

# GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

April 10th, 2024 || 6:30 p.m.

Chair: Natalie Buhl  
Vice Chair: Annette Dreier  
Past Chair: Kimberly Brumm  
Secretary: Nicole Bickham

Senior Treasurer: Ramona Makos  
Co-Treasurer: Roz Barker  
Member At Large: Carl Bennett  
Member At Large: Ron Ropson

We promise to:

- Show up with our best selves, intent on listening with openness and willingness to the voices in the room and those that are not.
- Speak with an authentic voice, grounded in our lived experience, mindful of differing cultural interpretations and realities that are present.
- Honor our duty to do the work of the board and to place anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multicultural accountability at the center of that work.
- Recognize that each of us is fully human, with hurts and vulnerability, and the need to laugh and sing.

*Adopted December 2019 by GBAUUF board of trustees*

*Items in italics were action items from last month:*

- I. Chalice Lighting
  - A. Attendance: Ramona, Carl, Natalie, Rev Jim, Nicole, Ron, Roz, Annette, Kim
- II. Check-In
- III. Open forum and welcome to guests
  - A. Guest(s): Francesca, Michael
- IV. Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes
    1. Motion made by Ramona to accept the March minutes, Carl seconded.
- V. Minister's Report; see [Minister's Report](#)
  - A. Roz asked about "graduation" for teens. Coming of Age process has a ceremony, but we haven't done that. Bridging ceremony is for when they transition to college, work, etc.
- VI. Discussion Agenda
  - A. Stewardship Team - see [Budget vs Actual](#)
    1. Bank balances as of March 31:

a. Checking	\$18,149.15
b. Reserve Fund	\$24,135.91
c. CD	\$10,000.00 matures 5/20/24 rate: 4.981%
d. Scrip	\$ 615.27
e. Building Loan	\$174,787.60 rate:4.45%

2. 86% of members have pledged now; > \$66k pledged so far.
  3. No quotes yet on parking lot. About \$5000 has been pledged for parking lot, \$1200 donated.
  4. We have been paying JOSHUA later than they invoice us. If we pay spring 2024 invoice now, we'll be over budget and would need approval. Carl: from past involvement, recommend continuing to pay on same schedule as in past. Agreed we'll pay it in July so it goes on next yr's budget.
  5. More people buying SCRIP with the Raise Right app, following Katina's presentation.
- B. Membership Team - see [Attendance Report](#)
1. Natalie met with Mary to show her how to put attendance data into Google Drive. She plans to do that monthly.
  2. *Did Annette try inputting attendance data to Breeze to see how much time it takes? Not yet. [revisit next time]*
- C. Programming Team - see [Sunday Services Team Report](#)
1. Natalie will write up a definition of SCRIP for announcements during Fellowship time.
- D. Religious Enrichment Team - no report.
- E. Social Justice Team - see [Social Justice Committee Report](#)
1. Ramona: Requested printing funds have been added to next yr's budget.
- F. Building/Facilities Team - See [Facilities Report](#)
1. Ron found out if there's a power outage, all BUSes go to mute, and you can't tell easily. Ron added instructions for handling this in the tech binder.
  2. Ron removed a bunch of things that weren't working in the video electronics, which simplified the setup. We could collect e-waste and save it for donation. Michael: They actually belong to Joe Eckberg, so we should let him know before recycling. Ron will contact Joe to ask.

## VII. Old Business

- A. Did Francesca add that Open Circle Zoom link to Connect for a month or 2 and if so, how did it go? No, because it hasn't been applicable yet. Added to calendar & website, and next week it will show up in the Connect. How will we get feedback? Rev Jim will look at his screenshots of Zoom attendance to see if GB folks attend Open Circle's service and give to Francesca.
- B. [Quote on the soffit & fascia work](#).
1. Ron: ideally we'd address within 1-2 yrs. It looks bad, paint is falling off, there's rust, etc.
  2. Carl will ask what material they will use for the fascia, and whether it includes replacing rotten rafters.
- C. Roz started inputting Openers & Closers into the Breeze volunteer sign-up system for about 2 months. Breeze generates email reminders, which volunteers must confirm. The coordinator then knows who is confirmed. Roz hasn't heard feedback yet, nor has Michael.

1. Roz will input next couple months.
  2. Michael would prefer to keep using the old system for mowing.
- D. Natalie wrote up announcement for the Connect to see if we can get 1-2 people willing to join the Clean Team. One person has already started cleaning.
- E. Nicole looked into accuracy of our land acknowledgement.
1. There is pretty compelling documentation that the Ho-Chunk were also (in addition to Menominee) original inhabitants of the area where the fellowship is located.
  2. "First Nations" is the preferred term now (vs "Native American Nations").
  3. Nicole found some useful resources from Native led organizations like Speak Out & the Native Governance Center. Two other recommendations we may want to consider are (1) explicitly acknowledging that First Nations were dispossessed of their land; and (2) identifying concrete ways we plan to support Indigenous communities into the future.
  4. Francesca did some research as well, esp regarding next steps. What if we invite some Native people to speak on 5th Sundays? Those speakers are paid. Natalie: we only have 3 Fifth Sundays in upcoming year, and we have those set aside for JOSHUA. Rev Jim: we could incorporate speakers around Indigenous People's Day & Thanksgiving. We do also have building space to offer, which might be more relevant at other locations. May: Murdered Indigenous Women's awareness.
  5. Nicole: we may want to do more to educate ourselves about allyship. Rev Jim: Jan/Feb is a good time for that kind of programming. We talked about possibility of a yearlong theme/project.
  6. Nicole will work on a draft incorporating these changes (1,2 above, as well as dispossession).

#### VIII. New Business

- A. UUA's Annual Program Fund. Their request was for \$3777. In past we have pledged \$1000. We all agreed to do that again and then consider increasing it in the future.
- B. 2024-25 Budget and Shortfall. The letter that went out stated a shortfall of \$14k, but we didn't have all the pledges in yet. Since sending the letter, we received more in pledges but also discovered a few more expenses. Based on our best info at this time, we project a \$10k shortfall.
  1. If missing pledges give what they gave last year, this will be reduced to \$4-5k. We can use reserve funds to cover that. But we can't do that every year.
  2. We should also keep in mind some pledges aren't fully honored.
  3. Ramona will present updated numbers and explanation of shortfall on Sunday, during fellowship, before announcements. Natalie will introduce her.
  4. Kim: We could collect donations via PayPal, at no cost. Kim will send link to Ramona & Roz.
  5. We can also consider other kinds of fundraisers. Rev Jim: what's your

history of fundraisers? We used to do a Bunco fundraiser in conjunction with a silent auction. It was fun. We also had a service auction at Comanche, with members offering services like making dinner for people, cleaning, etc. Kim: long history of service auctions among UUs. Open Circle had a dessert bidding event that raised \$2000. Can include friends in addition to members. Another fellowship had a cabaret night.

- C. