UUSS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Thursday, September 24, 2026, 6:30 p.m., in person and **via Zoom**
MINUTES

In Person: Andy Cramer, Victoria Owens, Fred Pannek, Patty Innes, Mathew Espinosa-Castro, Lue Bishop, Rev. Lucy Bunch, Rev. Dr. Roger Jones, Sophia McKean
On Zoom: Ted Scott Femenella, Emily Moran-Vogt, Karen Smith

6:33 Welcome to Board and guests/Establish Quorum: **Andy**
Chalice Lighting and Centering: **Patty**

Appreciative Inquiry: **Andy**

6:45 August minutes approved.

6:46 Board Business

- UUA Social Justice Program – Karen Gunderson: moved to October agenda.

- Pink Haven funds

And reported that via an email vote earlier in the week the Board approved, by a vote of seven approved and one abstain, for the remaining Pink Haven funds to be disbursed to the Gender Health Center Sacramento. Andy led a discussion, asking should the Board be the authority to approve the disbursal of a dissolved committee's funds. By consensus, the Board felt that the disbursal should come to the Board if such funds were being disbursed to an external organization. The Board may choose to set a threshold amount which would tripper Board review and approval.

- Endowment Loan

Victoria provided a copy of the proposed offer to pay off the current Endowment Loan for $100,000, which is included in these minutes. Board discussion included identifying the funds that would be used, and as to why this is an appropriate time to make this offer. A motion to approve the loan offer was offered, seconded and approved by the Board.

- Website consultant contract approval

Mathew provided a slide presentation which outlined the task force's vendor review process and details of the final two candidates. These are included with the minutes. Mathew reported that the Website Task Force recommends that UUSS contract with Uptown Studios, a Sacramento based company. After discussion, a motion to designate Uptown Studios as the website vendor and request a formal contract was offered, seconded and approved by the Board.

- Approval Sophia officiating a wedding

Our ministerial intern, Sophia McKean requested Board authorization to perform marriage ceremonies. A motion for the Board of Trustees to authorize Sophia McKean to perform legal marriage ceremonies was offered, seconded and approved by the Board.

- October Congregational Meeting Planning

Fred provided a draft agenda for the October Congregational Meeting, which is included in these minutes. The Board reviewed the agenda and the following Board members volunteered for the following meeting related duties: Emily – Zoom monitor, Patty – Quorum Count, Lue – Open microphone.

- Finance Committee Charter Revision

Victoria submitted a proposed Finance Committee Charter Revision, which is included in these minutes. After Board discussion, a motion to approve the charter revision was offered, seconded, and approved by the Board.

8:14 Task Force Updates (if needed)

1. Website Replacement – Mathew – no additional comments

2. Facilities Planning Task Force – Andy

Andy announced the Facilities Planning Task Force members: Andy, Ted, Fred, Beth TenPas, Beth Maerten, Bess Caswell, John McMillan, Jim Eastman, Annette Orella, Joyce Ownbey, and Rev. Lucy Bunch. Andy stated that a meeting with Mogavero Architects is scheduled for Monday, September 29th and that the kick-off meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th.

8:16 Administrative Report – Rev. Lucy Bunch

Lucy advised that staff were working through a glitch in the Calendar program, the issue had been identified and in process of being corrected. Lucy shared with the Board her enthusiasm of Nicolette Thayer's performance as Member Engagement Coordinator. Lucy advised that she has reinstated regularly scheduled staff meetings.

8:18 Treasurer's Report – Victoria Owens

Victoria has submitted a written Treasurer's Report, which is included in these minutes. In addition, Victoria declared that "everything is coming along!" Lucy reported that Krystal Gollaher had negotiated a 50% reduction in trash removal fees.

8:25 Ministers' Reports – Rev. Roger Jones / Rev. Lucy Bunch

The ministers submitted a written report which is included in these minutes.

