

Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing
Board of Trustees
268 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - FINAL
April 15, 2026
Multi-Platform Meeting

President Bob Alt called the multi-platform Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also in attendance: Vice-President Karen Kent, Treasurer Denny Rodgers, Wendy Stasolla Trustees: Bob Busch, Joseph Goldfedder, David Thomas, Senior Minister Rev. Kim Wildszewski and Congregational Administrator, Marilyn Gonzalez.
Excused: Secretary Michelle Zechner
Guests: Rab Bell; Pam Shadzik

First Hour

Review of consent agenda and reports. Discussion of the continued water quality issues at the church. It was noted that Scott Drew identified that sulfur-related odors were likely caused by bacteria thriving on the carbon filtration system, though the PFAS contamination levels remain within safe limits. After discussion, the board decided to have Scott present an update to the congregation about the water situation, as there was misinformation about the lack of progress being made on the issue. There was a positive meeting with CFA and COF regarding financial discussions, though the main proposal about capping plate funding was deferred due to improved financial circumstances.

Strategic Planning Discussion

Rab Bell and Pam Shadzik reviewed a strategic plan for the congregation over the next three years. with three main goals, particularly emphasizing financial priorities and communication improvements. Pam clarified that the current document contains ideas rather than formal recommendations, and the group discussed the need to prioritize fewer initiatives and input from the congregation. The discussion highlighted challenges with internal and external communication, with participants suggesting ways to make information more accessible, including organizing content by topics and exploring audio-based communications. Rab presented the plan's background, highlighting the congregation's strengths, including a committed membership, strong staff, and effective spiritual development, while also acknowledging challenges such as an aging congregation, financial gaps, and the need to adapt to having outgrown a pastoral-sized structure. The team discussed how they categorized nearly 400 comments to organize the plan's content and results. The meeting allowed time for questions and further discussion.

The Board will have a follow-up discussion to more specifically define or revise priorities based on the input provided by the Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force. Some key areas of discussion included:

1. Should growing membership size be a top priority and could this also help with financial health. It was noted that prior insights from UUA suggested this was not always the case and will be further explored. Bob Alt to reach out to UUA for additional insights.
2. Increasing communication, internally and externally in the community, to attract members, including younger members, and enhancing social justice efforts. A budget line item to support Communications will be added to the proposed budget for next fiscal year.
3. If the congregation was to disproportionally focus funding on the top priorities, what would this look like / what changes would need to be made? Are we funding proportionately the right areas? E.g., Endowment (\$25k in grants given out each year). Should those be directed towards membership growth, communications, or other priorities?

Upcoming Dates & Events

Auction Party 5/1

Financial Health Listening Circles 5/3 and 5/17

Lambertville New Hope Pride Parade on May 16th

Church budget meeting on May 31st

Annual meeting on June 7th

Flower communion on June 14th

There will be Right Relations listening circles about the development of a new covenant. There was a discussion about the importance of having a board member attend upcoming Right Relations listening circles to show support and gather information, Scheduling details will be shared as they are made available.

It was noted that nominations for service awards will be coming in. Trustee Wendy Stassolla will lead a small group to review award nominations for the June annual meeting, and meeting the week of May 4th.

Board Planning & Succession Planning

President Bob Alt began a discussion of the upcoming expiring terms of some board members. Current Vice-President Karen Kent and Secretary Michelle Zechner have agreed to continue to serve on the board for one year, but both stepping down from the Executive Board, creating openings for those roles. Trustees Wendy Stassolla and Bob Busch will be stepping down from the Board, and two people will need to be recruited to fill those positions. Trustee David Thomas is willing to continue on the board for an additional year if needed; this will be

determined based on the success of recruiting new members. If three new members are able to be recruited, then David would step down at the end of his term. Bob also discussed potentially having a new member serve as co-president to provide leadership experience and support.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Alt

Appendix: Executive, Staff and Treasurer Reports

Minister Board Report

April 2026

Create Community

The hub of our community, Sunday mornings, continues to be an expression of healthy engagement and commitment. Since we've last met, we've twice continued our conversations around reparations - Lauren Shallish's sermon on Dreaming a Disabled Future, and Bluejay, of the Lenape Nation, time with us this past Sunday. I offered an auction-won sermon on Telling the Truth. Rev. Lisa preached for the final time, and we sent them off in celebration, while also welcoming 13 new members.

I am grateful to the folks, including Susan Irgang and Jane Root, who held an online community building opportunity focussed around a brief animated film and discussion.

Celebrate Life

I had the honor of officiating the memorial service of Anthony Stasolla (Wendy's father; Johanna's husband of 65 years). I am grateful to John Harvie, Erin Busch, Roberto Santiago and Marilyn Gonzalez for helping make this service possible.

