

UUC Board Meeting Agenda
February 13, 2025
Location: UUC, Blacksburg, VA

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, recognizing experiences and perspectives from all.

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.

7:00 PM - 7:20 PM

- Chalice Lighting, Reading (Wayne), Check-in
- Review and Accept Agenda

7:20 PM - 7:40 PM

- Member Forum
 - Proposal for a Grounds Manager Position (Susan Baker and Amanda Morgan)

7:40 PM - 7:55 PM

- Approve Consent Agenda
 - **Minister's Report**
 - **Administrator's Report**
 - **Director of Lifespan Faith Development's (DLFD) Report**
 - **Previous Meeting Minutes**

 - **Treasurer's Quarterly Report** (Wayne)

7:55 PM - 8:45 PM

- Old Business
 - Planning for the 2025-2026 Budget (Wayne)
 - Update on 2025-2026 Budget requests.
 - Reminder of the stewardship campaign dates.
 - Anything else related to budget season.
 - Proposal from the Grounds Committee
 - Proposed job description
 - Susan Baker's List of Grounds Tasks
 - Update from the committee for Isabel Berney award
 - Possibilities of grants? (Cassy)
 - Board's Goal: Encourage member engagement.
 - Did we complete our tasks for January to be completed by February 13?
 - (Completed) The Board asked Jenny and ComCom to create an awareness campaign during 2025-2026, with hopes this encourages more volunteering.
 - (Pending) Laura will email the Connections Committee and ask when will be the next volunteer fair.
 - (Completed) Laura will email the committees and ask them what kinds of support they would like. And encourage them to advertise their volunteer needs at the next volunteer fair. See their comments

- What is our next task for encouraging member engagement, to be completed by March 13?
 - Leadership Development Committee meets in March to recruit new board members.
- Update on the Recipients of UUC Helene Relief (Laura)
- Jared Gibbs accepted the promotion in rank.
- Thank you for Dancing Through the Decades (Laura)
 - We brought in \$227 during the event + \$180 through auction.

8:45 PM - 8:55 PM

- New business
 - Need to vote on GA delegates in March so need to get people to apply before then (Rev. Pam)
 - Food Pantry (Chris)
 - New "Message from the Board" - Will Wayne write? Due by February 21 to Jenny.

8:55 PM - 9:00 PM

- Check-out - Did we abide by our covenant?

Upcoming

- Reading for the next meeting?
- **February 21, 2025:** Send new "Message from the Board" to Jenny. This is for the newsletter and website.
- **March 9, 2025:** 2nd Sunday Potluck - let people know you are a Board Member by wearing a "button"
- **March 13, 2025:** UUC Board Meeting will be 7 PM on March 13, 2025, and the reading.
- **May 18, 2025:** The Board will host an "Information Meeting and Q&A about the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget and Slate" on May 18, 2025, immediately following the service in the sanctuary. This session provides an opportunity for congregants to share feedback and ask questions about the proposed budget and slate before the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 1st. The Board will be present to address any inquiries and listen to your input.
- **June 1, 2025:** The UUC will hold its "Annual Congregation Meeting" to vote on our 2025-2026 budget and slate of Board Members. This meeting will be after the service in the sanctuary.

February 2025 Minister's Report to the Board
Submitted by Rev. Pam Philips

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

We explored the theme of Living Love through the Practice of Story in January. Our service on the 12th on the power of story turned into an “all Zoom” one because of icy conditions in the parking lot, and it was wonderful to be able to use some of the hymn videos that Jared and his family created during COVID. People said there was a real sense of community despite not being together physically. We had a service on the story we tell about the U.S. on the eve of the inauguration, and Britton Gildersleeve served as worship associate for the first time – a welcome addition to the team. The month ended with a wonderful service led by Victoria Taylor with stories shared by Brenda Philips, Dick Luke, Carol and Jim Kern, KC Arceneaux, Lisa Evanylo, Jared Gibbs, Amanda Morgan, and George Lally. The response makes it clear that people really enjoy hearing from other congregants. We'll be inviting several congregants to participate in a service about following different faith traditions in addition to Unitarian Universalism. February's theme is Living Love through the Practice of Inclusion.

I officiated at the celebration of the life of Annette Burr on January 18th. Thanks to members of Katherine Allen's Soul Matters small group for greeting and providing refreshments for the reception.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

Many people have been alarmed and depressed in response to the actions of the new administration, on top of other stressors having to do with family transitions and health issues. In addition to offering pastoral care myself, I've referred some people to our Lay Pastoral Care team. This is a time when we can offer support to each other in community.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

We finished up the sessions on New (or not so new) to UU, and one of the participants signed the book the next week. I've been listening to the Common Read – *Authentic Selves*, which has been a good way to learn about ways we can support transgender and nonbinary people and their families.