8:29 Committee Substantive Issues, if needed

a. Safety Committee – Karen

The Board was reminded of the upcoming AED/CPR training, scheduled for Saturday, September 26th.

b. Program Council – Lue

Lue advised that the September Program Council meeting did not reach Quorum, so that a vote on naming the UUSS Unsung Hero Award was delayed.

c. APMC (Administration and Property Management) – Ted

Ted reported that APMC discussed the following at today's meeting:

- Resurfacing the patio
- Landscaping the area around the Memorial Wall
- Adding handicapped parking spaces
- Safe-room drill
- Pre-planning for the El Nino this winter
- (an additional item): APMC will create a memorial garden honoring Indigenous peoples near the Memorial Wall.

d. FRST (Fundraising Strategy) – Emily

Roger reported that FRST will process Memorial Wall plaque sales, and the plans for a Legacy Circle reception this Fall.

e. Nominating Committee – Andy reported that the committee has not yet met.

f. Social Justice Coordinating Council – Fred

Fred reported that the SJCC is recommending to continue the existing slate of Community Partners at the October Congregational Meeting and will be introducing an on-line method for future Community Partner nominations.

g. UUA and PWR - Patty

8:46 Recap board decisions from August BOT for September Monthly Leadership Update: **Patty**

Website update
Finance Committee charter revision
CPR Training

8:48 Closing: **Patty**

8:49 Meeting adjourned

UUSS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING ASSIGNMENTS 2025-2026

MONTH	OPEN/CLOSE	LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER
~~JULY~~	~~ANDY CRAMER~~	~~FRED PANNEK~~
~~AUGUST~~	~~TED SCOTT-FEMENLLA~~	~~TED SCOTT-FEMENLLA~~

~~SEPTEMBER~~	~~PATTY INNES~~	~~PATTY INNES~~
OCTOBER	**LUE BISHOP**	**LUE BISHOP**
NOVEMBER	EMILY MORAN-VOGT	EMILY MORAN-VOGT
DECEMBER	KAREN SMITH	KAREN SMITH
JANUARY	MATHEW ESPINOSA-CASTRO	MATHEW ESPINOSA-CASTRO
FEBRUARY	FRED PANNEK	FRED PANNEK
MARCH	VICTORIA OWENS	*FRED PANNEK*
APRIL	PATTY INNES	PATTY INNES
MAY	LUE BISHOP	LUE BISHOP
JUNE	EMILY MORAN-VOGT	EMILY MORAN-VOGT

2026-2027 Board Events	Date
Fall Congregational Meeting	10/18/26
Auction	11/7/2026
Recruit - GA Delegates	1/1/2027
Budget/Review of contracts, letter of intent	3/1/2027
Stewardship Campaign	4/1/2027
Spring Congregational Meeting	5/16/2027

September 24, 2026

Board of Trustees
UUSS Endowment Trust
2425 Sierra Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Endowment Building Loan

The UUSS Board of Trustees would like to make an offer to pay off the loan that the Endowment trust made to UUSS in 2015. As you know, the current promissory note calls for one percent interest-only payments and runs until June 30, 2035. The balance as of July 31, 2026 was $259,976.

The UUSS Board is proposing that UUSS pay $100,000 now and that the Endowment Trustees accept that amount as fully satisfying the loan. UUSS is in the beginning stages of a capital project to replace or remodel the RE wing, and paying off this debt would improve our chances of getting a mortgage should one be necessary. This action would also give the Endowment an additional $100,000 to invest now, rather than having to wait until 2035.

Please let the UUSS Board President or Treasurer know if you have questions or would like to discuss this offer.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Andy Cramer
President
UUSS Board of Trustees

Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

UUSS Congregational Meeting
In person, and via Zoom
Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 11:45am

