



Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing

Board of Trustees

268 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road

Titusville, NJ 08560

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - FINAL

September 9, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

Bob (online), Michelle (online), Rev. Kim, Jess, Mike, Denny, Marilyn, me, Joseph, Nic

President Bob Alt called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Also in attendance: Vice-President Joseph Goldfedder; Treasurer Denny Rodgers and Secretary Chris Marietti; Trustees: Jessica Barnack-Tavlaris; Mike Gianella; Nicole Horlacher-Robinson; Michelle Zechner; and Senior Minister Rev. Kim Wildszewski.

Technical Issues and Recognition

After a brief struggle with technical issues regarding an unexpected AI note-taking feature as a participant on Zoom, which the group decided to disable due to uncertainty about its functionality, the meeting began with Bob congratulating Marilyn on her two-year anniversary with the organization.

Rollie Rahn Memorial Fund Discussion

UUCWC raised a question about the Rollie Rahn Memorial Fund, which provides scholarships for culinary arts programs serving recently returning citizens from incarceration, noting uncertainty about its current status and future parameters. The group agreed to discuss the fund in more detail during the later agenda item on gift and

fundraising policies. Danny then presented the Treasury Report, noting that the organization is tracking at 81% of budget for operating expenses, with pledges at 184% of budget due to prepayments, and total revenue at 166% of budget.

Simple Church Board Retreat Planning

The meeting focused on planning an upcoming board retreat centered around the concept of "Simple Church." Rev. Kim and Bob explained that the retreat will be held at the church, with discussions exploring how to achieve organizational unity around vision, mission, and priorities. They noted that creating board goals should follow the unification process rather than precede it, and encouraged board members to review Simple Church materials before the retreat. The discussion highlighted the need to clarify and specify what "Create Community, Celebrate Life, and Change the World" actually means in practice, rather than keeping them as broad statements.

Leadership Development Task Force Planning

The board discussed logistics for an upcoming meeting, including lunch arrangements and breakfast volunteers. They then addressed the need for a leadership development task force, as the Congregational Engagement team felt they were not positioned to adequately support leadership transitions. The group planned to conduct a situation assessment by gathering feedback from newly appointed leaders, including board members Joseph, Nicole, Mike, and Jess, to identify gaps and needs in the onboarding process. They also sought suggestions for task force members to help develop solutions for leadership development.

New Board Member Orientation Discussion

The board members discussed their experiences and challenges as new members. New members talked about feeling welcome but uncertain about their specific roles and responsibilities. Bob provided guidance, suggesting that board members should engage fully by reading pre-meeting materials, sharing observations from different parts of the congregation, and being proactive in offering perspectives. The discussion highlighted the importance of inclusive participation and clarifying expectations for new board members.

Leadership Development Task Force Planning

The group discussed forming a leadership development task force, with Michelle suggesting Lynn Molnar as a potential member. They agreed to compile a list of names at the upcoming retreat and aim to have a task force in place by the end of September. Kim provided updates on upcoming events including Water Communion, the Board Retreat, and the fall council meeting. The group also discussed plans for the next board

minute, which will be delivered on September 20th and could potentially feed into cross-currents articles for the newsletter. Finally, Kim began addressing a right relations issue involving an active non-member participant who has expressed interest in joining multiple UU congregations nationwide.

Board Meeting: Policies and Relations

The board discussed a situation involving a non-member who has fallen out of covenant with other UU congregations and has been making inappropriate comments on social media. The board voted unanimously to take a proactive approach and engage with the individual through Right Relations to establish behavioral expectations. They also agreed to address the facilities use policy, with Bob taking the lead to incorporate guidelines for non-rental space requests and share a draft for board review at the next meeting. Finally, they noted the need to find a replacement for the fundraising chair position.

Fundraising Chair Position Requirements

The board discussed requirements for the fundraising chair position, emphasizing the need for someone with authority to enforce policies and manage multiple fundraisers. They identified potential candidates and agreed to create announcements for both the fundraising chair and leadership development task force positions. Bob volunteered to write the September board minute and announcements, while Joseph will consider writing the October Cross Currents article focusing on the board retreat and new leadership roles. Michelle was assigned as liaison to the endowment committee and will provide updates to that group.