawing the remaining \$50,000, which will come from the major maintenance budget. Laurel will be coordinating this project.
--	---

D. SMALL PROJECT – CHIME REPAIRS

When Laurel was canvassing several years ago, Bob Feldman, the Senior Chimer, mentioned he would like to see the chimes repaired. It is possible that this repair could be made to happen after the organ and leak repair projects are complete.

COSTS/BUDGET: ~\$12K	ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP/RESPONSIBLE: On hold for now, but Laurel is looking into it.
--------------------------------	--

5. OPEN POSITIONS

A. COMMITTEE CHAIR STATUS/VACANCIES

- **Services Auction Chair:** *Vacant*
- **Denominational Affairs Chair:** *Vacant*
- **Worship Chair:** *In process.* (It was mentioned that Rev. Erin Splaine is working on a candidate for the Worship Committee Chair.)
- **Budget Drive Chair:** *Vacant*

B. NEW STAFF

Mr. Barb Greve reported the following new staff members:

- **Youth Programs Coordinator:** Rebecca Hinds
- **Temporary Assistant Director of Religion Education:** Beth Walton

He also reported that we currently have nine of the 29 teacher positions filled (which is about 2-3 per class).

6. APPRECIATION

The Operations Council members thanked Laurel Farnsworth for all of her dedication and work on the above-mentioned projects and more. All agreed that Laurel has been an invaluable resource for FUSN.



7. MISCELLANEOUS

A. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Alan feels the Board of Trustees should not be spending their time on things like \$200 line items, and that they should be involved in financial matters on a higher level. He suggested that the Board of Trustees consider an audit committee, and to let the Ops Council implement financial policies.

B. EFFICIENCY MATTERS

Laurel feels we need half the 'governance' and more committee chairs to improve efficiency.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS & SCHEDULE

A. GOVERNANCE MEETING, 8/25

Pat and Laurel met with Susan Bartlett and Gordon Moriarty to work on Governance issues.

B. OPS COUNCIL RETREAT, 10/1

Doug Zelinski, Director of Leadership Development for the Massachusetts Bay District of Unitarian Universalist Congregations, will be moderating the Retreat on October 1st. The retreat will be joint with the Board of Trustees.

C. NEXT OPS COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND FUTURE SCHEDULE

A few Ops Council members have had schedule conflicts, so Pat will look into the best dates for the next and ongoing Operations Council Meetings and will announce them soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie McDonald, Assistant Clerk

September 14, 2011