AGENDA

1. Welcome – Andy Cramer, Board of Trustees President (2 min)
2. Establish Quorum– Andy Cramer (2 min)
3. Invocation and Chalice Lighting – Sophia McKean (3 min)
4. Review agenda and meeting procedures – Andy Cramer (2 min)
5. Approve May 2026 Congregational meeting minutes (2 min)
6. President's Report – Andy Cramer (5 min)
7. Treasurer's Report – Victoria Owens (5 min)
8. Ministers Report– Rev. Lucy Bunch (5min)
9. Program Council Report – Sean Fountain / Joyce Ownbey (5 min)
10. Social Justice Coordinating Council - Fred Pannek (3 min)
11. Community Partners Proposal- Fred Pannek (3 min)
12. Community Partners vote (3 min)
13. UUSS Unsung Hero Award –Program Council (5 min)
14. Closing –Rev. Lucy Bunch (3 min)

UUSS FINANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER

Purpose

The Finance Committee is a standing committee established in the UUSS Constitution. The purpose of this committee is to understand and advise the Board of Trustees on the financial position and activities of the congregation and to support the Board of Trustees in its decisions on financial matters. The Treasurer serves as an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee and may serve as its chair. The Finance Committee is responsible for enacting UUSS investment policy as approved by the Board of Trustees.

Duties

- The Finance Committee shall annually prepare a proposed budget to be considered by the Board of Trustees in time for the May semi-annual congregational meeting.
- The Finance Committee shall meet regularly to discuss the UUSS financial reports.
- The Finance Committee shall provide consultation and guidance to the Treasurer.
- The Finance Committee may elect to create an investment sub-committee which will monitor UUSS investments and make recommendations as appropriate to the Finance Committee

September 24, 2026

UUSS Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2026

Our financial position is strong. We had net income of $83,359 as of August 31. I want to note that we are still at the beginning of the fiscal year, so the year-to-date results are greatly influenced by the large amount of pledge income that was recognized in July.

A. FISCAL YEAR NET INCOME

Year-to-date revenue as of August 31 was $234,923 of which $200,391 was pledge income. Year-to-date expenses totaled $151,564. Net income was therefore $83,359, 45% over that budgeted.

- Income - Pledges and plate revenue continue to exceed budget. No anomalies noted. • Expenses - No anomalies noted.

B. August Highlights

August net income was $9,074, compared to the $1,018 loss budgeted. No anomalies noted.

- Income in August was 24% above budget, due to increased pledge and plate revenue • Expenses were 9% over budget for the month.

C. Reserves

The UUSS Reserve Ratio, comprised of combined balances of the Reserve Fund, Heritage Fund and Bequest Fund as a percentage of UUSS annual expenses, was 57% on August 31. This does not include the transfer of last year's surplus to the Heritage Fund, which was recorded after August 31.

D. Balance Sheet (Total Assets: $2,723,287)

1. **Operating Fund (Fund 01): August 31 balance $369,781**

   The Operating Fund is used for the standard income and expenses of UUSS.

   - This fund contains includes the Reserve Fund, valued at $116,568. The Reserve Fund is money UUSS has set aside for emergency situations.

2. **Temporarily Restricted (Fund 02): August 31 balance $496,055**

   The Temporarily Restricted Fund is used to hold any one-time donations or collections to be used for a specific purpose.

   - The fund also includes Bequests (balance $341,043) and the Heritage Fund (balance $91,281). Both Bequests and the Heritage Fund are used to track bequests and other undesignated but non-recurring donations.

3. **Endowment Trust (Fund 03): August 31 balance $604,699**

   The Endowment Trust was created for members to donate for the long-term benefit of UUSS. It gives out a portion of its funds each year as grants for projects benefitting UUSS.

   - The building loan from the Endowment Trust to UUSS (balance of $259,976) is both an asset for the Endowment and a liability for UUSS. It is a 1% interest-only loan. Payments are $2,600 per year. The loan term is August 1, 2025 to August 31, 2035.

4. **Property and Equipment (Fund 04): August 31 balance $1,252,752**

   The Property and Equipment Fund accounts for all UUSS property, including the building and land.

   - This fund includes both the land and building (book value $1,231,698) and the Capital Outlay Fund ($21,860). The Capital Outlay fund is used to hold funds specifically designated for use in capital projects at UUSS.**E. Notes**

1. The Finance Committee is working to develop an investment policy to propose to the Board of Trustees. As part of that proposal, we are requesting that the Board approve the changes to the Finance Committee charter to be discussed in Board Business at the September Board meeting.