The Committee on Ministry has been supporting me in taking more time for myself, and I took two study leave days to give myself time for reading and reflection.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

I attended the MLK Service at Asbury Methodist Church on MLK Sunday. I attended the Dialogue on Race Winter Summit, as did several UUC members. I've been contacting our congressman more regularly to let him know about my concerns over the usurpation of Congress's role – allowing the executive branch and the DOGE employees to shut down programs and end funding that Congress had already approved. I've sent emails to my state delegate and senator to support bills in the General Assembly that are supported by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and Virginia Interfaith Power & Light. I've also signed up to be part of the UUSC (UU Service Committee) [Together, We Rise -- Rapid Response Team](#) “a mobilization network ready to take action when civil liberties, democracy, and human rights are at risk. By joining, you'll receive urgent alerts and opportunities to advocate, amplify frontline voices, and pressure policymakers to protect our communities.” I haven't received any alerts yet.

Leads Administration

I met with the Grounds Committee to discuss how to move forward, and they have written a job description for a Grounds Manager for the board to discuss.

I've also met with the Stewardship committee, which has a great campaign planned with the theme **In UU We Trust**. We'll be having a Sunday Service Brunch on March 2nd at which people will be encouraged to submit their pledge. Board members are encouraged not only to attend but to help provide some of the food ([sign up here](#)). Mary Ann Hansen's excellent video appeal for stewards encouraged several new people to sign up, so we have twice as many stewards [20] as last year. I encourage board members to consider acting as stewards – it's a good way to get to know members of our community. Jamie will be leading steward training on February 23rd.

I met with the Connections Committee, who are planning a Newcomers Orientation on April 12th.

Gertrud Montgomery has joined the Committee on Ministries. As noted above, they have been supporting me in taking more time for study leave and vacation so I don't get burned out. I'll be sharing a "Self-Care Calendar" with them.

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

I continue to meet with the Joseph Jordan Cluster of UU Religious Professionals (online during the winter months) and the Blacksburg Ministerial Association. The BMA is tentatively planning a Lenten Series of Wednesday evening simple suppers and short services hosted at different congregations. UUC is slated to host on March 19th, and I would appreciate help organizing volunteers to bring soup and bread for our guests.

I look forward to attending the SEUUMA (Southeast UU Ministers Association) retreat in early April and the UUMA (UU Ministers Association) meeting in June before the UUA General Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland. We should choose delegates from UUC before the March 31st deadline for early bird registration.

Time Off/Away

Study Leave – 3/4 – 3/10

SEUUMA Retreat (The Mountain) – 4/7 - 4/10

Vacation – late May (dates to be determined)

Administrator's Report to the Board February 2025

Contribution Statements for the 2nd quarter and the end of the tax year were prepared and sent. This process always helps misfiles bubble up and get resolved. Extra thanks to Wayne Neu for being available to help track down emails/messages that pre-date my tenure, accessing bank transfers, etc.

Plans for the **Stewardship Pledge Drive** are underway and I have been providing administrative and communications support and will continue to do so throughout the campaign.

I am working on the **Spring Newsletter** and soliciting articles. I have asked for articles to be submitted by mid-February so that I have time for layout.

I am slowly working through the **website** to make some improvements. I installed a new "Event Board" widget so that the calendar is easier to read online. I have archived outdated content, made some copy edits to pages, and re-ordered/re-titled some menu choices for clarity. I also add a "Contact Us" form that people can use: this allows folks to send us messages if they don't have an email client set up on their device. It is a best practice to NOT list email addresses on the website for cybersecurity reasons. If the board would also like a "Contact Us" form on the Board page, please let me know.

I have attended the Stewardship Committee and Connections Committee meetings. I am hoping that Communications Committee will meet soon.

A **volunteer/serving/leadership recruitment campaign** is on my radar. I have some ideas to share with the Communications Committee when we meet.

Questions for the Board
None at this time.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Fairchild
Congregational Administrator

DLFD Report to the Board –February, 2025

Children and Youth Programs:

- **Registration Numbers:** 50 families and 80 children registered for 114 activity positions.
- **Programming:**
 - Spring RE has begun.
 - Teacher training went well.
 - The new Bluey curriculum in the 2-3 grade has been a hit so far.
 - K-1 OWL begins this month
 - MSYG goes bowling this month (snowed out last month)
 - YRUU will be helping with To Our House on Feb. 16, and on Feb. 23 they will be hosting their Pasta Dinner auction item.

Adult and Multigen Programming:

- Buddy project began, with 22 participants.
- Sunday Circle in February (Oh the Humanities) had 16 people in attendance.
- New to UU class finished this month, with 13 participants.
- Adult classes in February include:
 - Date with Death (Feb. 17)
 - 5th Dimension for Adults (Wednesdays at 7pm)
 - The Common Read (Sundays at 3:30pm)
- All ages game night on Feb. 1 had 32 participants! The next game night will be on March 1.

Other DLFD Activites:

- Met with LFD committee and discussed upcoming plans and curriculum choices.
- Learning lots in my UU History class.

Pix from Game Night:



