

UUC Board Meeting Agenda
May 9, 2024

We, the UUC Board, seek informed collaboration and clarity in our work of supporting UUC ministries. We interact with respect, trust, deep listening, and curiosity. We affirm one another, and maintain fierce dedication to diversity and inclusion in our commitment to the community we serve. We communicate directly and with courageous love. When it arises, we engage in productive conflict. We are focused, accountable, and authentic. We laugh together. We maintain the trust and confidentiality of board members' contributions and speak with one voice regarding board actions.

6:00-7:00

Joint meeting with the Finance Committee

7:00-7:15

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Barbara), Check-in

7:15-7:30

Committee on Ministries report
Member Forum

7:30-7:45 Approve Consent Agenda

Meeting Agenda

Minister's Report

Administrator's Report

Director of Lifespan Faith Development's (DLFD) Report

Previous Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report

7:45-8:15

Old Business

- Vote on delegates for General Assembly.
- Vote on Isabel Berney Award nomination.

8:15-8:50

New Business

- Update on Pam's sabbatical.
- Update on slate of members for 2024-2025 UU Board.
- Planning for Informational Meeting (May 12) and Annual Meeting (June 2).

8:50-9:00

Check-out - Did we abide by our covenant?

Upcoming

Next Board Meeting – June 13, 2024

Reading for June Meeting - ?

Other activities?

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

Our theme in April was Interdependence, giving us the opportunity to explore our relationship with the web of life; to celebrate Earth Day by considering what we love about the Earth (led by Victoria Taylor and Gretchen Luke, with special guest poet Mara Robbins); and to consider how we nurture interdependence as a congregation. This last service ended with an “activities fair,” with representatives from different committees and groups available to talk about their activity, answer questions, and sign up new members. Our theme in May is Pluralism, starting with a service on the importance of this value to UU's and the importance of practicing it. The services in the rest of May will include annual traditions such as youth bridging and the flower ceremony.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

In addition to meeting with the Surviving Spouses and Sages group, I've had pastoral meetings in the office, at health care facilities, at people's homes, and via email. While the Lay Pastoral Care Ministry, LPCM facilitator Jane Mahone, and seminary graduate Ellen Plummer will be able to cover most pastoral care needs during my upcoming vacation and sabbatical, I've met with my Presbyterian colleague, Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter to discuss her providing back-up and support, to which she has agreed.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

The Conversations on our Faith group finished up *On Repentance and Repair*, the UUA Common Read, and has begun the book we've been reading with our Interfaith Book Discussion group – *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor (particularly appropriate for the theme of pluralism). I attended a Shabbat service at the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center at their president's invitation.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

The Environmental Justice group sponsored a mini-concert and sing-along with Ash Devine at the lower firepit on the Friday after Earth Day. Twenty or so people – UUC and community members – attended and enjoyed sharing music, poetry, and food. This is the final activity for this group for now; co-leaders Bob Stimson and Anita Puckett need to step down from leadership. I'm grateful for their efforts and hope that new leadership will come forward in the future.

The Defending Democracy leadership group (Jim Bohland, Bob Stimson, Sara Dalton, Mark Benson, and Jamie McReynolds) has been meeting bi-weekly. The four action groups (education, voting, policy advocacy and networking) are developing plans for actions between now and November. I've talked with them about their presence on the internet and will be posting a page describing their efforts on the UUC website.

Leads Administration

The transition between Ericka and Bekah has gone well, and Bekah is already coming up with suggestions on how we might be more efficient. I will be completing annual staff evaluations this month.

Thanks to the efforts of the Stewardship Committee and all the stewards, as of now, we have 175 pledges for \$368,472 toward our goal of \$379,000 (97.22%). By comparison, last year we had 169 pledges for \$345,012 toward a goal of \$376,000 (92%). After “phase I” of the Stewardship pledge drive ended, I emailed reminders to people who typically pledge but had not yet, and we heard from a few of them. Despite multiple explanations of the pledging process, some people still don't realize that they need to tell us how much they are pledging rather than simply sending in a check. Stewardship chair Mary Ann Hansen has

offered one last incentive for people to pledge or increase their pledge – if we come within \$1,000 of the goal, she will kick in the rest and give out five more Danish pastries.

