

UUFH BOARD MINUTES

March 17, 2026

Attendees: *Rev. Israel Buffardi, Allyson Barish, Connie Rinaldi, Liza Burby, Laura Otton, Jenna Kern-Rugile, Jim Ammerman, Jon Nielsen, Susan Peters, Melissa Dinsman*

Chalice reading: Israel

Covenant: Read by the Board

Consent Agenda: February minutes – unanimously approved.

General Notes: Rev. Israel will confirm the date of the New Member service in May. On May 12 there will be an extra board meeting to discuss the new budget. The Annual Meeting has been changed to June 7. May 17 might still be a Gratitude Sunday luncheon, followed by a budget forum. Israel to contact Peggy Koulias to confirm her approval to move the Koulias fund money to RE for accessibility projects.

Minister's Report: Israel gave a recap of the RE forum in his report. In reimagining RE, he said some of the ideas center around childcare initiatives, a “messy” service including the children and connections with Social Justice. While options are being explored there is a general feeling that people are being listened to and are happy that we are talking about it. Connie highlighted parents’ concerns about transparency and the need for better communication about what their children are learning so that it can be reinforced at home. Melissa and Allyson discussed the difficulties in engaging older children, particularly those in middle and high school, as they are less involved after the Covid epidemic. Of importance is listening to and addressing the needs of different age groups, including the possibility of implementing Our Whole Lives, and maybe including other groups such as UCC.

The stress the RE committee has been feeling seems to be lessened by the new members joining the committee. Liza mentioned that the priority of hiring a DRE seems to be off the table for now. Connie suggested reimagining the role of a DRE as a part-time community director or outreach coordinator to better integrate RE with other areas of congregational life. We would need to agree on what we would want them to concentrate on, like design curriculum, support families, build community. The cost of \$1,000 - \$1,500 per month would have to be budgeted for an intern. The \$4,000 set aside for a consultant should be tabled for now.

LIAC: Allyson discussed that the LIAC dues \$2,355 that we paid are being directed back to us by LIAC as their programming needs for this year have greatly diminished. They would like us to bolster our presence in the community with these funds. It was suggested that we seek ideas from Social Justice and at our April meeting we will review and vote on what they present. There is a June 1 deadline to report to LIAC.

Chase Bank: The Environmental Justice Team would like UUFH to change our bank as Chase is not considered a socially responsible institution. Allyson presented information about our banking needs and investments. Our investments are not in Chase, and many are in socially responsible funds. She stressed the need to use a full-service bank and is concerned about the complexity of switching banks and of service disruptions, including our payroll. Allyson made a motion to continue with Chase at this time,

Melissa seconded. With one abstention, the motion was voted on and approved. Liza or Allyson will send an email to the Environmental Justice team informing them of our decision.

Budget: Allyson, Israel and Laura will create the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, to present to the board at a special meeting on May 12. Allyson said that for this fiscal year, in spite of the high amount for snow removal being way over budget, other expenses were low.

Tenant: The board addressed an issue with the cottage tenant who has been using three parking spaces instead of the allotted two. Liza made a motion to institute a surcharge of \$100 beginning May 1, 2026 for as long as she is using the third space. This was seconded by Jenna, voted on and approved. Liza will also consult with Vivian Storm about properly updating the lease to be legally compliant. She will meet with Kim Schultze regarding the fair market value of the rental.

The board also addressed parking issues, deciding to implement stricter enforcement of the private parking lot rules and adding signs that unauthorized cars will be towed.

Thank you of the month: The board would like to thank Bridget Zimmer for her dedication to maintaining the candles for Moments of the Heart. Israel doesn't believe going forward that we need to laboriously clean these candles weekly.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Peters