Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Via Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/91070175965?pwd=d2FUcWZCQjYzVEF2MFZabWJQQVRrUT09

7:15 1. CALL TO ORDER & OPENING RITUALS

a. Chalice reading & lighting – Helen Toy
b. Board Covenant reading- Beth Jerde
c. Land Acknowledgement Statement –Selene Fabiano
d. Widening the Circle Statement – David Rosales

7:20 2. CONSENT AGENDA – Items may be approved in one motion unless a Board member requests an item be removed for question or placement under discussion/action

a. Approve agenda
b. Approve June 3 and July 8, 2026 Board meeting minutes
c. Accept monthly Treasurer's report
d. Accept Operations Director's reports
e. Adopt Resolution authorizing Janae Heard, Operations Director, to execute documents for the sale of UUCB's three-parcel Freestone property at 10639 Barnett Valley Road in Sebastopol, CA

7:25 3. MINISTER'S REPORT

7:35 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/LISTENING

a. Board or staff announcements:
   - Update on Freestone property listing
   - Honoring and Memorializing Freestone

b. Congregants who wish to speak to the Board on agenda items or other matters.

7:45 5. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS - Break @ 8:30 PM, if needed

a. UUA General Assembly Report and planning for 2027 GA in San Jose – Melissa Rosales
b. Discuss roles, responsibilities, and reporting structure for current and potential Board committees, including Endowment, Widening the Circle, and Buildings & Grounds/Property
c. Review and discuss draft Five-Year Capital Projects Budget, for September Board action
d. Provide direction on Finance Committee recommendations for disposition of recent bequests from the Boeke, Calkins and Wile trusts/estates
e. Discuss accepting a possible gift for caregiving and grief support pilot program
f. Consider inviting Tim Kelley, True Purpose Institute, to facilitate meetings with the congregation on discerning mission and purpose
g. Discuss Board subgroup proposal for Strategic Planning, in preparation for the September 19 Board retreat

8:55 6. BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

9:00 7. CLOSING COMMENTS

9:05 8. ADJOURN

Aspirational Covenant of the UUCB Board of Trustees

Approved September 2019, updated April 2025
We as the UUCB Board of Trustees agree:

- To stay committed to connection even when we disagree;
- To recognize the fullness of our power, and the many responsibilities that power entails;
- To listen actively to each other and the congregation, and to seek out opportunities to do so;
- To be caring, respectful, present and open-minded;
- To work together to make the changes the congregation needs, as we keep the best interests of the congregation above our own and to live into our mission;
- To support and trust each other in our work;
- To remember the goal of our work is to build a thriving, loving congregation;
- To be unafraid in the face of hard decisions, to be unafraid of making mistakes, knowing that we will learn from them if we do, and to be unafraid of challenging our preconceived notions and updating our previously-held beliefs; and
- To come to decisions we all feel we can support while recognizing diverse views.

Land Acknowledgement Statement
As we begin, we want to acknowledge that this church occupies land in Huchiun, the unceded territory of the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone people. We understand that we continue to benefit from the seizure and occupation of this land. We acknowledge and embrace our responsibility to take restorative action. We affirm that this is deeply felt and commit our congregation to be in right relationship with Indigenous communities, aligning in solidarity, supporting Indigenous projects, and caring properly for the land.

Widening the Circle Vision Statement
We, the trustees of UUCB, commit ourselves to championing racial justice embodying anti-racist practices, and confronting and dismantling white supremacy culture and all forms of oppression (including but not limited to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ageism, xenophobia and religious oppression (including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia) in everything we do.

Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is to create loving community, inspire spiritual growth, and encourage lives of integrity, joy and service.

Vision Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is a welcoming and vibrant congregation. We joyously support spiritual development guided by individual faith, reason, and conscience. We are committed to serving one another, the church community, the community at large, and the global community. We foster a spirit of generosity and trust that encourages care for our church home and affirms diversity and relationships consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday June 3, 2026
Meeting Conducted via Zoom Video Conference

Minutes – Draft

ATTENDEES:

Voting members: Peter Boland, Ryan Devine, Selene Fabiano, Kristen Jensen, Beth Jerde, Carla McCasland, David Rosales, Pier Sun Ho, and Helen Toy

Ex officio members: Rev. Marcus Liefert, Beth Pollard (Secretary), Lisa Maynard (Treasurer), Janae Heard (Operations Director)

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Co-President Selene Fabiano at 7:15p.m. Selene did the chalice lighting and reading, David read the Board covenant, Kristen read the land acknowledgement, and Carla read the Widening the Circle Vision Statement.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion for the following (M/S, Pier/Helen) passed unanimously:
a. Approve agenda
b. Approve May 6, 2026 Board Meeting minutes
c. Accept May 17, 2026 Congregational Meeting minutes for congregational approval
d. Accept monthly Treasurer's report
e. Accept Operations Director's report

MINISTER'S REPORT

<u>Gratitude to staff:</u> Rev. Marcus is grateful for the staff team's support, noting Intern Minister Liesl Dees handling the worship service the Sunday after he tore his Achilles tendon. Also, Operations Director Janae and staff member Thor are working extra hours with Facilities Manager Peter out on medical leave. Peter will transition to long-term disability in July, enabling staff to look at other facilities work arrangements.

<u>Gratitude for Freestone Discernment Task Force, and for "Kitchen Cabinet" efforts:</u> The Task Force has been gathering visioning perspectives from the congregation. Ladie Malek has stepped in to facilitate the search for new Kitchen Cabinet leadership and related transitions in how Sunday lunches will function after the summer hiatus.

<u>Three-year reflection:</u> As he concludes his third year with UUCB, Rev. Marcus shared his sense that the church is doing really well: It's taken on challenging issues, feedback is healthy, and it's a vibrant, growing community. Looking forward, he believes the congregation's work now is to improve clarity on what we want to accomplish andwhat it would look like to have a bold vision.

<u>Dates;</u> Rev. Marcus is on leave until returning to the pulpit August 16, but available in emergencies. Intern Minister Liesl Dees' last day is July 12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/LISTENING

a. Board or Staff Announcements: Selene welcomed to the Board new Trustee Peter Boland, who the Board appointed last month to fill a vacancy.

b. Board Listening Presence (Helen): Helen reported one congregant was displeased with the transition from a monthly news bulletin publication to the blog format.

c. Congregants who wish to speak to the Board on agenda items or other matters:
Membership Co-Chair Lonnie Moseley spoke about how important the sense of “Belonging” is in the church, particularly for new members. She praised Sunday’s service that celebrated and connected our recent high school graduates with young adult members, prompting those attending coming away with a sense of connection. She encouraged Board members to invite new members to sit with them at lunch, as they can find it daunting to know where they would be welcomed. Board members engaged in brief discussion and brainstorming with Lonnie, and Co-chair Victoria Bowen, out of which the catchphrase “No One Sits Alone” and the theme “Belonging” emerged. They were asked to come back to the Board after lunch has started up again to report on how things are going with new members feeling welcome there.

Michael Dewitt spoke about intentionally trying to meet one to three people each Sunday.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Board development of communication goals, with presentation/report from Manager of Membership & Engagement Charis Domador

Beacon Blog: Charis explained how to access the Beacon Blog, which is on the UUCB website homepage. It’s currently titled “News” but she will revise the name to indicate it is the location of the Blog. She encouraged church groups to continue to email her information items that used to be submitted for the Beacon, starting in July, so that they can appear on the homepage blog. An advantage of the blog format is that there is no deadline like there was with the monthly Beacon, thereby improving the timeliness of announcements and other information. The weekly *Week Ahead* will direct members to the Beacon Blog section on the homepage. Members sending items might keep in mind that the homepage is where visitors first go to find out about UUCB.

Communications overview: Charis provided a power point presentation summarizing:

The evolution of communications over the past few years

Communication channels, and their most frequent audience/content:

- Digital: Facebook (Age 40+, Community awareness), Instagram (Younger, visual storytelling), YouTube (worship recordings/wider reach), Mailchimp/Week Ahead (core members/highest engagement) , Discuss Lists, (small groups, direct conversation), Website (new visitors, reference resource) and Podcast (audio worship recordings).
- Analog: Worship announcements (highest impact, although there can’t be too many), Atrium posters (visual reminders) and brochures (info-table collateral)

Data analysis Jan – May 2026 on subscriptions, viewing rates, click-on rates:

- Week Ahead: 806 subscribers, 13.4% average open rate (industry standard: 20%), 4.9% avg. click rate (industry standard 2.5%), showing that readers are engaged but just not opening the content
- Facebook: ~30 views/post, .39 interactions/post, .18 new follows/post

- Instagram: .7 profile visits/post, .15 new follows/post

Charis noted that the current goal is not mass reach, it is being visible and welcoming to members and prospective visitors; quality is more important than volume. Understanding what quality looks like is part of the strategic conversation ahead.

Concluding observations from Charis:

- In-person/analog communication is most effective
- Social media works best as a visible presence and welcome mat
- Audience has become more fragmented since COVID
- Email/Week Ahead is UUCB's digital backbone
- Prioritizing UUCB's communications channels & use is critical given limited staff capacity
- Strategic work is needed on a unified narrative about who we are, what is our story, and who we want to reach - going beyond just communicating what is happening

Board members shared observations around the large interest in in-person interaction, and the importance of developing focus for the next five years with Charis' assistance. Charis lifted up the idea of looking into more in-person outreach events.

c. Appoint delegates to the UUA General Assembly: Evelie Delfino Sales Posch, Lonnie Moseley, Melissa Rosales, and Cordell Sloan.

Lonnie Mosely raised the question of whether delegates are expected to vote as representatives of UUCB or to vote their own conscience.

David advised that in his delegate experience, decisions often have to quickly be made based on new information received wherein delegates need to have an open mind for changing their stance – making it impossible to have a set position ahead of time. Consequently, the Board is saying in the appointments that those delegates align with Board values.

