

UUS Board Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Jeff Walberg (President), Sarah Ross (Vice-President), Lucy Gamon (Secretary), Michael Honey-Arcement (Treasurer), Ernie Cox (Trustee), Monique DiCarlo (Trustee), Ian Cawley (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio). Quorum met.

Guests: Bridget Laflin (Ministerial Intern)

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with check-in. Ross provided Opening Words.

Consent Agenda		
Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister’s Report – Oct.• Treasurer’s Report– Oct.• Endowment Committee Minutes—Sept		Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve Oct. 16 Board meeting minutes• Set Board retreat for Sat., Jan 18, 9-3, location TBD. Reserve Jan. 25 as well, in case re-scheduling due to weather is needed.

The Chair reviewed the Consent Agenda items, and hearing no objections, announced that the Consent Agenda has been adopted.

Discuss HOPE for Us—The Board discussed the recent Q and A session “Hope for Us” held with members of the congregation. Walberg updated the Board on contacts he and Rev. Diana have subsequently had with “Hope for Us” personnel. As a next step, “Hope for Us” wants to meet with the Board. At the Board’s direction, Walberg will talk to the leaders of the Right Relations Team and the Shared Ministry Team about being included in future meetings with “Hope for Us,” and he will make the information session recording available to the congregation. Cox will suggest excerpts from the book “Emergent Strategies” to include along with the recording, which will correlate well with our work with “Hope for Us.”

Approve draft 2025 budget for congregational vote—Honey-Arcement presented the draft 2025 budget for the Board’s review. He had previously provided the Board with a video explaining the budget’s new format, which divides the budget into multiple categories, and makes it easier to assign income and expense sources. The Board uniformly approved of this new format. Rev. Diana provided some historical context for the budgeting process.

Motion—Gamon moved to approve the draft 2025 budget to bring to the congregation for a vote. Ross seconded. The Board unanimously approved this motion.

Discuss Ellsworth bequest—Honey-Arcement informed the Board that the Ellsworth bequest has been received and is currently placed in the Facilities Account. Honey-Arcement plans to meet with the church’s investment advisor to obtain suggestions on where to place this bequest money so that it can obtain a higher return, but also remain relatively liquid.

Motion—Ross moved that the Board endorse the creation of a non-endowment investment vehicle, as recommended by our investment advisor, and authorize the deposit of the Ellsworth bequest into this new investment vehicle until a purpose for the funds is determined. DiCarlo seconded. The Board unanimously approved this motion.

Approve Congregational Agenda—Walberg provided the Board with a draft December 2024 congregational meeting agenda. Walberg and Honey-Arcement discussed how they would propose to present the 2025 budget and other issues at the December congregational meeting. The Board discussed and generally approved the proposed messaging. The Board decided to add Ross as a speaker on the agenda to discuss Rev. Diana’s upcoming sabbatical.

Motion—DiCarlo moved to approve the December 2024 congregational meeting agenda, as revised. Ross seconded. The Board unanimously approved this motion.

Discuss next steps with finances and Board role—Walberg led a discussion concerning issues the Board needs to consider regarding church finances. These issues include how to handle the church building mortgage which becomes due in December of 2025. The Board will address these issues in more depth at the upcoming January retreat.

Closing

Cox provided process observer comments. Rev. Diana provided Closing Words. With the agenda completed and no new business from the floor, the chair adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Lucy Gamon, Board Secretary

Email the Secretary at secretary@uusic.org with requests for documents reviewed at the meeting.

Addendum– The Board met by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on December 12, 2024, to discuss preparations for the December congregational meeting.

The Board approved these Minutes on December 18, 2024.