

OPERATIONS REPORT — JANUARY 2023

PROGRESS ON ADMINISTRATION GOALS

JANUARY 22

Communications — we are making progress on more visually appealing communications, with a greater emphasis on Realm’s functionality for getting the word out on events and meetings. Trisha, in particular, has been terrific about taking and requesting images that communicate our activities. I have worked with Trisha on accessing new software tools to help her construct elements that are used in the UUpdate.

Kevin, Rev. Bob & I are all more present on campus than we had been. I still request appointments for meetings outside my designated Tuesday hours to protect my own flow.

We have successfully made the transition to a new payroll service—they are VERY easy to communicate with, and I hope to have a long, boring relationship with them.

Our “Charity Charge” credit cards have now been deployed and are being put to work. This keeps my personal UUTC card from going out to other hands just to get the work of UUTC done.

Volunteerism: Member Joan Lemire is (re)taking over stocking of coffee supplies. Visitor Judith Moore is taking over management of Souper Sundays. Libann Elwell is working with Susan Slocum on a training for Greeters to happen soon.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WNC GRANT

This \$30K capital investment will help us support the spiritual journeys of those who don’t hear as well as they used to, and allow them to more fully participate in the life of UUTC. Part of the grant ensures that WNC AudioVisual spends a Sunday with our AV Crew to tweak the system for the best results.

Equally important is the auxiliary FM transmitter and body packs. Since our current FM transmitter connected to the sanctuary audio will be removed, we can repurpose it to the Chalice House for groups who want that extra capability to better serve their members. The new transmitter will stay in the main building as support for the larger groups that need the social hall.

One known challenge is keeping the induction body packs separate from the FM body packs. Visually, there is only a slight difference between the two types. We will need to charge the new induction loop body packs separately from the FM packs, and ushers may need to assist in collecting of the induction packs to make sure they are not confused with the others.

FUNDRAISING

Coming right up is our Pledge Drive, the 2023 Pi Day Pie Auction, and the “We’ve Only Just Begun” Auction. Pi Day will have a new, even more amusing twist. The Auction Task Force has some great ideas and I think we’re going to be putting the “fun” into Fundraising, in ways that build connectedness.

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GIVING TUESDAY PROJECTS

Blinds: Goal met and blinds have been ordered.

Sanctuary Rehab: Goal met—by the time you receive this, Aesthetics will have made a decision on paint and I will have turned Hector & his son loose on the sanctuary. There will be a note in the UUpdate about how messy things are about to get.

Outdoor Tables: When I reviewed the pricing and found that the selected tables had gone up in price, we switched to a different vendor. The previous warranty of twenty years was no longer in play, so the tables we purchase will have a 5 year warranty. We will order three tables in late February, expecting delivery in March. One of these will accommodate a wheelchair.

Cameras: This project was clearly a mixed bag for donors, and was not funded to the level required to purchase cameras that would “talk” to our existing security system. Other systems are far less costly. I spoke with Kevin, as his concerns about the Chalice House isolation making it vulnerable were why this item was introduced. With the removal of shrubs, brighter parking lights, and the many groups in and out of the Chalice House, he is far more comfortable, and wants only a lock for his office door to protect expensive equipment.

Based on this feedback, I spoke with our anonymous donor (majority of the funding for this project) about their desire so far as those funds goes. They indicated that the Board is free to move those funds to a different project’s fulfillment. I will speak to other “camera” donors dependent on the Boards’ feedback.

Choir Chairs: This one has turned out to be the biggest challenge. Aesthetics started with the carpet, because that was the one thing most likely to be funded. Then they worked on chair fabric, searching for something uplifting and warm as an accent for the chancel chairs and the choir. Finding that, they are now selecting paint for the sanctuary that complements the other elements.

The selected fabric carries a \$2 up charge. However, since it is not a ‘standard’ fabric (like the blue chairs), it carries a minimum yardage requirement. This cost would be the equivalent of two chairs, and you are given the remaining fabric... which may not be at all useful to us. In addition, we will have shipping charges.

Facilities & Aesthetics then had a discussion about going with a slightly less costly chair that would still have the hymn storage on the side. The general consensus seems to be we should wait to buy chairs until we can fund all the chairs necessary for chancel and choir.

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

All in all, activity is way up. I no longer know what is happening on any given day without consulting the calendar. But we still need to create new excitement around social action, and about committing to membership.

In Covenant, RK