Lonnie noted that the Board would need to be prepared to decline appointment of delegates who are interested in serving but are not in alignment with the Board's values.

It was the consensus of the Board to ask the Governance Manual Task Force to draft a provision in the manual revision addressing the issue of Board appointment and expectation of delegates that is consistent with David's comments.

M/S, Selene/Pier, to appoint Evelie Delfino Såles Posch, Lonnie Moseley, Melissa Rosales, and Cordell Sloan as delegates to the 2026 UUA General Assembly. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Freestone Discernment Task Force: Update on task force process and progress, and discussion on Board guidance for its next report to the Board

Kristen is Task Force Chair, and Pier and Peter are members along with other congregants. The Task Force is nearing completion of its outreach and engagement with groups and members of the congregation on the pending choice before the Board around whether to sell or donate the Freestone property. Task Force members indicated that several ideas have emerged, including around disposition of proceeds if the property is sold, and they wish to hear from the Board the scope and depth of what to include in the report.

The general direction from the Board for the report and the actions the Board expects to take included:

- The initial focus of Board decision-making will be selling vs. donating, followed by parameters around selling or donating; disposition of proceeds if the decision is to sell will come after those two decision points
- Advice from the Task Force about general themes discerned from member comments, along with pros and cons, is desirable
- A general Board consensus, rather than a divisively split vote, will be desired for its decision on whether to sell or donate the property
- The Board will need to decide:
    - The role of the Task Force, Board and/or other(s) on steps to implement the sale or donate decision and any corollary conditions on the transaction, if any
    - If here is a role for the congregation in future decisions, such as on affirming disposition of proceeds, if any
    - Upon review of the 1970 and 1975 congregational resolutions on Freestone, whether there is a need for those to be formally rescinded
- The Task Force will submit a written report for Board discussion and potential action on selling or donating the property at a Board meeting on July 8th.

Rev. Marcus advised the Board to lean towards decisions that will advance the church towards what we are supposed to be in the world rather than what will make the most people happy

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M/S, Selene/Pier, to appoint Evelie Delfino Såles Posch, Lonnie Moseley, Melissa Rosales, and Cordell Sloan as delegates to the 2026 UUA General Assembly. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Determine Fiscal Year 2025-26 contribution to GRIP (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program), per the question in the Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lisa Maynard explained that the Board earlier this year expressed the desire for $2,000 to be donated this fiscal year to GRIP, authorized $1,000 to be allocated from the Board Discretionary budget, and committed to revisiting the issue late in the fiscal year – which is now. The Social Justice Council has offered $500, leaving the potential for the remaining $500 to be donated from the Board Discretionary budget.

M/S, Selene/Beth J, to authorize $500 to additionally be allocated for GRIP from the Board Discretionary budget. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Disclosure of Board Member conflicts of interest.

The Governance Manual calls for Trustees to disclose conflicts of interest, such as that family members are employed by UUCB.

- Kristen disclosed that her daughter works 2-4 hours/month in the childcare program.
- David disclosed that his son has worked in childcare and been a counselor in Chalice Camp.
- Helen disclosed that her granddaughter works every Sunday in childcare.

f. Update on Board Visioning Work and determining next steps

The Board visioning work group consisting of Kristen, Carla & David is reviewing the information from the recent Board retreat and other UUCB visioning work, and developing next steps on the Board becoming more visioning and strategic rather than operationally focused. Their thinking includes the Board bringing the "nesting" elements of mission, vision, goals, etc. into alignment, that who we're talking to in the world has more focus, that there is a connection between the Board's visioning and the budget, and that we are more efficient in meeting long-term vision. They will report back at the August and/or September meeting, in advance of the September 19 Board of Trustees retreat.

g. Discuss Summer Board Meeting schedule

It was the consensus of the Board that in lieu of a regular Board meeting on July 1, the Board would meet on July 8 for the sole purpose of receiving and acting upon the upcoming report from the Freestone Discernment Task Force on the question of selling or donating the Freestone property.

BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS:

Safety Task Force: Helen had sent the Board the table of contents of the draft emergency procedures section of the Safety Manual under development by the Safety Task Force, which is meeting the following day with the Fire Department for their advice.

Governance Manual Task Force: David reported that the task force has been meeting and interviewing key people to identify gaps and areas needing changes. Rather than completing the entire draft before bringing it to the Board, the task force welcomes any requests for certain sections to be prioritized for its revision and review by the Board.

CLOSING COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Pollard, Secretary

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday July 8, 2026
Meeting Conducted via Zoom Video Conference

Minutes – Draft

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Co-President Selene Fabiano at 7:17 pm.

Voting members: Peter Boland, Ryan Devine, Selene Fabiano, Kristen Jensen, Beth Jerde, Carla McCasland, David Rosales, Pier Sun Ho, and Helen Toy. Voting members not present: None

Ex officio members: Beth Pollard (Secretary), Lisa Maynard (Treasurer), Janae Heard (Operations Director); Ex-officio member not present: Rev. Marcus Leifert. Ministerial Intern Liesl Dees was present.

2. CHALICE LIGHTING:

Beth Jerde shared artwork by Corita Kent and a quotation from Albert Camus:, *"I should like to be able to love my country and still love justice."*

3. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM:

a. Receive Freestone Discernment Task Force Report:

Following the November 16, 2025 congregational vote to sell or donate UUCB's Freestone property, a Discernment Task Force was established by the Minister and Board. Its first stage was to listen to and begin healing around the feelings of members from the congregation vote; that stage was completed March 22, 2026 with a verbal report to the congregation.

Its second stage was outreach and engagement with church groups and as many members of congregation as were interested on 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?

The Task Force has submitted a written report to the Board on what it heard on the question, along with recommendations from its discernment of those comments.

The input is summarized in a Google Doc of 70+ comments input lines, with a tally included in the report. At its June 12, 2026 meeting, the Task Force formulated these recommendations to the Board:

1) That the Board sell the entire property, without restrictions. About four people wanted to donate the property, though without naming who to donate to, and 65 wanted to sell; of those, most wanted to sell on the open market.
2) That the Board postpone deciding what to do with the sale proceeds. This is a more complex question, and there presumably is time before a sale can go through to consider this

question. There were views expressed by congregants about use of proceeds, which were included with the report.

b. <u>Discuss report from the Freestone Discernment Task Force on its findings and recommendations from its outreach and engagement with the congregation</u>.

Co-President Pier invited questions and comments about the report from Board members and the congregants present.

Congregant Larry Nagel raised concern about overgrown vegetation on the property that needs to be cleared for fire safety reasons; time is of the essence for UUCB to get this clearance work done, especially during this high-risk fire season. Janae reported that it was on her to-do list and invited information on who has performed the work in the past.

M/S, Selene/Kristen, that the brush removal be a top priority for Janae's to-do list. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member and Discernment Task Force Chair Kristen noted that the task force's report was not meant to be treated like scientific data or as specific direction from the congregation, but rather a general compilation of and reflection on ideas it received. The task force endeavored to capture as many comments as possible from congregants, while recognizing it was not possible to be exhaustively inclusive of everything expressed.

David expressed his view of the report as being information and data for the Board to consider and discuss, but to not be limited by its contents.

<u>c. Determine next steps and/or take action on whether to sell or donate the Freestone property, per the November 16, 2025 congregational vote.</u>

The Board discussed the Discernment Task Force recommendation to sell the entire Freestone property. Trustees considered advantage of listing all three parcels together and agreed that engaging a qualified real estate professional would provide an appropriate and transparent process in a sale. The Board also discussed maintaining flexibility in evaluating purchase offers so that decisions could take into account the congregation's values as well as financial considerations.

M/S, Selene/Helen, to list all three Freestone parcels for sale and engage a realtor to work with UUCB on the listing. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board designated Co-Presidents Selene and Pier as its primary point of contact and coordination with the realtor, and to communicate with the Board throughout the listing and sale process. David will reestablish the Board Slack workspace to facilitate timely communication among Trustees about minor matters during the listing and sale process. Board decision-making on a purchase offer shall be conducted in an Executive Session meeting, rather than open session per the bylaws.

d. Discuss and consider direction on any role(s) of the Task Force and Board going forward regarding the sale or donation, and for honoring the Freestone legacy

It was the consensus of the Board that it would deliberate and decide after the property is sold the question of what to do with the sale proceeds, and that the Discernment Task Force need not be involved in that deliberation.

Treasurer Lisa offered to advise the Board on options, and their pros/cons, for where sale proceeds could be deposited and held while final disposition is being determined. David noted that outcomes from the Board's strategic planning work underway could inform priorities around the use of sale proceeds.

The only remaining potential area for continued Discernment Task Force work is planning and carrying out UUCB's honoring of the Freestone legacy; Kristen will contact Rev. Marcus for guidance on whether the task force would continue and help with that honoring.

It was the consensus of the Board to express appreciation to all the members of the Discernment Task Force for their work. Carla said she would write individual thank you notes on behalf of the Board if given a list of names and standout moments.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Pollard, Secretary

Operations Director's
Board Report

JULY 2026

New Members:

- Betsaida Rosario

Average Attendance

- In Person: 145
- Online: 26

Finance

- Finance team met this month to discuss the various tasks and processes for closing the fiscal year, reconciling the TRNA accounts and putting together final reports.
- We are starting to compile the various documents needed for our Financial Review, which will happen in September.
- Elizabeth Calkins passed away early in July. She was the final living beneficiary of the Calkins Trust. Her passing means the principal (everything left in the RBC account) will be split according the trust documents, and the church will receive 7/8 of the remainder, minus any tax preparation fees. The estimate we have calculated in approximately $300k after final expenses & distributions.
- The Wile bequest money was received and deposited at the end of July. It is currently in the church's checking account, waiting for the board to approve moving it to its destination account.
- We expect to get payout from the Vanguard Pooled Income Trust and the Calkins Trust in the next few months.

