

June 2026 Recommendations by the Discernment Task Force to the UUCB Board

In the first stage of the Discernment Task Force process we held separate listening circles with the Board, the Freestone Committee and the congregation. That stage completed on 3/22/26 with a verbal report to the congregation.

In the second stage we engaged with as many members of the congregation as were interested around the question:

What is a vision for releasing the church's stewardship of Freestone that honors the legacy of dedication to a sacred retreat and equips the current and future generations of church members to live our values in community with one another and the earth?

We held an in-person meeting at church; offered everyone an online poll to fill out; asked the question on the listserv; and took up about 15 minutes discussion at these group meetings.

- Program Council
- Social Justice
- Parent Group
- PRIDE
- Choir
- 3 Men's Groups
- Finance
- Buildings & Grounds
- Chalice Circles

We also had conversations with specific individuals who were very impacted or who had been very vocal regarding the Fall vote to sell or donate Freestone.

The input is summarized in a Google Doc of 70+ comments input lines. A tally of the data is shared below.

That stage completed with a meeting of the Task Force on 6/12/26, in which we formulated the following recommendations to be given to the Board.

We have split our recommendations into two.

1. **We recommend to sell, without restrictions.** The Board needs to know as soon as possible whether to sell or donate the property, and whether there should be any restrictions on who to sell or donate to. About four people wanted to donate, though without naming who to donate to, and 65 wanted to sell. Of those most wanted to sell on the open market.
2. **We recommend the Board postpone deciding what to do with the sale proceeds.** This a more complex question, and we presumably have some time before a sale can go through. We have already garnered many views about this, partially summarized below.

Tally of Congregation Preferences for Use of Proceeds

Notes:

Numbers are approximate, based on discussion and notes. Not a precise vote.

Tally counted agreements such as “I agree with Dick”, or “I agree with Kerry”, etc. Raw data is [here.](#)

Sell vs. Donate

- Sell: 65
- Donate/return to indigenous group or land trust: 4
- Either sell or donate to preserve open space: 4
- Lease to nonprofit: 1

Use of Proceeds

- Retreat Fund/Endowment: 34
- Sogorea Te or other Indigenous Fund: 14
- Campus Electrification/Green Initiatives: 10
- Nature, arts, music, youth 6
- Building fund / capital needs 6
- All church needs: 5
- Other: 2

Values served

- *Retreats*: build the UUCB community among all ages but especially youth, hoping to inspire lifelong UU values and spirituality; introduce children and youth to the wonders of nature, ecological interdependence; transformational experiences.
- *Indigenous funds*: ecological interdependence, justice (towards rebuilding the broken covenant), generosity, equity
- *Green campus*: interdependence, transformation (adapting to a changing world), longevity of the congregation (saves \$ in the long run).
- *Nature, arts, music, youth*: building community, transformational experiences, inspiration, spirituality
- *Building fund / capital needs*: practical service to maintain the community, redress deferred maintenance.
- *All church needs*: frees the Board to decide on the most pressing needs.

Considerations

- Freestone was originally created thanks to a young people’s initiative at UUCB. Honoring that original intent adds weight to the idea of an endowment to fund to support young families and youth retreats. Because this idea also has support from Freestone leader, Dave Wemmer, this proposal has the added benefit of supporting the healing for some Freestone members. (See Raw Data for detailed suggestion)
- Will proceeds be sufficient to support more than one initiative? If proceeds are low, and annual income modest, it may be best spent on one project, not split among various uses.
- It is possible to sell lots 1 and 2, and leave the main 3rd lot intact to sell to a nature-focused organization.
- Honoring/Recognizing Freestone Founders / leaders was also mentioned by about 5-6

Next Steps

- Does this recommendation provide the Board sufficient data to inform their decisions? Or will you request additional support from the Task Force to support determining what to do with proceeds?
- What will be the roles of the DTF and the Board related to honoring the Freestone legacy? What is the correct timing for an event?