



Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing

Board of Trustees

268 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road

Titusville, NJ 08560

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - FINAL

August 12, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

President Bob Alt called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also in attendance: Vice-President Joseph Goldfedder; Treasurer Denny Rodgers and Secretary Chris Marietti; Trustees:

Jessica Barnack-Tavlaris; Mike Gianella; Karen Kent (online); Nicole Horlacher-Robinson; Michelle Zechner; and Senior Minister Rev. Kim Wildszewski.

First Hour

New Executive Committee Member Welcome

The meeting began with welcoming Chris as the new secretary and Joseph as the new vice president to the Executive Committee. Michelle delivered opening words with a poem about the path of love, and the group conducted a check-in where participants shared personal updates including home improvements, family news, and artistic endeavors. The meeting appeared to be in its early stages with participants sharing personal stories and updates before moving into formal business discussions.

Children's Program Connector Position Discussion

The main discussion focused on the new connector position, with Kim explaining that the role will prioritize children and youth faith engagement, particularly focusing on

revamping the children's program in the first four months. The group discussed Paul's approach to community outreach, including his innovative work with the Hopewell Valley PTA and his strategy to make programs sustainable rather than dependent on individual staff members.

Treasurer's Report and Onboarding Updates

Karen provided context about Hopewell's school system and offered to help Paul connect with relevant people. Bob presented the Treasurer's report, noting that revenue was 117% of budget due to a late \$20,000 gift, expenditures were close to budget at 103%, and the deficit decreased from \$98,009 to \$24,760. The report showed \$184,000 in unrestricted cash reserves and projected a balanced budget for the new fiscal year after accounting for approved expenses and capital campaign pledges. Rev. Kim discussed Paul's onboarding as community connector, emphasizing the need for patience and understanding as he learns both the role and the congregation, while also encouraging feedback to help support his transition.

Personnel Searches and Gift Policy

Bob provided updates on two personnel searches and gift policy compliance. The controller position search is progressing with Lynn Quinto's job description nearly complete, and the team aims to hire someone by end of September to overlap with Lynn's retirement in October. The rental coordinator search has been postponed until November to allow Paul time to settle into his role and establish proper systems before bringing in additional staff. Bob also explained the importance of maintaining the one church, one budget approach through gift policy compliance, noting recent instances where special designations could impact the church's financial priorities and overall budget balance.

Gifts Policy Implementation Challenges

Bob discussed the challenges of implementing a gifts policy, noting that while it's financially sound, it faces political difficulties within the congregation due to potential conflicts with existing allocations. He proposed adding educational components to board minutes and council meetings to help explain the policy's importance and how it affects the church's overall financial health. The group agreed to include information about upcoming board meetings in their agenda and to discuss communication strategies for educating the congregation about the policy changes.

Second Hour

Upcoming Church Events and Planning

Rev. Kim announced several upcoming events including Water Communion on September 13th with an after-church picnic, the board retreat on September 26th from 9am to 2pm, and a council meeting on October 22nd from 7-9pm for committee and ministry leaders. The board discussed plans for their retreat where they will review last year's goals and engage in strategic planning, with particular focus on assessing progress in three areas: creating community, celebrating life, and changing the world. Bob also highlighted upcoming lay-led services and asked board members to volunteer for welcome duties during his absence.

Community Goals Progress Review

The meeting focused on reviewing three goals under "Create Community," assessing progress and identifying opportunities for improvement. Key accomplishments discussed included the creation of new community groups, enhanced welcoming practices, and efforts to strengthen communication and inclusivity. Participants identified areas for growth, such as improving intergenerational mixing, enhancing online community engagement, and refining welcoming behaviors. The group also briefly touched on the Solar Panel Task Force's progress regarding system repairs and potential expansion, with a decision pending further task force discussion and board review.

Board Operations and Committee Assignments

The board discussed several topics including solar panels for the parking lot, which Bob explained would be too expensive due to the required infrastructure. They agreed to implement a rotation system for board updates, with Bob offering to write the next cross-currents article and suggesting a schedule for board minutes starting September 20th. The group assigned board liaisons to various committees, with Michelle taking on the endowment committee liaison role and Nicole agreeing to handle stewardship.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Marietti

Secretary, Board of Trustees