Facilities

- The correct lift has been delivered, and we can now start working on changing light bulbs that are out in the Sanctuary and Social Hall and other projects that were waiting on this delivery.
- We have hired 2 temporary employees in Facilities to try to get caught up and get some projects done before the church year begins. They have completed several of the smaller tasks that were put on the backburner when Peter went out on disability, with many more in the works.
- I have included the 5-year project budget for board review. This is only the second year we have done this budget; it is a process put in place when Sharon Dolan was here. B&G and Finance committees have reviewed and discussed this budget at their July meetings.
- The Playfield Shade Structures will be installed in the next week. This was paid for from a grant that was given through a parent at the Good Earth School.
- The Matrix quote to repair the irrigation piping was much higher than expected. We may need to investigate competing bids to see if we can do this job for less. In the meantime, facilities team is working on a temporary fix that would allow watering to happen without volunteer or staff time.

HR/Admin

- I have a draft of the updated employee handbook that is almost ready to share, with additions like the new Leave Policy as well as some other small updates that were needed for clarification.
- I did get to talk with Peter at the end of July. The timing for his return is still unclear, but he is doing better, which we are very happy to hear!

Operations Director's
Board Report

JUNE 2026

Average Attendance: 155

- In Person: 142
- Online: 23

Finance

- Kevin, Lisa and I worked on preparing to close out fiscal year. QuickBooks will make this a much smoother process this year, and we are on track to get the books closed and physical money transferred between TRNA accounts and our Mechanics bank accounts.
- We have scheduled a Financial Review for the 2025-26 fiscal year. This will happen September with Heeley and Associates doing the review. This review is due per our Bylaws and was budgeted for this year.
- We got final accounting for Joanne Wile's estate, and the estimated gift to UUCB is in fact over $900,000. This is more than expected, and the finance committee will discuss at our next meeting and have a recommendation for the board at the August meeting.
- Johanna Boeke passed away in June. She was the final living beneficiary of the Pooled Income Trust. Her passing means there will be a final payout to her estate, and the principal (everything left in the Vanguard account), minus any tax preparation fees, will then as become property of the church. The estimate we have is being $34K - 35K after final expenses & distributions. The finance committee will discuss at our next meeting and have a recommendation for the board at the August meeting.

Facilities

- Playfield Shade Structures - Shade Structures Started – Good Earth has ordered the Sun Sail structures. He has a contractor lined up, ready to put in the posts and do the work.
- Atrium Smoke Beam - Everon completed replacing the parts for the Atrium smoke beam and our fire system is fully online
- We are waiting for a bid from Matrix to get the plumbing issue repaired and restore irrigation to the back of the building, including the Terrace and Three Sisters Garden, We hope to get this work completed in July.
- We have contracted with an AV company to update, document and train UUCB staff and volunteers on the Livestream system in the Sanctuary. We will be asking for a price to add a Plug & Play livestream system to the Fireside room to make that space more usable and easier for hybrid meetings. We are also putting together updated instructions and training documentation for staff and volunteers on how to set up and use the sound system in the Sanctuary.
- The El Cerrito Fire Department sent its annual reports on fire abatement, and we have had a wonderful turn out of volunteers who have completed the majority of the weed whipping that was needed, and more! Huge thank you to all those who volunteered to help get this massive task completed!

HR

- C.J. resigned at the beginning of the month, which left us short staffed for our AV needs on Sundays. We have trained in some new staff for running livestream and are working on getting more staff and volunteers trained on the sound system in the Sanctuary. We will ensure we have several staff members trained on all systems so we can always cover service on Sundays.
- Peter will be switching over to long term disability. We still do not know when he will be able to return. We are bringing on another temporary facilities person, Liam. He used to work at UUCB so he is familiar with the building and the property and should be able to help keep the building in good working order while Marcus and I discuss next steps for our Facility's needs.

Resolution of the Board of Trustees
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Authorizing Operations Director Janae Heard to Execute Documents for the Sale of the Freestone Property

Resolution No. 26-1

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley ("UUCB") is the owner of certain real property consisting of three parcels (the "Freestone Property"), commonly known as **10635 Barnett Valley Road, Sebastopol, California**, APN # 073-040-046, including two (2) additional parcels APN # 073-040-049 and APN # 073-040-048; and

WHEREAS, the Congregation of UUCB has authorized the Board of Trustees to sell or otherwise dispose of the Freestone Property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is in the best interests of UUCB to complete the sale of the Freestone Property and to authorize an officer or employee of the Church to execute the documents necessary to accomplish that sale;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes **Janae Heard, Operations Director of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley**, acting on behalf of UUCB and under the direction of its Board of Trustees, to execute, acknowledge, and deliver all documents and instruments reasonably necessary or appropriate to complete the sale of the Freestone Property authorized by the Board of Trustees, including but not limited to:

- Purchase and Sale Agreements and any amendments thereto;
- Escrow instructions;
- Grant Deeds;
- Affidavits, declarations, certificates, and disclosures;
- Closing statements;
- IRS, California Franchise Tax Board, and county transfer tax forms;
- Any other documents customarily required by the title company, escrow holder, lender, governmental agency, or other parties to effectuate the closing of the sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Janae Heard is authorized to make such non-material modifications to the foregoing documents as may be necessary or advisable to consummate the transaction, provided that such modifications are consistent with the material terms approved by the Board of Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Operations Director are authorized to take such additional actions as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution and to complete the sale in accordance with the approvals of the Board of Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions previously taken by officers, employees, or agents of UUCB in furtherance of the sale of the Freestone Property are hereby ratified and confirmed to the extent consistent with this Resolution.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley on August 5, 2026.

Certification

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley at a meeting held on August 5, 2026, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout.

____
Beth Pollard, Secretary, Board of Trustees
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

2026 General Assembly – what is GA?

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

General Assembly 2026 unfolded in two parts with a midweek pause:

- From **Sunday, June 14 to Tuesday, June 16**, delegates engaged in fully virtual General Sessions focused on the business of the Association.
- Programming resumed **Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21** with worship, featured speakers, and Meet the Moment themed programs that were experienced online, at the studio site in Louisville, or in participating local congregations.

2026 General Assembly: governance

Link to full text of all business during GA 2026

During GA, the delegates of this year's assembly:

- **Adopted** the **Business Resolution** directing the UUA Board of Trustees to establish a task force to review MFC policies and rules as they relate to interim and developmental ministers, and to recommend updates that reflect the unique circumstances of transitional ministry.
- **Did not adopt** the **Bylaw Amendment** on authority to suspend or place a minister's search on hold.
- **Affirmed** the **Action of Immediate Witness** opposing rollbacks to environmental protections, public lands rules, and the endangerment finding. This affirmation directs the UUA's public witness on this issue in the coming year.
- **Did not affirm** the **Action of Immediate Witness** in solidarity with people held in immigration detention, including those on hunger strike at Delaney Hall and other facilities. [**SEE NOTE ON NEXT PAGE**]
- **Passed the Responsive Resolution "Where are the youth?"**, calling on the Association to provide resources to recruit, train, and cultivate youth leadership and attendance.
- **Passed the Responsive Resolution "Gratitude for UUA Support of Youth and Emerging Adults"**, thanking the UUA for its commitment to youth and emerging adults and calling for their full inclusion at all levels of leadership.
- **Passed the Responsive Resolution "Reaffirming Our Commitment to Immigrant Justice and Relationally Grounded Organizing"**, reaffirming the Association's commitment to relationally grounded organizing and solidarity work.
- **Passed** the **Responsive Resolution on SWANA region concerns**, asking the Commission on Appraisal to include engagement with how the UUA can better include and respond to UUs affected by crises in the Southwest Asia and North Africa region.

2026 General Assembly: governance

Note about: ***Did not affirm*** *the* ***Action of Immediate Witness*** *in solidarity with people held in immigration detention, including those on hunger strike at Delaney Hall and other facilities.*

The issue with this AIW was not that assembly did not support solidarity with people held in immigration detention, but that the proposed action was not made in community or partnership with local organizer/activists. Those on the ground at Delaney Hall said that for several reasons, what was being proposed would actually cause harm to the protesting effort, which had already seen significant police action. The original author of the AIW wanted to edit the proposal or remove it entirely, but the governance procedures set out in the bylaws did not allow for either of those actions past a certain deadline. The assembly ultimately chose not to affirm, but MUCH discussion was had **in support of the intention**. It was also noted that the energy and enthusiasm that people had for this idea would be best put towards an already organized action happening in July (just a few weeks from General Assembly).

2026 General Assembly: governance

Note about: ***Passed the Responsive Resolution*** ***"Where are the youth?"****, calling on the Association to provide resources to recruit, train, and cultivate youth leadership and attendance.*

In this responsive resolution is a goal *"that the Association provide the resources to recruit, train, and cultivate youth leadership and attendance to* ***support no fewer than 200 youth at GA 2027 in San Jose*** *and at GA 2028 online."*

Can UUCB play a part in meeting this goal? Yes!

2026 General Assembly: from the President

Every year, usually during GA, the President of the Association gives a "State of the Association" address. Here is the link to the address from current President of the UUA, the Rev Dr Sofía Betancourt:

UUA State of the Association 2026: What Does This Moment Ask of Unitarian Universalists?

Coverage from UU World, the UUA magazine:
Holding the Heart of Unitarian Universalism: An Update on the Faith from the UUA President (UU World)

2026 General Assembly: worship

There are several great worship services during General Assembly. It is an amazing feeling to worship together with thousands of UUs whether physically or digitally together. These services are uplifting and inspiring.

- **In-gathering Service**
  Through words, music, and ritual, this shared worship time grounds us in the theme Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere and prepares our hearts and spirits for the work ahead.
- **Synergy Bridging Worship**
  Bridging—the transition from youthhood to young adulthood—is a ritual of transition and becoming. As we honor “crossing the bridge,” we in turn reflect upon and recommit to fostering spiritual fullness and belonging across the lifespan.
- **Sunday Worship**
  Join us for a powerful and communal experience—the largest annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists in worship—led by the Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu.

2026 General Assembly: Ware Lecture

"The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, in consultation with the General Assembly Planning Committee, invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the Ware Lecturer."

2026 Ware Lecture: Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde

Mariann Edgar Budde serves as spiritual leader for the congregations and Episcopal schools in the District of Columbia and four Maryland counties that comprise the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. The first woman elected to this position, she also serves as the chair of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, which stewards the ministries of the Washington National Cathedral and Cathedral schools.

Her sermons have been published in several books and journals and she is the author of Gathering Up the Fragments: Preaching as Spiritual Practice (2007), Receiving Jesus: The Way of Love (2019) and How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith (2023), which has been adapted into a young adult book, We Can Be Brave: How We Learn to Be Brave in Life's Decisive Moments (2025), and a picture book for young children, I Can Learn to Be Brave (to be released in July 2026).

When not working, Bishop Budde enjoys riding her bicycle, spending time with family, and cooking dinner for friends. Bishop Mariann's Writings

There has been a Ware Lecture every year since 1922, with the exceptions of 1945 (cancelled due to World War II) and 1950 (Unitarian 125th Anniversary).

2026 General Assembly: Berry Street Essay

The UU Minister Association's Berry Street Essay is offered annually during professional days before General Assembly. This event began in 1820, when the *"Rev. William Ellery Channing, Minister of the Federal Street Church of Boston, invited all Massachusetts ministers known to be liberal to meet in the vestry of his church (whose entrance was on Berry Street)."* Since then, the Berry Street Conference has convened every year since 1820 (save for one, during World War II), making the Berry Street Essay the <u>oldest lecture series in the US</u>.

Essay will be available here in the Fall.

The 206th Berry Street Essay was delivered by Rev. Sara LaWall, "**Ministry in the Hot Holy Mess: Dispatches and Lifelines from the Frontlines of a Red State**"

"In an era defined by crumbling democracy, rising fascism, and a world seemingly on fire, how do we find the fortitude to keep showing up? Moving beyond the polished accolades of professional ministry, Sara LaWall shares an honest, unvarnished exploration of the beautiful struggle that is the "hot holy mess" of professional ministry. Balancing the weight of imposter syndrome and personal vulnerability she names the vision for the radical, relentless love required by our faith.

Whether you are navigating the complexities of ministry in a red state or seeking to bolster your own spiritual fortitude, this essay serves as both a dispatch from the frontlines and offers some lifelines for our collective journey. Come experience a call to deepen our collegiality and find the fuel to keep showing up for this broken and hurting world."

2026 General Assembly: CSAI – Abolition

This GA was year two in a three-year cycle for a Congregational Study Action Item (CSAI). Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation was selected as the 2024-2027 Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI). Read the entire CSAI. Find resources and monthly conversations at CLF's learning hub.

The CLF (Church of the Larger Fellowship) has provided many learning and engagement opportunities on this topic. There were also two workshops held during GA 2026. The videos are available now.

- **Imagining Abolition**: From the founding of this country, coercion and punishment have been used as a way to enforce compliance. This can be seen from parenting, schooling and the way business is conducted. Our faith calls us to critique the theology of punishment that has become so prominent. This begins when we start to imagine other ways to live that are, perhaps, idealistic, but that hold the seeds of how we move into a loving, healing, holistic practice of living in the world.
- **Abolition in Practice**: This workshop will include a panel of leaders who practice abolition in its many variations. Panelists will discuss abolition as a spiritual practice, abolition as seen in Minneapolis, abolition in police and prison settings, and how abolition intersects with the way we approach environmental justice.

2026 General Assembly: CSAI – Abolition

Timeline for this next year (2026 – 2027):

- November 15: Deadline for UUA Commission on Social Witness (CSW) to prepare a draft Statement of Conscience. This will be distributed to congregations, along with a Congregational Comment form, and a ballot to place the draft Statement of Conscience (SoC) on the Final Agenda for the upcoming General Assembly.
- February 1: Deadline for Congregational ballots and Congregational Comment Forms to be submitted. For a draft Statement of Conscience to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, 25% of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote.
- March: The CSW shall begin the process of soliciting CSAIs for the upcoming year, to be submitted on October 1st.
- April: The CSW shall prepare a revised draft of the SoC, taking into consideration comments received by the member congregations and districts, and place this revised draft of the SoC on the Final Agenda.

2026 General Assembly: Meet the Moment

"Meet the Moment is a movement-wide framework helping Unitarian Universalists analyze, discern, strategize, reflect, and take values-based action in response to today's religious, cultural, generational, and political realities."

Phase 1 of this framework began in the spring of 2025. There are small groups called "Wave Cohorts" that met in spring of 2025, during GA 2025, fall of 2025, spring of 2026, and during GA 2026.

The GA 2026 Wave Cohorts met and discussed the three grounding questions as pertaining to their particular topic:

- **What Is the Moment We Are In?**
  - Characteristics, realities, and trends that are shaping the world around us
- **What Are the Urgent Needs and Important Opportunities of This Moment?**
  - Opportunities, challenges, and barriers that are created by the moment we're in
- **What Do Our Shared Values Call Us To Do in This Moment?**
  - Defining our lane and our charge—what are we most compelled, equipped, and/or positioned to do?

There is SO MUCH information available, and it is not too late to participate. Find more information here and subscribe to the mailing list here.

2026 General Assembly: on-demand workshops

There were SO MANY on-demand workshops to choose from!! Including one by our very own Cordell Sloan with Rev Michelle Collins, titled *“AI Tools for Congregations: Ethics and Practical Demonstrations.”* ☺

These recordings are not publicly available and registered attendees are **not permitted** to share them, but if you are interested in hearing about the on-demand workshops, ask a UUCB attendee if they would be willing to share their thoughts about their experience.

2026 General Assembly: UUCB attendees

Below are the 2026 attendees from UUCB. Those marked “delegate” represented our congregation in the business of the assembly, including voting on business items.

Evelie Delfino Såles Posch *(delegate)*
Lonnie Moseley *(delegate)*
Melissa Rosales *(delegate)*
Cordell Sloan *(delegate)*
Rev. Jay Atkinson

2026 General Assembly: Bringing it back to UUCB

Ideas for UUCB to be involved in the next year (July 2026 – June 2027):

Participate in the UUA Common Read for 2026-2027: *"Love at the Center: Unitarian Universalist Theologies"* a collection of essays edited by our Association's President, Rev Dr Sofía Betancourt.

"We may agree that love is central, but what does that mean to us and what does it require of us? It is in that spirit that we asked more than two dozen leaders in our movement the question of what it means to put love at the center of our faith.

In these pages, you'll find personal testimony to love's power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from many different expressions of Unitarian Universalism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one's deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins. May Love at the Center serve as an invitation to deepen your own understanding and practices of love. (from shopinspirit.org)

A full resource collection is available, created by Jenn Blosser and Rev Michelle Collins – includes discussion guides, lifespan curricula for ages 7+, committee-specific questions, and more!

2026 General Assembly: Bringing it back to UUCB

Ideas for UUCB to be involved in the next year (July 2026 – June 2027):

- Take action on the Action of Immediate Witness opposing rollbacks to environmental protections, public lands rules, and the endangerment finding. Participate in the UUA's public witness on this issue in the coming year.
- Comment on the draft Statement of Conscience for the CSAI Abolition, Transformation and Faith Formation
  - November 15: Deadline for UUA Commission on Social Witness (CSW) to prepare a draft Statement of Conscience. **This will be distributed to congregations, along with a Congregational Comment form**, and a ballot to place the draft Statement of Conscience (SoC) on the Final Agenda for the upcoming General Assembly.
  - February 1: **Deadline for Congregational ballots and Congregational Comment Forms to be submitted.** For a draft Statement of Conscience to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, 25% of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote.

Question: how does UUCB receive the draft Statement of Conscience and Congregational Comment form?

2026 General Assembly: Taskforce – GA 2027

Next year's GA will be in San Jose, CA. This offers UUCB an **AMAZING** opportunity for involvement. In light of the proximity of GA 2027 <u>and</u> the goal of getting 200 youth from across the association to attend, I am asking the Board of Trustees to:

Create a one-year task force whose purpose will be to increase UUCB's participation and involvement in GA 2027.

- Provide education opportunities at UUCB about GA – what is it? Why should we care?
- Keep informed over the next year and provide timely updates to the congregation
- Coordinate with local congregations
- Fundraise to send as many youth from UUCB as we can!!
- Engage our congregation to offer our voices, ideas, perspectives to help shape programming at next year's GA:
  offering workshops, getting involved in planning, volunteering on the ground at the conference, working as online hosts, getting youth involved in leadership to plan their own programming, etc.