We will be memorializing Michael Campbell, a past president of UUCWC in the '80s, this August. I've begun meeting with his family.

Change the World

It is a time of change at UUCWC (and we are all so tired of me saying that!). It is important for me to lift up some of the work that has officially shifted over to me with Robin and Rev. Lisa's departures:

- Tending the Flame (monthly, parent group)
- Adult Faith Engagement Ministry
- Oversight and Facilitation of Council for Faith in Action, including monthly interfaith Reparations meetings and other external work eg: LGBTQ forum at Hopewell Valley High School, Guest Speaker at Mercer County Community College, New Hope/Lambertville PRIDE, prayer vigil at Hopewell Library and more.
- Pastoral Care Ministry
- 20s&30s Group
- Support of: Caregivers Support Group, Vespers, Caring Cohort & Lavender Parents

Additionally I am working to fill in the gaps on the worship tech team with Ariel and John's absences. This includes recruitment, training (that I can't do myself, but am trying to facilitate) and communicating how expectations will likely have to shift for the online community during

this time. We have also moved Rachel Hansen up 2 hours (from 18-20 hours) in order to help make this adjustment.

I am working with the Communications Committee on articulating our mission and coming up with a few, manageable and concrete goals that can be wins before the end of the spring.

I've brought on and trained three new Worship Associates: Sara Del Costillo, Katie Tobin and Chelsea Gardiner.

I'm working with: Congregational Engagement on solidifying and bettering our welcome to our newest members; Adult Faith Engagement as they continue to grow into a new ministry, work out roles and responsibilities, and fulfill their mission of providing engagement opportunities each season; the staff as we adjust to a smaller team, new roles and responsibilities, different needs of communication and understanding between us, and generally to tend to end of church year burn out.

I was grateful to be a part of this year's Loaves and Fishes. There is not enough thanks for Ed & Ronnie Dolbrowski for all the work they've done to keep our congregation a part of this important weekend of service.

Please note: we need to receive and vote on service awards ASAP! And begin turning our attention to the Annual Meeting.

With care,
Kim

Marilyn Gonzalez
BOT Report for April 2026

Create Community

As we get into spring, I have a small window of time to work catch up on projects that were pushed aside during the very busy winter period. Stewardship is wrapping up and Auction will soon be in full swing, followed by preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Realm will be taking up most of my time as I start to populate group information and fix some things now that Stewardship is over. I have created a registration for the New Hope Pride walk in Realm that looks good. I need to spend some time with Realm to figure out how to make it the central hub for our communications. I'm hoping this will encourage those who have not created an account to do so.

I'm also working with the Communications team to make some changes to the look of our internal communications. It is apparent to the team that we need to make tweaks to our internal communications strategy to increase knowledge of what is happening at the church. This is important to sort out before we begin making changes and additions to our external facing communications.

I am still actively involved in several other committees, including the Building Safety Task Force, the Facilities Committee, the Aesthetics Committee (not an actual member but very involved by association), and the Communications Committee.

Celebrate Life

Our membership numbers are 264 Church Members, 43 Friends, 19 Participants, and 53 Attendees.

Upcoming events at the church:

April 22 – Hopewell Valley Democrat Forum. Rental brought in by Keelan Evanini

April 26 – Concert Rental (Ablaye Cissoko & Cirrile Brotto)

May 9 – Concert Rental (Guy Buttery)

May 27 – Concert Rental (Pipo Romero)

June 19 – Keith Spencer Concert

Change the World

Water: Scott Drew is currently speaking to vendors to address the water issue. The church will have to pay to remediate the problem as it seems NJ State is not doing anything about it. We are looking at either filling the POET System tanks with a different material and if that doesn't work, installing a filtration system FOR the filtration system.

Treasurer's Report for April 2026

April YTD Actual vs April YTD Budget

Plate is at 124% of budget.

Operating pledges are at 109% of budget.

Merrill Lynch income is only at 77% of budget.

Total revenue is at 101% of budget.

Expenditures are currently at 94% of budget.

Cash Analysis

Projected '25-'26 final balance

\$142,288 Current Unrestricted Cash Reserves (savings)

\$4,483 Endowment grant to Board which WAS NOT included in Budget*

\$146,771

\$50,000 Current Anticipated deficit

\$96,771 Unrestricted Cash reserves (savings). +\$10,000 to Fac. Reserves

Projected '26-'27 final balance

\$96,771 Projected Unrestricted Cash Reserves (savings)

\$17,000 Cap Campaign pledges due in 2026.

\$12,000 Endowment grant

\$125,771

\$1,810 Anticipated deficit

\$123,961 Unrestricted Cash reserves (savings).