UUSS Ministers' Report to the Board and Program Council

September 24, 2026
Notable:

- The Activity Fair was a great success! Many thanks to the Program Council for planning and hosting it and our activity groups for extending hospitality to newcomers. The Family Lounge worked well, giving some new and continuing families a chance to connect with us and each other. Now on to the Social Justice Activity Fair—Oct. 8!
- Soup Sunday starts up again on Oct. 4. Thanks to our great coordinators and cooks.
- We had a great turnout after church for the dedication of the Memorial Wall; FRST volunteers will take orders for plaques of deceased members with a Nov. 1 deadline.
- Soul Matters groups began this week (going through May): 109 people are participating.

Membership Management: Work with volunteers and staff to enrich engagement for newcomers and integration of new members.

Nicolette Thayer, our new Member Engagement Coordinator, and Lucy met with the head ushers on Aug. 30, and Nicolette has continued to improve our in-person and electronic processes for connecting newcomers and members at UUSS. She has been busy learning our data base, and organizing our membership materials.

We are scheduling sessions for our "Meet the Ministers" session for Nov. 29 and a Considering Membership session.

Social Justice: Mobilize our congregation for advocacy work at the city and county level related to housing and homelessness.

Immigration Justice: Roger participates in the monthly Sac ACT prayer vigil for immigrant families at the John Moss Federal Building. He is coordinating speakers for the next one at 12:00 pm Wednesdays, Oct. 21. They shift to the third Thursday of the month as of Nov. 19.

Refugee Support: Meg Burnett solicited a donation from a friend of one immigrant family which will cover some emergency expenses (medical, housing, and automobile repairs); this will provide a cushion until our next fundraiser. The annual international music fundraising concert for legal costs, emergency rent, employment or transportation assistance will be Jan. 24.

The Social Justice Council approved a new group "Good Trouble" inspired by John Lewis, a civil rights leader. They had their first meeting at UUSS this past Sunday with excellent turnout.

Strengthen our commitment to families; build connections across the generations.

As noted in the Weekly Message and RE Outreach, we are launching an all-church comparative religions program. Our children and youth will visit various religious communities over the church year with one focus religion each month. We will be integrating these topics with sermons and occasional Adult Enrichment forums.

Adult Enrichment is hosting a League of Women Voters speaker about the California ballot propositions (Oct. 4) and a forum about internet scams by new member Bruce Heard (Nov. 8). The UU Christian Fellowship has had three meetings, led by lifelong UU Carrie Cornwell and friends, with 10-12 people at each gathering.

We host a Parents Meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month before service. Turnout is modest, but conversation enables people to connect at a slower pace than coffee hour. The Family Dinner Potluck for All Ages (2nd Friday of each month) again has good attendance and a diversity of ages and lengths of involvement in UUSS. Next one: 5:30-7:00 pm, Oct. 9.

We do not have enough trained volunteers to offer Our Whole Lives (sexuality education) for grades 7-9 (the most extensive segment). Likewise there are not enough registrations from our or other UU congregations for us to host regional training of new OWL teachers Oct. 9-11.

Denominational Contributions

Ministerial Intern Sophia McKean is back on duty at UUSS, with Lucy supervising.

Crystal Fountain attends monthly Zoom sessions of RE professionals in the Pacific Central Chapter of LREDA. Roger, Lucy, and Sophia are members of the UUMA Pacific Central Chapter; Lucy is the treasurer.

Professional and Spiritual Development

Lucy continues to serve as a Good Officer for our chapter and at the national level of the UU Ministers Association. In this role she supports ministers who are having challenges in their ministry or with their congregation. Roger serves as a Good Officer for UUMA members dealing with contract issues (new jobs, changing duties at the same church, negotiated resignations. Roger is subbing on the UU Fund for a Just Society grant