2027 General Assembly: See you next year!

General Assembly 2027 will take place online and in San Jose, CA at the McEnery Convention Center on June 23-27, 2027

2026 General Assembly: Links

General Assembly information: https://www.uua.org/ga

General Assembly Business Guide (how congregations can participate): https://www.uua.org/ga/congregations/ga-business-guide

GA Program Book: https://www.uua.org/files/2026-05/2026_GA_Program_Book.pdf

Final Business Agenda: https://www.uua.org/files/2026-05/2026_Final_Agenda.pdf

GA Business Video: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2026/business

GA Business discussion forum (open to everyone): https://discuss.uua.org/

GA updates mailing list: https://bit.ly/UUAGAemail

2026 General Assembly: Links

Affirmed Action of Immediate Witness (AIW): https://www.uua.org/action/statements/2026-aiw-defend-against-assault-environmental-protections

Responsive Resolution "Where are the Youth": https://www.uua.org/action/statements/where-are-youth

Responsive Resolution "Gratitude for UUA Support of Youth and Emerging Adults" https://www.uua.org/action/statements/gratitude-uua-support-youth-and-emerging-adults

Responsive Resolution "Reaffirming Our Commitment to Immigrant Justice and Relationally Grounded Organizing": https://www.uua.org/action/statements/reaffirming-our-commitment-immigrant-justice-and-relationally-grounded

Responsive Resolution on SWANA region concerns: https://www.uua.org/action/statements/include-concerns-about-southwest-asia-and-north-africa-swana-crisis

2026 General Assembly: Links

UUA State of the Association 2026: What Does This Moment Ask of Unitarian Universalists? https://youtu.be/wc4DQH3Ig70?si=fyA6oxWfGX81u0to

UU World article on update from UUA President: https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-president-sofia-betancourt-update-unitarian-universalism

GA 2026 In-gathering Service: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2026/in-gathering

GA 2026 Sunday Worship: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2026/sunday-worship

2024-2027 Congregational Study Action Item (CSAI) “Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation”: https://www.uua.org/action/process/2025-csai-abolition

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) Abolition resource hub: https://clfuu.org/abolition/

GA 2026 workshop “Imagining Abolition”: https://vimeo.com/1201837150?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci

GA 2026 workshop “Abolition in Practice”: https://vimeo.com/1202207470?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci

2026 General Assembly: Links

Meet the Moment: https://www.uua.org/congregations/meet-the-moment

Meet the Moment mailing list: https://www.uua.org/congregations/meet-the-moment/subscribe

History of the Ware Lecture: https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde writings: https://www.edow.org/about/bishop-mariann/writings

History of Berry Street Essay: https://uuma.org/programs/berry-street-essay/

UU Common Read 2026-27, *Love at the Center: Unitarian Universalist Theologies* Edited by Rev Dr Sofía Betancourt (UUA, 2025): https://uuabookstore.org/products/love-at-the-center

UU Common Read information and study guides: https://www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/read/love-center

Excerpt, Governance Manual:

3.9 Board Committees, Task Forces and Teams

The Board of Trustees establishes ongoing Committees, and finite-termed Task Forces and Teams to accomplish specific objectives as defined by the Board. These bodies assist the Board in governing and are generally not for administration, program management, or to make decisions on the Board's behalf.

Board Committees, Task Forces, and Teams will report to the Board at least annually on work completed, underway and contemplated, and any recommendations for new or amended Board policy or other actions. Board Committees, Task Forces, and Teams will not speak or act for the Board unless given specific authority to do so.

Board Committees, Task Forces, and Teams may include one or more Trustees as voting members. The Board will approve appointment of Committee, Task Force and Team members, or may delegate that appointing authority to the Board liaison or Board member of the Board Committee.

Due to the financial and fiduciary nature of the Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, and Audit Committee, members of those Committees shall adhere to the Board Conflict of Interest policy in Section 1.6.

3.9.1 Finance Committee

The role of the Finance Committee (FC) is to bridge an important administrative middle ground and provide better communication and another layer of oversight among the Board, Treasurer, and Executive Director. The FC will be the stand-in for the Congregation, a back-stop and partner to the Treasurer and Executive Director (ED) and will assist as needed in turning data into useful "information" (a primary job of both the Treasurer and the ED).

The overall purpose of the FC is to assist the Board in its oversight of the congregation's finances. The committee's work may include:

- Ensuring that routine financial reports, such as the monthly Treasurer's report, are clear and useful.
- Helping to educate Board members to have an adequate understanding of the congregation's financial status.
- Taking responsibility for thoroughly understanding the annual budget and acting as a stand-in for the Board, so the Board does not have to go over the budget line-by-line.
- Providing support to the ED, Treasurer, and staff when asked for financial information by the Board.
- Providing support on an as-needed basis to staff, Treasurer, and stakeholders to prepare the annual draft budget for the May Congregational Meeting.
- Developing and reviewing church financial policies, as well as procedures to implement those policies. Documenting all policies and working with the Board

Secretary to have new policies or eliminated policies appropriately reflected in the UUCB Governance Manual and/or Bylaws.
- Creating a checklist of items to review as part of year-end closing of the books.
- Frequency of Meetings: In non-audit years, the FC typically will meet quarterly unless otherwise directed by the Board or in case of fiscal emergency.

3.9.2 Endowment Committee

The overall purpose of the Endowment Committee is to manage, invest, and grow the assets of the congregation that are the result of bequests and other contributions to the church's Endowment or Quasi-Endowment (aka Board-designated Endowment) (see *Bylaws 9.2.2*). The Endowment Committee is also tasked with encouraging such bequests and contributions. The Endowment Committee shall exercise oversight of all Endowment and Quasi-Endowment assets, including recommendations of off-campus money managers.[1] It shall recommend to the Board how investment of those assets shall be managed, consistent with the Bylaws and this Governance Manual. The Board may delegate such oversight responsibility to the Endowment Committee with respect to specific assets of the church that do not otherwise qualify as True or Quasi-Endowments.[2] Unless otherwise directed by the Board, the Endowment Committee shall undertake efforts to grow the Endowment and the Quasi-Endowment by encouraging the congregation to make acceptable gifts to the church for this purpose, consistent with the policies set forth in the Bylaws of the Church and this Governance Manual.[3]

The Endowment Committee shall be composed of at least three members approved by the Board of Trustees. Each member shall be appointed to a three-year term, which may be renewed for a total of six years. In the absence of qualified members, a current member may exceed the six-year limitation until the Endowment Committee is able to both find and train replacement members who can then function effectively. In addition, the current Board Treasurer shall serve in an ex officio capacity on the Endowment Committee and attend meetings.

See Section 7, *Endowment Fund Investment Policy*

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[1] Currently managed by the UUA.

[2] E.g., in the past and currently, Endowment Committee oversight has included the Calkins Trust, a Pooled Endowment Fund, and Lawrence Lecture Fund, three examples. Oversight entails checking on the rate of return of each fund at their respective financial institutions and responding to queries re these funds by the Board and other interested parties in the Congregation, e.g., Treasurer of the Lawrence Lecture Fund.

[3] E.g., in the past, this has taken the form of "Wake Now Our Vision", sponsored by Shelter Rock UU Congregation and the UUA, and by our own internal work in growing our Maybeck Legacy Society membership wherein the EC records UUCB members intentions to leave UUCB something in their wills or Trusts. The EC also is committed to making a more concerted effort to provide education to the Congregation at large on acceptable wording for designating UUCB as a recipient of bequests from estates and gifts while Congregants are still living.

3.9.3 Audit Committee

The Board of Trustees will appoint a three-member Audit Committee including at least one current Board member other than the Treasurer. The committee is responsible for choosing and securing an auditor, financial reviewer, or other independent financial oversight functions that are required under the Bylaws. The committee receives and reviews the auditor's or the financial reviewer's report and findings, and reports on the audit or financial review to the full Board of Trustees at the meeting of the Board immediately following receipt of the report.

3.9.4 Awards Committee

The Awards Committee shall be comprised of past presidents of the Board of Trustees who are currently UUCB members and the incumbent Vice President, who shall serve as its convener.

The Committee shall recommend to the Board of Trustees a list of names to receive the church's Flaming Chalice, Schweitzer Medal, and any other special awards, as defined in the Awards Policy. Upon approval of the award recipients by the Board, the Committee is responsible for notifying the recipients and arranging for the presentation of the awards at a congregational meeting.

See Also: *Awards Policy*
Awards Summary

3.9.5 Bylaws Task Force

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Board of Trustees shall appoint an independent Bylaws Review Task Force at least once every three years. The Task Force shall consist of at least five members with no more than two members of the Board of Trustees. The Task Force shall review the Bylaws for relevance, appropriateness, and agreement and consistency with the Governance Manual, and follow the provisions in the Bylaws for recommending amendments.

See Also: *Bylaws 9.6*

3.9.6 Widening the Circle Committee

The charge of the Widening the Circle Committee is to be a supportive and advisory visionary body and working group that works in collaboration with UUCB programs to aid UUCB's growth and commitment to being an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive, Equitable and Inclusive congregation and church organization.

The committee and staff will discern the use of the currently proposed recommendations and develop with the congregation, over time, new ideas and action plans that support the spirit and intent of the UUA's Widening the Circle of Concern book. The committee's work may include:

- Supporting and coordinating the implementation of Board-approved recommendations from the Widening the Circle of Concern Task Force report (released August 2021).

- Coordinating the discussion of the Widening the Circle of Concern Task Force report within the congregation to ensure understanding of and promote engagement with the work.
- Working in concert with the Education for Liberation Development Team (ELDT). The ELDT would report to the Widening the Circle Committee.
- Regularly communicating with the congregation to ensure that UUCB programs are following through on the congregation's commitment to Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Equity and Inclusion.
- Giving guidance in accordance with ongoing recommendations from the Commission on Institutional Change of the UUA, which includes providing expertise to and collaborating with staff so that staff and congregational values are congruent.

The Widening the Circle Committee includes up to two Board members, the Executive Director and Minister (ex-officio) and seven other church members with commitment to Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression work, approved by the Board of Trustees. Each member shall be appointed to a term of one to three years, which may be renewed for a total of six years. In the absence of interested members, a current member may exceed the six-year limitation until the Widening the Circle Committee is able to both find and train replacement members who can then function effectively.

UUCB 5-Year Project Budget

The purpose of this budget is to capture church needs that fall outside the operating budget's scope: larger projects, repairs, or improvements that don't fit normal annual operations.

Rather than bringing each project to the board individually throughout the year, this budget lets the board approve the full list at once. Once approved, staff has authorization to move forward on the projects where we have funding, the same way operating budget approval works.

It is organized into priority tiers. First is Priority 1 projects that have funding available now through the Ladd Griffith fund. Approving this budget authorizes staff to move forward on these using the available Ladd Griffith funds.

The following sections of Priority 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Projects are projects where funding isn't secured yet. Either Ladd Griffith funds are expected to become available in future years, or the funding source is still undetermined. There is a total funding needed line for Priority 1 & 2 projects showing the approximate total needed to get these higher priority projects completed. Waiting for Ladd Griffith funding is an option, but for some of these, delay carries risk: what's a minor repair now could become a larger, more costly failure later.

