

**UUC Board Meeting Agenda**  
**April 10, 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 (Joe Cooley), Check-in
- Review and Accept Agenda

**7:20 PM - 7:30 PM**

- Member Forum

**7:30 PM - 7:35 PM**

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

**7:35 PM - 8:15 PM**

- Old Business
  - Update on Letters of Appreciation (Laura)
  - Update on the stewardship campaign and the 2025-2026 Budget (Wayne)
  - Update on the Isabel Berney award (Margo)
  - Board's Goal: Encourage member engagement.
    - Leadership Development Committee
    - Update on Activity Fair
  - Update on accessibility at UUC

**8:15 PM - 8:45 PM**

- New Business
  - Appoint ad hoc committee for Policy & Procedure Section III.B, p. 27 (Laura)
  - Discuss turnaround time on Minutes
  - Joint budget meeting with Finance Committee: May 8 at 6 PM (Laura)
  - Policies and Procedures Manual: Do we need to update Section II.E. and Section II.F ("pianist" and "choir director")? (Laura)

**8:45 PM - 8:50 PM**

- Upcoming:
  - **April 12, 2025:** Newcomers Orientation (Chris Long)
  - **April 27, 2025:** Activity Fair
  - **May 8, 2025:** Joint budget meeting with Finance Committee on May 8, at 6 PM

- **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.
- **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.

*8:55 PM - 9:00 PM*

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

### Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

We explored the theme of Living Love through the Practice of Trust in March. Worship themes included how we trust (using rubrics from Brene Brown and Francis Collins), what we can trust (considering trust in Nature, God/higher power, each other), and becoming trustworthy (especially in terms of being allies). The Breakfast Club performed again, on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to much acclaim, and Mary Louise Hallauer subbed for Jared on one of his few Sunday's off. It was good to have her back. We also hosted a Lenten supper/service as part of an ecumenical series organized by the Blacksburg Ministerial Association, with Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter, assistant minister at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, preaching. Thanks to the many volunteers who set up, served, made soup, bread, and dessert, and cleaned up after. We had nearly 60 people attending.

In April, we're considering Living Love through the Practice of Joy. We had a guest guitarist on the first Sunday, Tomas Haushahn, a masters student at Radford University. We're looking forward to another service in which several congregants share stories and more music from the Breakfast Club. I preached this past Wednesday at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church as part of the Lenten series.

### Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

I visited with several congregants in their homes this month, in addition to several meetings in my office. The actions of the current administration have created anxiety, fear, and anger, which I'm trying to address in our Sunday services as well as in meetings.

### Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

We've had four sessions of the workshop exploring *A House for Hope*, and I've been pleased with the level of discussion and that we have relative newcomers and longtime members participating. We've been recording the sessions so that people who have to miss a session can catch up.

I'll be spending this week at The Mountain for a SEUUMA retreat – where I'll enjoy worshiping and spending time with colleagues.

### Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

I attended a Sing for Justice event at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, representing the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership (on whose board I serve) and participating by reading a poem. It was good to see several UUC folks in attendance and Jane Mahone singing in the choir.

We surveyed congregants during a Sunday service to find out what community organizations they are involved with. Thanks to Jane Mahone, who is collating the information into a digital file so that we can help connect people in the congregation to those groups through other members.

This past week has been a busy one for social justice. Friday Jamie and I attended the Rally for Reproductive Freedom at Henderson Lawn, cosponsored in part by members of Our Bodies Our Choice, the community group which our Reproductive Justice group joined. We attended the Town Hall sponsored by Indivisible NRV. There were over 200 people, and we had to bring in extra chairs for the overflow. Saturday, we participated in the "Hands Off" march and rally in Christiansburg. It was an impressive showing of people – 500 according to the Roanoke Times – and there were many UUC congregants there. Sunday, the Defending Democracies group hosted "Do Something! A Mobilizing Event" that was attended by around 250 people and 20 local activist organizations. It was an amazing number of people and groups, particularly on a weekend that already had so many events. Congratulations to the team, including Jim

Bohland, Sara Dalton, Katherine Allen, Linda Greaver, Jamie McReynolds, and Bob Stimson for creating a powerful afternoon for connecting people with organizations. This event felt like a strong step toward living into our vision statement: “We will join with other organizations and faiths to work for just causes.”

### Leads Administration

I continue to support the stewardship campaign, helping out with videos for the services and keeping track of pledges with Jenny. As of this writing (Sunday evening), we have 159 pledges for \$351,571 -- 88.3% towards our goal. The stewards are contacting those who haven't pledged yet.

I received feedback about the aesthetics in the sanctuary – specifically the rack holding large print hymnals and hearing devices. After discussing it with Denise Martin in her capacity as art committee chair and Lisa Evanylo as greeter chair – we've decided to remove the rack and place the hymnals and hearing devices in the foyer.

The Connections Committee will be having a newcomer's orientation on Saturday morning, April 12<sup>th</sup>. At this point, ten people have let us know they will be attending.

I met with the Leadership Development committee, and we identified possible candidates for the open board positions. Members of the committee are contacting people to ask if they would be willing to serve on the board. I will be creating a survey for congregants to indicate “what brings them joy” to help identify future leaders and match people with groups and committees

I met with the Communications Committee, and we discussed the need for more members. We hope to find people who are interested in different aspects of communications through the survey and Activity Fair set for the last Sunday in April.

Thanks for the kind letters to our staff – who are all wonderful. I will keep them in their files.

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

I'm attending the SEUUMA retreat at the Mountain this week and will be convening our annual meeting on Zoom soon based on the results of the Doodle poll. I registered for UUA General Assembly and UUMA Ministry Days and look forward to meeting with colleagues in Baltimore in June. I'm delighted that we will have a full contingent at GA, including YRUU and UUYA members.

### Time Off/Away

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

Vacation (Savannah, Georgia) – May 15 - 19

## **Administrator's Report to the Board**

### **April 2025**

The **Stewardship Pledge Drive** has required a lot of administrative and communications support from creating the visual assets; deploying a personalized letter campaign; creating and maintaining the pledge cards/online pledge forms; updating spreadsheets and statistics; entering data in our member database; connecting with congregants on questions and comments; and other general administrative tasks. Even with the extra workload, assisting the stewardship committee has been a very positive experience. It's a team with a lot of talent and a whole lot of heart.

The **Communications Committee** met and mostly discussed marketing and awareness-raising tactics. See the Minister's Report for more details.

I created a new **connection card and brochure** to distribute to visitors with the goal of creating assets that are easy to use, as well as informative, invitational, and inspirational.

I am in the process of **renegotiating the contract for our printer/copier**. The proposal we have worked out might actually cost less per month and get us a newer, improved model. I will meet with staff to consider this proposal and process questions and concerns of the new contract.

Our requests for **rentals and room reservations** has increased in the past 2 months. I made some improvements to the application, as well as the landing page on the website. Looking to the future I would like to discuss possible fee increases and also enhance our marketing to the community.

*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 –April, 2025**

### **Children and Youth Programs:**

- **Registration Numbers:** 53 families and 86 children registered for 119 activity positions.
- **Programming:**
  - K-1 OWL finishes next week
  - Lots of positive feedback on the new “Bluey” curriculum from the teachers and parents in the 2-3 class.
  - 4-5 is working on raising funds and gathering supplies for the animals, culminating in our yearly Egg Hunt for the Animals on April 20.
  - MSYG will be going to Shadowlake this month for Game Night
  - YRUU had fun at the Mountain, and is now getting ready for their youth/bridging service which will be on May 4. We have 3 seniors Bridging– Rai Johnson-Nicholson, Ryan Bagchi, and Joe Sapienza.
  - 4 youth and 2 advisors are registered to attend GA in June—Rai, Emery, Lillian and Elliott, with adults Ann Ruple and Robin Cooley
  - Coming of Age has finished writing Credos and will soon be preparing for their service, which will be May 18.

### **Adult and Multigen Programming:**

- Lots of positive feedback about the buddy project, which successfully wrapped up last month.
- Sunday Circle in April, Cybersecurity and Scams, had 8 people in attendance.
- Adult classes in April include:
  - Date with Death (April 21)
  - A House for Hope (March 16-May 5) with Rev Pam
    - Has had good attendance—18 registered and as many as 15 in class
  - Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement—a Workshop from Transforming Hearts Collective--on Saturday, April 26 from 9-12.
- All ages game night on April 5 had 20 participants. The next game night will be on May
- Survey for LGBTQ+ group had 23 people express interest in forming a group. We held 2 planning meetings—one in person and one online. Our first event will be a potluck this Wednesday.

### **Other DLFD Activites:**

- Finished my UU History class and final project where I created “UU of the Month” slides and posters—look for them on bulletin boards and slide announcements in the coming year.
- Worked with the Playground committee at big event—planning to get a shed and electric mower for the playground area next, as well as Pachysandra ground cover for the slope.
- I will be taking Sunday, April 27 off. I will arrange for volunteers to cover the LFD table at the activity fair. I will be visiting Maeve in Harrisonburg, where I will attend the Harrisonburg UU with her in the morning, and then give a workshop on UU History and Spirituality to her college group, the JMUUs, in the afternoon.
- And thanks for the kind letter! #lovemyjob

Pictures: Kogan Family after putting up tree-swing during big event and owls crocheted for K-1 OWL kids



