

UUFBR Board of Trustees Meeting September 24, 2025
Minutes

7:02 Gathering

- Chalice Lighting /Opening Words (Rev Edith), Check-in (Bill), Vibe-checker (Carole), Time-minder (Judy)

Present: Copresidents Rajeev Arora and Claire Smith, Treasurer Howard Prentice, Secretary Judy Keiser, VP Facilities Patrick Larson, Trustees Lynn Smith, Carole Stephens

Minister: Rev Edith Love

Guests: Mitch Major, Linda Prentice, Barb Jensen, Mary Wickensheimer

7:12 The meeting was called to order and Rajeev welcomed guests and visitors.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting 8/27/25: the minutes were approved, with clarifying revisions regarding slide shows for worship, salary/travel calculations for Rev Edith, and security plan team roles.

Minutes of the special congregational meeting dated September 7, 2025: the minutes were approved without further discussion.

Reports:

- a. Minister's Report – Rev Edith sent report focusing on the importance of mending covenant between her and the board, and specifically acknowledged the difficult meeting recently with a Good Officer related to that issue.
- b. Administrative Reports/Action items
 - i. Treasurer's Report – Howard sent written report. He highlighted balance sheet and income and expense form. Substantial pledges will come in as lump sums in the next month or so. Overall trend is as Mitch detailed, since school income won't be enough to strengthen our position. Mitch supplemented report: Malusis funds plus earnings give us about 18 months before needing to increase revenues. Discussion: is the estimated pledge amount the correct amount? Mitch did a trend analysis. The first 6 months look good, with school and Louise revenue. \$120k is approximately the amount of pledge amount. Some donations are being given as people join. Former members also

- donate around \$5k. Congregation doesn't understand the cost of operating, and therefore 5 members do 80% of the pledging. Idea: consider encouraging donations upon joining; rejected as being too much like dues. New members don't become steady givers for first five years of membership. Alternative: encourage monthly pledge. Pledges and rentals and gifts sustain us; events are not currently considered fundraisers. Need to educate members about best way of running a congregation without concentrating on pledges from just a few people. History of profitable auctions in other congregations. October is quarterly meeting; suggestion to prepare ½ -fiscal year report for next month's meeting and compare with 5 previous years. Howard will call a meeting with Robert, Bill, Mitch, Raj, Howard and Nader after September books are closed.
- ii. VP-Facilities – Patrick: tree trimming is on hold pending finding funds. Patrick agreed to wait until after October 8 meeting to proceed. Meanwhile he'll get quotes to reduce scope of work for this year to most important work. Budgeted amounts for tree trimming are higher than last year. Ideas: targeted fundraising: adopt a tree, special collection or event.
 - c. Sharex – Linda Prentice: the Sharex team consists of Patrick, Raj, Ted, Nancy, Judy, Linda, Rev Edith, and Sharon for limited roles. Community partners want to use facilities and we're not ready. We need to interact with the community more and reach out to other audiences to grow our community presence. Other churches charge double or triple our charges. Introspection needs to shift to external relationships. Schools are popular – there's a waiting list. We need to update contracts with AA groups. Rona has wisdom to share. Sharex Team is holding a workshop on 10/11 to generate ideas: open invitation to trustees to attend. Helen Hartley history shows UUFBR as incubator for 20 service organizations by giving them space.
 - d. Program Planning: Discussion included a reminder that reports are to be sent to Board in advance, a note that Program Planning team minutes are on Google Docs, and a related Action Item for Ruth to send Program Planning minutes to Board.

7:51 Old Business

- a. By-laws—Mitch: Mitch continuing to meet with people and will send email soliciting members for bylaws team. Timing: email leaders of all committees, then recruit members and set up meetings simultaneously. Mitch will reach out to talk to Carole also. Mitch is

concerned about ability to get enough volunteers. Number of people is not as useful as skills.

- b. Back-to-School Service this Sunday—Rajeev: plan for teachers to attend service, tours of RE building on Sunday. Tacos for lunch on the same day. Failure to coordinate with Program Planning led to too many activities on one day. Calendar monitoring function and process of Program Planning Team is solid, need other groups, including Worship Team, to coordinate calendars with Program Planning Team. Suggestion was made that Program Planning and Worship Team discuss how to coordinate better.
- c. Mission and Vision—Rajeev: Next steps: article in Unicorn, strategic planning. Nancy Hutter is recruiting for Strategic Planning team. She'll present plan to BOT on October 10.
- d. Hope for Us—Rajeev: H4U is setting up meetings. Committed to move forward: joined Exec Team meeting to observe process and will join BOT meetings monthly. Reminder that all are welcome to attend Exec Team meetings Friday mornings at 9:30.
- e. Security Plan: Claire: written plan is in progress, Claire will meet with Courtney about next steps: implementation of plan, training, etc. Plan includes emergency responses. There is a gadget that automatically calls emergency responders.

After a Breath/Bio Break, the Board moved to New Business and convened in Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Submitted by Judy Keiser, Secretary

Our Vision:

A beloved community welcoming all and promoting truth, spirituality, love, inclusion, compassion and justice.

Our Mission:

- **nurture** spiritual growth and connection,
 - **build** inclusive community,
 - **work** towards justice and equity,
- heal** the world one interaction at a time.