2026-27 UUCB Project List - *Proposed Budget*
For Board Approval

2026-27 Projected Funding for Ladd Griffith	
Current Ladd Griffith Fund amount	$120,000.00
Expected UUCEF 2026-27 funding	$37,500.00
Amount available for 2026-27 Projects	**$157,500.00**

Project Num	Project	Priority	Need	Solution	Cost	Cost Basis	Funded From	Notes
This Year's Priority 1 Projects - fund from Ladd Griffith								
1	Sanctuary AV Upgrades	1	System is piecemeal, inefficient and hard to train new staff and volunteers to use.	Hire a contractor to redesign an easy to use, more efficient system, create documentation and do training. Create more functionality for meetings and renters in the space and do away with the need for a volunteer to run the slides/projection system.	$ 7,500.00	Bid	Ladd Griffith	
2	Breezeway Doors in SH - ADA	1	Doors from Social Hall to breezeway are old with multiple patches and hardware not working well and do not meet ADA code in doors to only ADA bathrooms.	New Doors, Frames & Hardware, with automatic door opener	$ 75,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith	
3	Social Hall Lighting Consultant*	1	Very Dark in Social Hall (especially at N & S ends)	Design a lighting solution	$ 5,000.00	Bid	Ladd Griffith	
4	SH Lighting Install & Program*	1	Very Dark in Social Hall (especially at N & S ends)	bid after design,	$ 30,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith	
5	Lighting control board*	1	Lighting control settings not correct	Hire Lighting control board technician for service and training	$ 1,000.00	Bid	Ladd Griffith	
6	Stage Curtain	1	Drags @ west. Aesthetics and operation.	Repair curtain	$ 1,500.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith	
7	Replace Folding Chairs & Tables	2	chairs old and worn, 8' tables have broken and we need to replace to maintain a useable inventory for Sundays and Rentals	purchase new padded metal chairs and purchase more tables	$ 15,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith	
8	Sidewalk Trip Hazard Repair	1	Sidewalk settled @ music room	R&R sidewalk	$ 5,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith	
				Priority 1 Projects Total Budget from Ladd Griffith	**$ 140,000.00**			

* - approved as part of the last 5 year budget

	Priority 1 Projects - alternate funding	**Priority**	**Need**	**Solution**	**Cost**	**Cost Basis**	**Funded From**	**Notes**
9	Sanctuary Furnace	1	Condensation from old Flue causing water and rotting wood. Flue replacement (outside) is $90,000.	New Heat Pump for sanctuary furnace. Verify energy costs and include design peer review	$ 175,000.00	Bid		
10	Fire Alarm System	1	Fire Alarm needs to be upgraded or replaced	Upgrade/replace fire alarm system components	$ 50,000.00	Estimate		
11	Irrigation Water System	1	Irrigation not working at back of building	Repair underground piping	$ 100,000.00	Bid		
				Priority 1 Projects - alternate funding	**$ 325,000.00**			

	Priority 2 Projects	**Priority**	**Need**	**Solution**	**Cost**	**Cost Basis**	**Funded From**	**Notes**
12	Music Room Furnace	2	Old furnace. Most cost effective to do with item 8 above.	New Heat Pump. Verify energy costs and include design peer review	$ 75,000.00	Bid		
13	School Building upgrades - Consultant	2	In need of major refresh: Roofs, windows, plumbing, flooring, ceiling, lighting, cabinets, ventilation, heating, etc.	Design a solution	$ 30,000.00	Bid		

14	Storm Drainage	3	Re-establish underground drainage on west side	excavate and install new piping.	$ 50,000.00	Estimate		
				Priority 2 Projects Total	**$ 155,000.00**			

Priority1-alternate funding + Priority 2 Project Funding Needed $ 480,000.00
Add 20% Contingency $ 96,000.00

TOTAL FUNDING NEEDED $ 576,000.00 for priority 1 + 2 projects that Ladd Griffith cannot cover.

Priority 3 Projects		Priority	Need	Solution	Cost	Cost Basis	Funded From	Notes
15	Paint & Seal exterior	3	Paint concrete and wood, seal windows, etc.		$ 150,000.00	Old Bid	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-7 years	
16	Atrium Bathroom Design	3	Old and outdated bathrooms. Make unisex with separate hand wash area.	Design a solution	$ 30,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-7 years	
17	Seal and Stripe Parking Lot	3	preservation of pavement and aesthetics	seal and stripe all lots	$ 30,000.00		Ladd Griffith - over next 5-7 years	
18	RE Space	3	Our RE program lacks designated space for our kids to make their own.	Create a space along exterior North wall that connects to the playfield for RE program use	$ 50,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-7 years	No specific design yet, but Kathryn has requested funding.
				Priority 3 Projects Total	**$ 260,000.00**			

Priority 4 Projects		Priority	Need	Solution	Cost	Cost Basis	Funded From	Notes
19	Sanctuary Fans	4	Increase energy efficiency and effectiveness of heating system in Sanctuary	Add Ceiling Fans to Sanctuary	$ 90,000.00	Bid	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-10 years	
20	Atrium Bathroom Remodel	4	Bathroom Construction	Bid after design	$ 250,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-10 years	
21	Kitchen Remodel	4	Kitchen is antiquated	Replace flooring, cabinets, etc.	???		Ladd Griffith - over next 5-10 years	
22	Accessibility to Meditation room	4	ADA access would provide more useable space for meetings on Sundays	sidewalk with switchbacks	$ 150,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-10 years	
23	Sound system - Social Hall	4	Complaints about sound in the social hall	study and upgrade sound system	$ 50,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-10 years	
24	Playfield Equipment	4	New playfield does not have playground equipment for kids to play on.	Add new playground equipment to the playfield	$ 25,000.00	Estimate	Ladd Griffith - over next 5-10 years	
				Priority 4 Projects	**$ 565,000.00**			

Priority 5 Projects - Wishlist		Priority	Need	Solution	Cost	Cost Basis	Funded From	Notes
25	Sanctuary Windows - Consult & Design	5	Add light to Sanctuary	Hire Designer for feasibility - Wishlist Item	$ 10,000.00	Estimate		
26	Sanctuary Windows - Construction	5	Add light to Sanctuary	Adding windows to the bay side to let in light and a beautiful view	$ 250,000.00			
27	Hillside retaining wall	4	Falling dirt from the hill makes it hard to maintain the parking spots along the North side of the lot.	A retaining wall will keep the hillside dirt and debris from falling into the parking lot.	$ 150,000.00			
28	Terrace retaining wall	5	Wishlist Item - more useable outdoor space	Building a retaining wall along the fire road off the Terrace would create more outdoor useable space for services, camps, and rentals. Wishlist Item	$ 150,000.00			
29	Security system	5	we have no security system	study and install security system	$ 10,000.00	Estimate		
				(Wishlist) Priority 5 Projects	**$ 570,000.00**			

These are needs that could be considered for a capital campaign									
			Priority	Need	Solution	Cost		Funded From	Notes
	All - Electric Campus		The projects below have to be done together and in a specific order:						
	a	All Electric Consultant	1	Consultant for designing all electric campus		$ 100,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	b	Electrical Systems	1	Panels & feeders. Environmental Stewardship		$ 450,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	c	Add Solar	1	We need more solar to have enough to run all electric on our campus		$ 250,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	d	Batteries for Solar Energy storage	1	Batteries will store the energy from the solar panels for later use		$ 100,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	e	Electric Heat Pumps, all buildings	1	Environmental Stewardship, reduces our dependency on natural gas and lowers our operating costs		$ 400,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	f	Electric appliances	1	All Electric Kitchen Appliances		$ 300,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	g	EV Chargers	1	EV Chargers in parking lot		$ 100,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	School Building upgrades - Construction		2	School construction 5,600 sf. HVAC in line .	Bid after design	$ 750,000.00		Capital Campaign	Possibility of co-fundraising with Good Earth School/parents
	Church Signs at driveways, Arlington		3	Signs are in bad shape, need repainted with new logo. Message board at Arlington was taken down	Redesign signs, add new logo and names/titles, etc. New message board or signage at Arlington	$ 50,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	Platform at back of Sanctuary for AV Team		4	AV Team needs an elevated space for better visual of the chancel and more space to work	Add a platform to the back of the Sanctuary for the AV setup	???		Capital Campaign	
	Hillside Parking Lot Retaining Wall		5	Falling dirt from the hill makes it hard to maintain the parking spots along the North side of the lot.	A retaining wall will keep the hillside dirt and debris from falling into the parking lot.	$ 150,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	Terrace Retaining Wall		5	Wishlist Item - more useable outdoor space	Building a retaining wall along the fire road off the Terrace would create more outdoor useable space for services, camps, and rentals. Wishlist Item	$ 150,000.00		Capital Campaign	
	Adding Sanctuary Windows to Bay side		5	Add light to Sanctuary	Adding windows to the bay side to let in light and a beautiful view	$ 300,000.00		Capital Campaign	
					Possible Capital Campaign Total	**$3,100,000.00**			

TruePurposeInstitute.com

About the True Purpose Institute

Our Purpose | Our Community | Our Leaders | Our Model

About Our Purpose

As global transformation accelerates, more individuals and organizations are called to participate in creating a new world. Many institutions and structures that once served society well are now outdated and in desperate need of change. The awareness of this fundamental global shift is increasing over time. Many feel they can do nothing but witness the changes, while others feel called to take direct action in creating and facilitating this great transformation.

The individuals and organizations that do know they have a part to play often don't have clarity about their role or how to deliver their contribution on a larger scale. They are usually struggling with doubts and fears about what might be asked of them if they were to fully manifest their mission in the world.

The True Purpose® Institute gives messengers, change agents and mission-driven organizations the training and support they need to create the impact they are meant to have in the world.

