

UUFH BOARD MEETING

July 21, 2026

Attendees: Jim Ammerman, Liza Burby, Susan Peters, Allyson Barish, Jon Nielsen, Valerie Scopaz, Karen Finkenberg, Ann Scolnick

Absent: Rev. Israel Buffardi, Melissa Dinsman

Lighting of the Chalice (Jim)

Covenant: Read by the Board

Consent Agenda: June Minutes - Unanimously approved. Realm Connect Charter – Unanimously approved.

Retreat Planning: The Board discussed and finalized dates for an upcoming retreat, settling on Friday evening October 23rd and Saturday October 24th. Jim will advise Sandra.

Rev Israel's Summer Schedule: Study leave: July 7 to August 3, Available: August 4-16. Remaining vacation: August 17-31. Return: September 1. While on leave and vacation, he is reachable for pastoral and administrative emergencies. Please route through Sandra, Jim Ammerman or the Pastoral Care committee.

Committee Chairs: The Board focused on addressing challenges with replacing committee chairs, particularly for important committees like buildings and grounds. Jennifer Edwards will replace Danielle for Social Justice, but Jason and Valerie need replacements. Jen Hildreth needs replacement as well as team members for Sound Room.

Building and Grounds: Liza and Susan discussed potential solutions and breaking down Buildings and Grounds into smaller teams. Valerie will send out draft talking points for discussing with the future building management team. Valerie will also speak to Jackie Agdern to organize the Greeter schedule on Google docs. The existing "UUFH Owner's Manual" needs to be digitized. Margaret Thompson has offered to help with these types of tasks. The Board also addressed tenant repairs, deciding Sandra would be the point person.

Pledge status update: Allyson will send targeted reminders to the 20 or so individuals who have not completed their pledge payments for the past fiscal year.

HIHI Update: The Board discussed the Social Justice Committee concerns about the HiHi (Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative) program, which is facing a severe financial crisis, with funds decreasing from \$100,000 to \$10,000. The program, which typically provides housing and meals to approximately 35 homeless men during winter months, is now struggling to even fund transportation. Liza noted that some participating churches are considering withdrawing due to concerns about helping immigrants, particularly given recent ICE raids that resulted in 15 deportations. The committee agreed to wait for Israel's return to get more information and potentially involve Steve from the Immigration Justice Committee to address the situation.

Other: John, Susan and Ann will form an ad hoc committee to research and purchase new folding chairs for the social hall, with a budget of \$5,000, and report back to the Board at the August meeting.

Thank you of the month: The Board discussed planning a July thank you recognition for Jennifer Hildreth. Liza will compile a list of people thanked last year.

Next BOT meeting is 8/18/26 on Zoom.

BOT Meetings for 2026: 8/18/26, 9/15/26, 10/20/26, 11/17/26, 12/15/26

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Hocevar