The AED cabinet has been installed between the administrator's office and the kitchen in the foyer. This should make it easily accessible to groups meeting in Elarth as well as the sanctuary.

The Committee on Ministries finalized their [Summary on the Grounds Ministry Feedback Sessions](#). Please read it before the board meeting in case you have questions for Jane Keppel-Benson, who will attend.

The Grounds Committee, now under the capable leadership of Jim Flowers, had a successful Big Event workday and are now having informal workdays on the first Saturday of the month (organized by Amanda Morgan).

The Connections Committee Newcomers' Orientation on April 27th had five participants and four children. Several of the participants have decided to become members, as have several folks who have been attending for a while. We will be recognizing new members on May 19th, and we need a representative from the board to participate in the ceremony.

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith and Leads the Faith into the Future

I continue to meet with the Blacksburg Ministerial Association, UU religious professionals, the NAACP Religious Affairs committee, and the Interfaith Book group.

I will be attending UUMA Ministry Days and UUA General Assembly in June.

We have been busy planning Anna's ordination service, which will take place at 2:00 on June 1st. We are asking congregants from both UUC and UUC Roanoke to provide finger foods – folks can sign up to contribute at this [link](#). People can also contribute to the ordination fund by writing a check to UUC with "ordination" in the memo line.

Time away from Blacksburg and UUC

May 20th -21st – Charlottesville for Joseph Jordan Cluster meeting

June – vacation, Ministry Days (June 17-19), General Assembly (June 20-23)

July - September – Sabbatical

Administrator's Report to the Board May 2024

Arrival: I have had a wonderful welcome into the Congregational Administrator role by both the Staff and the Congregation. I have finished my first full month and am becoming more familiar with the procedures, paperwork, and people. There is always something new to learn and someone willing to offer insight and help. I am very grateful to be in this position and am looking forward to serving the Congregation further.

Stewardship Update: Pam and I designed and ordered thank you postcards for all of our amazing pledgers. I am currently working on entering in all the 24-25 pledges into Power Church for tracking and to create the mailing labels needed for the postcards. The Danish incentive encouraged 2 people to increase their pledges and one new pledge.

ComCom Committee: I have continued with the t-shirt design process and have been working on finding a local t-shirt company to create and fulfill our order. I have made a bit of progress and am hoping to have a company finalized by the end of the week so we can have shirts this summer. We have had 2 new members show interest in the committee.

Attendance/Members: See the [Attendance/Numbers](#) Google doc.

DLFD Report to the Board – May 2024

Children and Youth Programs:

- **Registration Numbers:** Currently 61 families and 107 children have registered for 132 activity/positions in the 2023-24 year.
 - Registration for the 2024-2025 year has opened. Prefilled links have been sent to all families currently enrolled.
- **Programming:**

This year is wrapping up, with the last RE classes on May 19.

 - MSYG will welcome rising 6th graders at their last meeting on May 17.
 - YRUU will welcome rising 9th graders at their last meeting on May 19.
 - Three seniors will bridge on May 12—Alex Dickerson, Alice Quigley, and Kate Miller.

Adult Programming:

- Building Bridges for Adults meets for the last time this week.
- OWL for older adults finished last week, and the feedback from the group was very positive.
- Parent Covenant Group—will meet for the last time this year next week.
- Sunday Circle: The last Sunday Circle was on May 5 with about 10 people in attendance. Sunday circle will go to once a month next year.

Other DLFD Activites:

- I have been accepted into the RE Credentialing Program. I will be working on becoming credentialed at the “Advanced” level. I hope to complete the program by the spring of 2026.
- The playground has been fenced. We have a new playground committee—Carolyn and Greg Kogan, Sara Bavis, Patricia Wheaton, Jon Petters, David Baker, and the Eagans (maybe)
- Teacher recruitment for summer and fall are ongoing. It has been slow. Hoping to have all slots filled by June.
- I will be taking vacation May 23-27. I’ll be in northern Virginia for daughter Emily’s wedding.

Important Dates for RE:

May 12—YRUU Bridging Service	May 19—Teacher appreciation/ice cream social
May 26—no RE	June 2-Aug 4—Summer RE
Aug. 11—No RE	Aug. 18—RE starts for 2024-5 year