Our transformational workshops and certification programs for individuals equip you to be the change you are meant to create and to spread your personal transformation farther and faster than you ever dreamed possible. Our goal is to help you earn a living as a powerful messenger or change agent: your impact will be much greater if you are making money from living your purpose!

Our consulting services for organizations will give you the clarity of purpose and direction you need to inspire the best in your team, partners and investors. You'll enjoy the benefits of your collective inner wisdom applied to your critical business decisions. Ultimately you'll be equipped to create a lasting legacy that makes the world a better place.

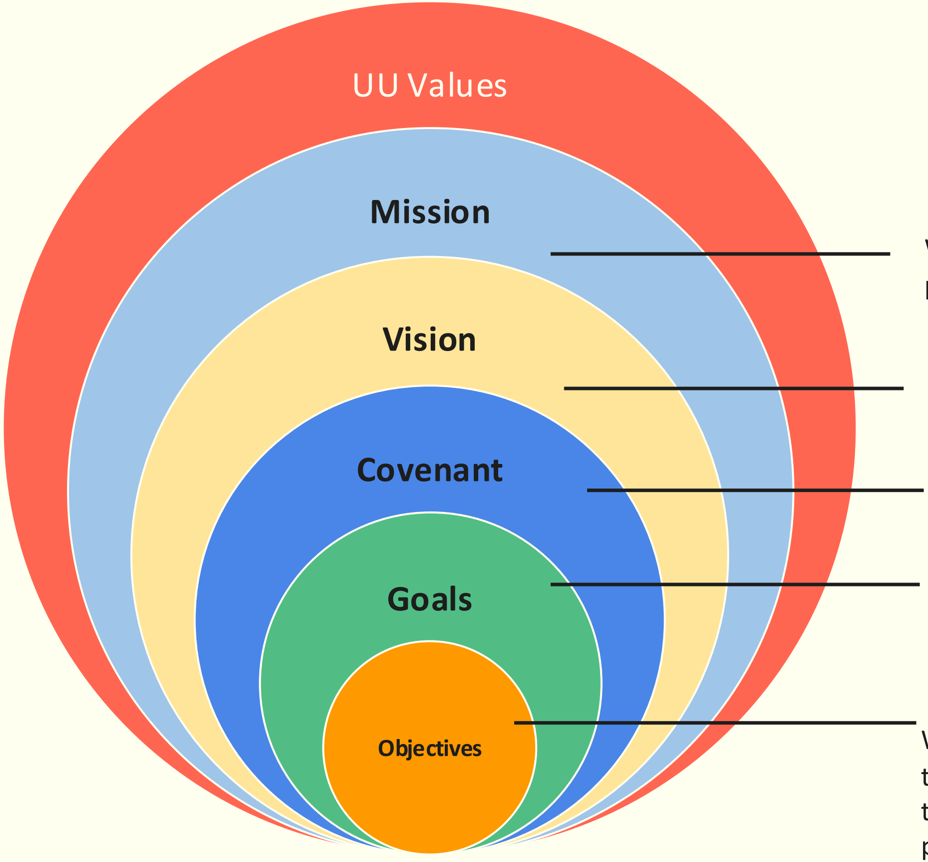
The four components of True Purpose® Institute's purpose in the *True Purpose* model are:

- **Energetic Essence:** We are the light that illuminates the sacred path of transformation
- **Transformational Impact:** We awaken and ignite the flame of divine transformation in each soul.
- **Mission:** Our mission is to awaken humanity's divine purpose.
- **Message:** "You are a unique, living vibration of Heaven on Earth, inviting and igniting the flame of transformation in the hearts and minds of all you meet. You are loved, supported and ready to be fully realized! When humanity's freedom of choice aligns with divine potential, everything is possible. You are never alone. Remember who you truly are! There are miracles afoot."

Board Strategic Vision

Board Subgroup Proposal, August 5, 2026
Carla McCasland, David Rosales, Kristen Jensen,

Refresh from May09 2026 Retreat



What is our core purpose?

What do we aspire to be in the future?

Our relationships as we work

Broad, general outcomes that we want to achieve for the whole church

What specifics does each team need to achieve to get there? How to measure our progress?

The Board should set Goals and then ask Committees and Staff to identify Objectives for the Board to review.

UUCB Today: Vision, Mission, Covenant

- **Mission:** The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is to create loving community, inspire spiritual growth, and encourage lives of integrity, joy, and service.
- **Vision:** The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is a welcoming and vibrant congregation. We joyously support spiritual development guided by individual faith, reason, and conscience. We are committed to serving one another, the church community, the community at large, and the global community. We foster a spirit of generosity and trust that encourages care for our church home and affirms diversity and relationships consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles.
- **Covenant:** Love guides this church. The quest for truth and justice is its common purpose. To give thanks, listen deeply, speak with care, honor our differences, and seek and grant forgiveness: These things we covenant with one another.

Agenda for today

1. Discussion on proposed focus areas for 2026-2028
2. Discussion of potential goals, resources that we have and need
3. Discussion on a timeline and recommended cadence

Proposed Focus Areas (objectives)

Cultivating Community

Support and encourage all stages of congregational life. Encouragement and support for new milestones and greater involvement.

Deepening Connections

Support and encourage interpersonal connections, and spiritual growth. Antidote to echo chambers and isolation.

Linking Arms with Others

We are stronger together with others. Encourage and support joint activities at local, state, and national levels. Use UAA and GA as an opportunity.

Discussion on Focus Areas and Goals

Cultivating Community

- In what stages are we doing well and where can we improve?
- What resources do we have already and where do we need more?
- Ideas: Services for younger visitors, encourage youth membership and participation, University outreach, “Bring-a-friend” services, … more?

Deepening Connections

- Ensure group programs are resourced and resilient (best practices, backup facilitators, rooms).
- Explore affinity groups and unmet interests.
- Are our policies for groups the correct amount of regulation? Are there frictions?
- How best to explore retreat programs and options?

Linking Arms with Others

- Do we need to do more with other congregations and groups?
- UUA, GA actions, Bay Area actions, Bridging for Democracy, etc.
- Can we improve Staff / Volunteer partnership?
- Can we do better at volunteer development and growth?
- Active presence at protests, street festivals, and other assemblies.

Proposed Standards

To support the visioning process, we propose the Board work toward creating and adopting these standards:

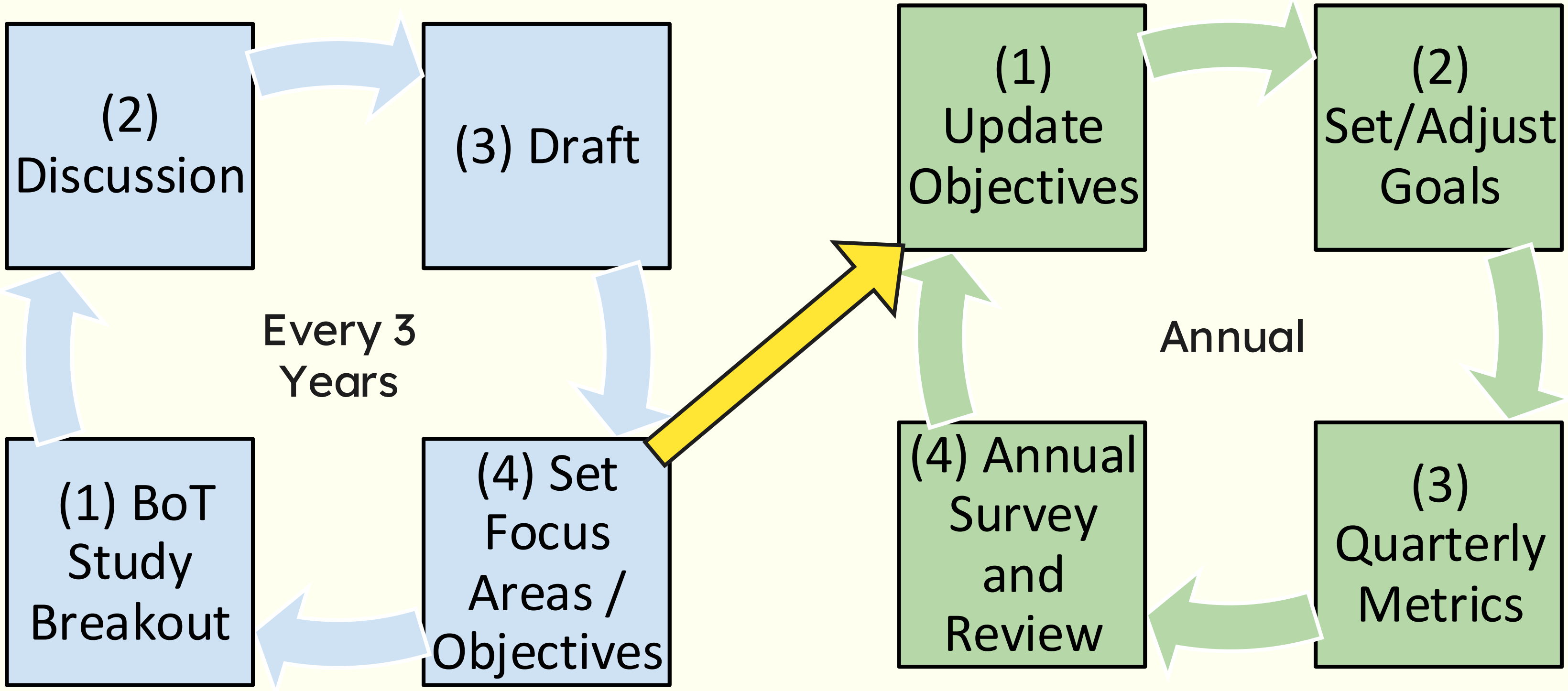
An Annual Congregational Survey

- Some standardized questions to support longitudinal analysis and comparison.
- Mix with questions unique to that year.
- Who do we want to hear from? Maybe a section for members?
- Does this require a new committee to write, administer, and process?
- Should responses be anonymous?

