

UUSS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Thursday, May 22, 2025, 6:30 PM via Zoom and in person
Minutes



Present on Zoom: Anara Guard, Andy Cramer, Susan Davis-James, Janet Lopes, Leanna Pierson, Sally Wilkins, Victoria Owens, Dawn Huebner, Sally Wilkins, Rev Lucy Bunch, Rev Roger Jones

Guests on Zoom: Emily Moran-Vogt, Patty Innes, Fred Pannek, Amanda Dewey

6:33 PM Anara called the meeting to order.

Susan offered the centering.

April minutes were approved with corrections.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. Anara asked for BOT feedback regarding the May 18, 2025, Congregational Meeting.

Anara was pleased with the member turn-out and that the quorum count was easier than at past meetings. Janet monitored the members on Zoom and suggested that in future meetings that speakers allow time for members on Zoom to add comments via text. Victoria acknowledged problems with her slides during the meeting. Leanna noted that not requiring members to sign in led to a speedier meeting. Anara expressed appreciation for the questions from the congregation. Roger felt it was a very good meeting; he asked incoming BOT members for their impression and offered a comment on motion procedures.

2. Safety Committee Charge

Anara reviewed that a small group of BOT members had developed a charter for the Safety Committee and had presented the charter to the committee for their review and comments. Amanda Dewey, a member of the Safety Committee, attended the meeting and advised that the overall committee feedback had been positive, and she offered two comments. 1) concern of the term "sexual safety" and proposed to change to "sexual abuse safety/prevention". Victoria clarified that the term used in our relevant policy is "sexual abuse awareness and prevention." 2) Regarding Safety Committee membership, Amanda stated that current members of the committee felt that in addition to being UUSS members in good standing, that prospective members should go through background screening similar to the process for RE volunteers. A lengthy discussion followed, and the consensus of the BOT members was that background checks of prospective committee members would have negative consequences for the Nominating Committee and recruitment. Members also felt this was an unnecessary process. Anara stated her belief that fear should not form policy. Anara stated that it was important to confirm the Safety Committee Charter at this meeting, with the understanding that the BOT and Safety Committee will work to put together a further

vetting process for committee members. The SC Charter was approved unanimously with the understanding that the vetting process will be clarified.

3. Ministerial Intern Contract

Lucy raised the question of approval of the ministerial intern contract. Roger stated that the funds had been approved in the 2025-2026 budget. Andy offered a motion to authorize Anara to sign the ministerial intern contract. Motion was seconded and approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Rev Lucy Bunch

Lucy stated that the administrative staff was deep into training on the new calendar program, shifting to a once per month calendar. The next month is very busy time for the church and admin staff: weddings and memorial events. Lucy thanked the Compensation Taks Force and requested the final compensation numbers so that the staff could be informed. It was agreed that staff can be informed of the increase for the new year, and that compensation rates beyond that are not yet set.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Victoria Owens

Victoria stated that everything is fine! Generally, we have surplus in January and February which declines by June. As of the end of April we are doing better than previous years. Victoria predicted there will be a small surplus at the close of the year. Victoria confirmed that she had the signatures on the Endowment Loan extension.

MINISTER’S REPORT – Rev Roger Jones, Rev Lucy Bunch

Written report. Roger commented on a strong newcomers report and that first time pledges are very positive.

COMMITTEE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

a. Program Council – Janet Lopes

Written report. Janet advised that the Program Council’s Activity Fair is scheduled for In-gathering Sunday on September 7th.

b. APMC Report – Leanna Pierson

Leanna advised that the committee had voted not to renew the commercial kitchen license. The committee has decided to purchase either an induction or an electric oven, induction being preferred. Leanna advised that the art plaques are completed and installed.

c. Memorial Wall Committee – Dawn Huebner

Dawn confirmed that the project is moving forward, and committee members were going to take a field trip to the Davis church to study their memorial wall.

d. GA Report – Sally Wilkins

Sally reported that GA is being held in Baltimore June 18-22. We have six delegates: Randy and Jen Webb are attending in person. Sally Wilkins, Patty Innes, and DJ and Diana Quinn, will attend virtually. Roger will attend GA. Sally is scheduling viewing sessions for members at the church.

e. SJCC – Andy Cramer

Written report.

SJCC is cranking along with a lot of activity. Highlights as follows:

- There will be a forum with our May community partner, NAMI, after the service on 5/25.
- NorCal Resist got \$4300 from the share the plate in April.
- June 7 will be the Family Promise workday at Delaney House for the garden.
- Pink Haven has a musical event/fundraiser on 5/25. They are working with the national group to identify the first Kin to be supported in Sacramento.
- The Justice and Equity Team (JET) is requesting input regarding our collective experiences related to diversity, welcome, and belonging. Complete the online survey by May 25.
- Our Advocacy work at the State level with Sac ACT has ramped up this year. The next Lobby Day is scheduled for June 23. Our advocacy of the local level, also with Sac ACT, is in its infancy.
- Efforts to restart a Green Sanctuary group at UUSS have been initiated. The group would educate the congregation about sustainable practices and realistic recycling for personal and congregational use.

Recap – Items for Leadership Newsletter

Express thanks for the congregational meeting, summarize the decisions reached. Announce the ministerial intern if contract is signed by June 11. Roger discussed the purpose of the Leadership email. Discussion about if pledge update should be included. Announce GA Zoom viewing parties.

Future meeting dates announced:

Executive Session: 6/10

BOT: 6/26

BOT Retreat: August 16th

New BOT Member Orientation – TBD (in person weekday evening)

Susan closes the meeting with a poem.

Meeting adjourned.