

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



Board of Trustees AD-HOC Budget Meeting Minutes - FINAL
April 8, 2026
Multi-Platform Meeting

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

First Hour

The meeting began with introductions and updates, including the announcement that Karen Damato will be taking over Sandee Steinberg's role as Finance Chair in July.

The meeting focused on the 2026-2027 financial year budget. Two versions of the upcoming year budget were reviewed, one with a half-time Assistant Minister, and the other without the Assistant Minister position. Rev. Kim Wildszewski noted that while the position remains open it is unlikely to be filled this year. The projected budget shows an increase in income, including \$14,000 from endowment, while staff costs are down by about \$25,000 due to a retirement and resignation, however operating expenses have increased substantially. The board requested that Sandee work to develop proposed budgets with a deficit of less than \$50,000.

Budget Challenges and Funding Cuts

Given the current budget challenges several potential cuts have been identified to address a projected deficit. Many strategies were reviewed. Treasurer Denny Rodgers also noted that while plate donations have increased, member pledges have remained relatively flat. The group discussed the "half the plate" policy for support to external causes. They explored alternative revenue streams including rental income and the auction, noting that while rental income has been declining, the auction typically brings in around \$35,000-36,000 annually.

Additional budget adjustments to address financial challenges included reducing UUA donations, consideration of cost-saving measures, including potentially reducing or eliminating the \$7,200 cleaning service budget through volunteer efforts, and additional cuts across all programs of the

church. After further discussion, the board agreed that no changes to the current plate practice will take place, , although this may need revisiting next fiscal year. There were discussions about a proposed plan to hire a rental coordinator based on commission to increase building rental income, though this was not included in the current budget allocation. The discussion also touched on the need for transparency about the financial situation and the importance of balancing budget cuts with maintaining programs important to the congregation.

Budget Changes

Denny shared his concerns about the facilities reserve fund given the age of the HVAC systems, issues with the roof and other building issues. The board discussed increasing contributions from \$2,300 to \$2,600 monthly to address future maintenance needs. Rev. Kim suggested reallocating some funds from her sabbatical account to shift to Worship Associate funds to help address budget constraints, and the group agreed to proceed with a consensus-based voting approach using thumb signals to move forward with decisions.

Budget Vote

The board discussed budget changes. A vote was called with the following changes to the budget 1) Remove Assistant Minister line item 2) Reduce the UUA pledge amount by \$10,000 3) The plate allocation practice of sharing 50% with CoF to remain unchanged 4) Facilities reserve will be increased by \$300 per month to \$2,600 5) Rev. Kim's sabbatical fund will be adjusted by reducing the contribution to \$2,000 and reallocating the remaining \$1,500 to worship expenses. A consensus vote was achieved.

There was also discussion about increasing Administrative support time from 18 to 20 hours per week through the end of the fiscal year to cover tasks needed from the recent resignation. This was voted on and approved.

Sandee agreed to rework the draft budget with the changes and share with the board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Zechner

Secretary, Board of Trustees