A BoT Visioning Process

- Focus Areas updated every 3 years for gauging impactfulness.
- Goals reviewed quarterly and updated annually.
- Institutional knowledge to continue past board limits.
- A strategic plan to be developed every 5 to 10 years.
- Does this require a task force?
- Gov Manual update?

Visioning Process



Key Visioning Dates

Apr/May/Jun	Jul/Aug/Sept	Oct/Nov/Dec	Jan/Feb/Mar
Apr - annual obj presentation prep	July no BoT meeting,, but BoT obj study group meets	Dec finance committee starts up - finance ideas for aligning to objectives and setting goals.	Jan - staff budgeting input starts - staff ideas for aligning to objectives and setting goals.
May congregational meeting - approve budget, show obj/goal year + updates	July - fiscal Year starts	Dec board meeting - quarterly metrics	Feb/Mar - budgeting process continues
May board retreat - kickoff next visioning cycle	August board meeting - annual reports, obj updates		Mar board meeting - quarterly metrics, next cycle goals discussed.
June board meeting - quarterly metrics	Sept board meeting - quarterly metrics		
	Sept board retreat		

5-10 Year Strategic Plan

We recommended the BoT form a Task-Force to define and execute a strategic plan process:

- We are a church in the midst of change (settled Minister, Freestone discernment, growing congregation)
- We are also contemplating a capital campaign
- Without proper study or input, capital focus will be on deferred maintenance.
- A strategic plan is essential to a capital campaign.
- **What is a future we are excited to work together to build?**

Q&A

?

Note: The items regarding the bequests are the topic of Discussion/Action Item 5-d. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report on the consent agenda is for receiving the information, not taking action.

August 3, 2026

To: UUCB Board of Trustees
From: Lisa Maynard, Treasurer

RE: Treasurer's Report for August 5 Meeting

Bequest from Joanne Wile
The Finance Committee recommends that the Board accept the bequest from Joanne Wile ($988,084.87 received in July 2026). The funds have been deposited into our Mechanics checking account (see balances below). With Board acceptance of the gift, it will be transferred to a new account at the UU Combined Endowment Funds (UUCEF), to be held for approximately three years before any withdrawals, as is our practice with endowments. This practice allows the gift to grow before any interest is drawn from it. Note that the initial deposit to UUCEF will not be to a permanently restricted account ("true" endowment). The deposit to a new separate UUCEF account minimizes the administrative burden of tracking a large new gift, since isolating the gift ensures that any earnings in the account will be attributable to this particular gift. Current practice is to make sure that the balance in endowed funds equals at least the beginning principal (sum of initial deposits) plus 10% of that principal.

I do not believe that it is necessary for the Board to make a decision about the ultimate destination of this bequest at this meeting. The current decision is simply whether or not to accept the bequest. As Treasurer, I certainly believe that we should accept this generous gift.

<u>For background and future consideration:</u>
The Finance Committee recommends adding this bequest to the Donor-Restricted Pooled Endowment also held by the UUCEF, after the three year hold, in accordance with Joanne's wishes as expressed in two documents that she gave to the Endowment Committee in 2016. Her trust itself did not specify any restrictions on the bequest, but some members of the Finance Committee who were previously members of the Endowment Committee (EC) argued that the church members who did fill out these EC forms (untitled but headed "What kind of legacy will you leave?") were trusting that the wishes expressed in them would be followed. In this case, the Joanne R. Wile Trust, as updated 2025, does not specifically contradict the form, that is, it does not state that the gift should be considered unrestricted. The question seems to be whether or not the general language of a donor's trust would supersede the donor's more specific instructions in a UUCB document from an earlier year. The Finance Committee ultimately agreed that since the more recent trust contained general language, giving the bequest simply to "the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley in Kensington, California," it did not actually contradict the 2016 Endowment Committee document.

There are arguably factors that muddle the clarity of Joanne's designation. Until 2016, it was widely understood that our General Endowment (now known as the Board Designated Endowment) was a true donor-restricted endowment. The language of the first Endowment Committee form that Joanne filled out seems to reflect that (mis)perception; the second form, which bears the note "Rev. 12-13-16," has different designations and language but by current standards might still be found confusing. However, it is clear that in 2016 Joanne had an interest in increasing the endowment, to provide ongoing income for the church. Not only did she indicate on the Endowment Committee documents her intention to make a legacy donation to a fund where only the earnings would be spent, she also made a donation of $11,386.95 that year to the Donor-Restricted Endowment. Although Joanne's wishes may have changed between 2016 and her death in 2025, without further documentation, we have no justification for acting as if they did change.

The Finance Committee agreed that a useful task for the newly reactivated Endowment Committee would be to contact anyone who has a "What kind of legacy will you leave?" form on file at church, and ask them about their current wishes. I intend to support this effort vigorously, to help us avoid future confusion and to encourage people to give in ways that feel good to them and are helpful given the changed financial situation of our church.

As I stated above, I don't think it's necessary for the Board to make the decision regarding ultimate disposition of this bequest now. I do think it's important for the Board to have some understanding of this rather complicated history. It seems prudent for the Board to come to a decision soon, since such a large gift affects our financial planning and our communications with prospective legacy donors.

Pooled Income Fund

UUCB has administrated the Pooled Income Fund (sometimes referred to as the Boeke Fund) for several decades. The fund was set up to provide annual interest disbursements to the original donors, from the earnings of the pooled contributions. These disbursements followed a plan that involved each original donor having a designated share. Rev. Richard Boeke and his former wife Johanna were the last remaining original donors, and the balance remaining in the fund since the death of the other remaining original donor (at least a decade ago) was considered the share of the Boekes. Rev. Boeke died in the last year, and we recently learned of Johanna Boeke's passing. We are in the process of making the final distribution (of interest) to Johanna Boeke's estate. UUCB will receive the fund balance.

Upon making a donation to the Pooled Income Fund, Rev. Boeke had requested that after his death and the death of Johanna Boeke, the balance be used to establish a new fund, interest from which was to support visiting ministers from another country, or intern ministers. The program that facilitated visiting ministers from other countries is no longer in operation. UUCB's commitment to providing ministerial internships, on the other hand, continues. The Morgan Theological Endowment, held by the UUCEF, generates interest that provides UUCB with some funds to support our intern ministers. Currently the Morgan balance is something over $30,000 (it was around $39,000 in May, before deducting the remainder of Intern Minister Liesl Dees' expenses).

The Finance Committee recommends adding the balance of the Pooled Income Fund established by Rev. Richard Boeke and administered by UUCB (estimated at $30,000 to $35,000 after all final distributions and administrative expenses have been deducted) to the Morgan Theological Endowment held by the UUCEF. Adding the balance of the Pooled Income Fund to the already existing Morgan Theological Endowment will honor the intent of the gift without adding an administrative burden.

Calkins Trust

The Calkins Trust, established in the 1980s or early 1990s, has been administered by UUCB, with an individual from the Endowment Committee (most recently Anne Greenwood, with Anita Mermel as backup) acting as Trustee. In recent years, the trust provided income (from earnings of the investments) to Elizabeth Calkins Davis, the daughter of original donor Phil Calkins and the last individual beneficiary of the trust, as well as to UUCB and the UUSC. With the death in early July of Elizabeth Calkins Davis, we are dissolving the trust and will distribute the balance to the UUSC (1/8) and UUCB (7/8).

The Board could decide to add UUCB's 7/8 to the Board Designated Endowment. This action would not require any vote beyond the Board decision. However, the Finance Committee recognizes the value of accomplishing some of the deferred maintenance on the 2026-27 UUCB Project List - Proposed Budget (submitted by Operations Director Janae Heard) as soon as possible, and before launching a capital campaign. Making the UUCB share of the Calkins balance (approximately $292,000) available for deferred maintenance would require approval by the congregation. However, recently the congregation did approve using the $300,000 received from the Lee Lawrence estate to pay off the loan from the Board Designated Endowment to the Ministerial Housing Fund. It seems that there may be less anxiety about voting to use "new" money for such initiatives, than there might be if we asked the congregation to approve taking funds from the Board Designated Endowment to accomplish deferred maintenance.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board use UUCB's 7/8 share of the balance of the Calkins Trust (estimated at $292,000 after administrative expenses have been deducted) to fund some of the deferred maintenance projects listed in the 2026-27 UUCB Project List - Proposed Budget. This action will require approval by the congregation, since the usual course of action would be to add the funds to the Board Designated Endowment (Bylaws 9.1.5.4).

Freestone Sale Proceeds

Since the Board has agreed to keep the sale of the Freestone property separate from the deliberations about use of the sale proceeds, there is no plan as yet for ultimate destination of the expected funds. I agreed to make some suggestions for depositing the sale proceeds, in advance of those deliberations regarding long term use. Note that the procedure for all these options would start with a deposit to the Mechanics checking account, and then either a bank transfer between accounts to move to another Mechanics account, or a check or wire transfer to send the funds to another financial institution.

Add sale proceeds to Mechanics Savings account (technically a Money Market account).
Advantage: very easy to accomplish since account already exists
Drawbacks: relatively low interest rate (currently 2.50%); added burden of tracking the Freestone funds and their earnings separately from other funds in the account

Set up a new, separate CD or other deposit account, possibly at Mechanics or Schwab.
Advantage: higher interest rate (to be determined), easier to track
Drawback: may include term of deposit (not always)

Set up a new, separate named UUCEF account.
Advantage: possibly higher interest rate than CD (at least 4%, quite likely higher depending on market), easy to track
Drawbacks: withdrawing funds takes several weeks; not recommended for short term deposit

I think that in all these cases, the Board should start by deciding (and documenting) what action will be required to move the funds from the initial savings location, after the ultimate destination/use is determined.

Today's Mechanics bank balances are:
Checking, $1,100,980.35
Savings, $157,902.62