

UUC Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2026
Location: UUC, Blacksburg, VA

We, the UUC Board, seek informed

collaboration, clarity, and transparency in our work of supporting UUC ministries. We interact with respect, deep listening, and curiosity in ways that build trust. 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, Check-in – Present Cassy Kost, Pam Philips, Rachel Craine, Ashley Dugan, Helen Renqvist, Jennifer Thomas. By zoom: Doug Pfeiffer Casey Akers, René Lowry. Cassy delivered a reading
Doug filled in taking meeting minutes for Angie Burton.
- Review and Accept Agenda – The Board motioned and approved the agenda, it was accepted unanimously, with the topic of the Vanguard account access added to New Business.

7:20 PM - 7:30 PM

- Member Forum
 - [Melaleuca](#) Cleaning Supply Fundraiser – A presentation was made by a member to inform the board of a fund-raising program for non-profits, based on sales of cleaning and other household products.

7:30 PM - 7:35 PM

- Approve Consent Agenda – The consent agenda was motioned to be accepted with a second, and accepted unanimously.
 - [Minister's Report –](#)
 - [Administrator's Report](#) - Discussion over software for newsletter and directory. Jenny and Casey have used the new software, Realm, and reported that it's a big undertaking. The database will need to be cleaned up for directory. The Board will be beta testers for new software.
 - [Director of Lifespan Faith Development's \(DLFD\) Report](#)
 - [Previous Meeting Minutes](#)
 - [Treasurer's Report](#)

7:35 PM - 8:30 PM

- Old Business
 - Discussion to Change Voting By-law (less than 50% & no proxies).
 - The Board discussed change and decided that research is needed on what level of quorum to use (some churches use as low as 10% of membership). 3 changes to be explored: 1) revised quorum, 2) changes to policy on proxies, 3) electronic voting (UUA has material on

e-meetings). The Board discussed the issue with proxies which is that absent members don't get the benefit of discussion, however, if we decrease quorum there is less need for proxies. In the interest of transparency (a point raised by membership in our survey), we can post these bylaw changes? on the Board wallboard. Board members agreed to collectively contribute to research on these three topics before next month's meeting.

- Strategic Plan - [Survey Results](#)
 - Listening Circles - expansion on survey. There was consensus that discussion is needed, and such circles will be useful. For example, many favored double services if we experience growth. We have tried this before, this can be discussed. There are related issues that would arise from double services, eg. AV support, parking. A weekday night or Sunday night service was also proposed in the event of two services needed. We need to devise a plan on how to guide the discussion. Board members are urged to go to the Members area on our web site. On the Left is our [strategic plan](#). We will use the summary of this year's survey to inform discussions. This will be hard to do as a large group. Next time (October board meeting), we will devote time to formulating questions for circles.
- Revisit Board Goals and [Covenant](#) – Members reviewed the current Covenant and our discussion on goals of the board in the August meeting. The Board touched on creating a public presence on controversial topics, recognizing that this would be a part of the Strategic Plan as a goal. This will help guide formulation of a revised Covenant. The three main goals of the Board were decided, as follows:
 - Finalize the Strategic Plan
 - Increase transparency and visibility of the Board
 - Address Voting Bylaws for changes

8:30 PM - 8:40 PM

- New Business
 - Members forum item - This was the earlier presentation on the fund-raising program. The Board discussed.
 - Need Vanguard approval for Ashley's access – The Board briefly discussed the logistical wording and process. Cassy motioned to have Ashley Dugan, in her role as the UUC Board Treasurer, added to act on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the New River Valley on the Vanguard account and to remove Wayne Neu as previous Board Treasurer. This motion was seconded by Jennifer, and passed unanimously by voting members.

8:40 PM - 8:45 PM

- Upcoming meetings or special events
 - November 7th - UUC Auction
 - Newcomers Orientation – Oct 24, 9:30am coffee, followed by a discussion session. We will discuss details in our October Board meeting.

- *New - For more board visibility Pam proposed a board member help open each service by giving the welcome. Jennifer agreed to do the welcome Sunday, September 13th, and Cassy for September 20th. Pam will circulate a list of other dates to sign up for.*

8:45 PM - 8:50 PM

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

8:50 PM

- *Adjournment*