UUFH BOARD MEETING

October 20, 2026

Attendees: Jim Ammerman, Liza Burby, Susan Peters, Jon Nielsen, Valerie Scopaz, Karen Finkenberg, Ann Scolnick, Melissa Dinsman, Rev. Israel Buffardi

Absent: Allyson Barish

Lighting of the Chalice (Jim)

Covenant: Read by the Board

Consent Agenda: September Minutes and Updated Communications Policy – Unanimously approved

Minister's Report: Israel reported that website updates have begun, including cleaning up content and adding new photos, with further work planned with a design consultant. The board agreed to have Liza join Israel in the website redesign process. Israel also announced that the choir will participate in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 22nd at Hindu Temple in Melville, and mentioned a Transgender Day of Remembrance event scheduled for November 20th at the county building.

Board Retreat: Friday, October 24 at 6 pm will be a potluck. Israel requested that Board members bring an item for "show and tell" that represents a super power that you bring to the Board. Saturday, October 25 from 9am to 3:30pm. Jim will bring bagels and order pizza for lunch. The Board discussed the agenda items.

Main Hall HVAC: Liza reported that the HVAC system will be repaired for approx. $3500. And the parts are currently on order and should be in this week. Jason is currently getting estimates for sustainable HVAC system (heat pump) to replace the main hall HVAC.

Security Grant: A security grant opportunity requiring attendance at an all-day meeting in Brooklyn on November 18th, with up to two representatives needed from our organization, needs to register by Nov 10. The Board debated who should attend, considering both Sandra's role in ongoing projects and the need for someone with construction/engineering experience, ultimately deciding that Bryce would follow up with more details about the meeting requirements before making a final decision about attendance.

Policy Manual: The Board discussed reviewing and updating their policy manual, with Liza explaining that members should review the document and address any questions or comments in the margin. For blue-highlighted items that need quick answers, board members were asked to provide responses directly in the comments section if possible, or note who should answer them. The red-highlighted items require more significant revisions, particularly around finance matters that Allison's committee will handle, and some items may need to be added to future meeting agendas throughout the year.

Chair purchase (Jon): Chairs and tables have arrived and need to be stenciled with UUFH.

HiHi: Melissa reported that the Family Service League was unsure about starting the program this year, as it typically begins in early December but might start later due to uncertainty about timing.

Pledge Requests: The Board discussed the process for requesting pledges from new members, noting that while information about pledging is provided to newcomers, there is no immediate pressure to

pledge at the time of membership signing. The Board agreed that a clear policy is needed regarding when and how to follow up on pledges, with Susan suggesting timing should depend on when members sign and when pledge drives occur. Liza and Jan Brenner will contact previous stewardship campaign volunteers once Jan begins as stewardship chair on November 1st to plan the upcoming pledge drive.

Next Board Meeting: 11/17/2026 on Zoom

BOT Meetings for 2026: 12/15/26

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Hocevar