

UUFH BOARD MEETING

May 19, 2026

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

Absent: Jim Ammerman, Jon Nielsen

Lighting of the Chalice (Israel)

Covenant: Read by the Board

Consent Agenda: April Minutes—Unanimously approved.

Minister's Report: (Israel) Israel updated the Board about public speaking engagements, including an invocation at the Huntington Pride flag-raising ceremony and participation in a Northport Methodist Pride service in June.

Stewardship Celebration: The Board discussed organizing a celebration for the successful pledge drive, deciding to have Jennifer speak during a service on May 31st rather than at the congregational meeting, including an ice cream social afterwards as a celebration. The Board discussed the cancellation of the planned stewardship celebration due to logistical challenges with rental schedules and choir performances.

Annual Congregational Meeting June 7: The board agreed to serve pizza for the annual congregational meeting and decided to analyze the process breakdown that occurred with the pledge drive celebration planning. The board discussed revisions to the bylaws, specifically addressing the use of the word "legal" in relation to endowment funds, with Susan suggesting the term "accepted practice" would be more appropriate. Laura agreed to send an email to the relevant committee members to finalize the wording by the end of the week. The discussion concluded with a reminder to review documents, including bylaw revisions, before the upcoming annual meeting.

Committee Chair Replacements – The Board discussed committee chair rotations, noting that Danielle would be rotating off Social Justice and had requested co-chairs, though none were willing to serve. The Board explored potential solutions, including having a board liaison or implementing a 3-year rotation system for chairs, though no final decisions were made during the meeting. The Board discussed recruiting volunteers for various roles, particularly focusing on replacing Jason, who handles Building and Grounds responsibilities and Valerie Scopaz for Landscaping. They identified potential candidates for the sound room, including Sam (new member), Bill Pavone, and Lee Kurfist, with Debbie agreeing to follow up with these individuals.

Membership and Employment: The Board agreed that the existing personnel policy was clear enough that we could not hire members.

Property and Security Issues Discussion: The Board discussed several property and security issues. They addressed concerns about teenagers using pallets to create a dangerous skateboarding ramp, with plans to cover the pallets with tarps and add signage. Allyson reported working on insurance policy updates,

noting that the current Church Mutual policy expired July 1st and they are waiting for new information about pricing from the company. The application for UUA Insurance is in progress.

Annual Report and Communication Strategy: Liza discussed writing a board letter for the annual report, including information about what happens in the second year of Israel's contract with UUFH as some congregation members are confused about the process. Also, the Board and Israel agreed to improve calendar planning for next year to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Thank you for the Month: (Liza) – The Board also addressed the need to recognize stewardship team members.

BOT Meetings for 2026: 6/16/26 (in person at Liza's)

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Hocevar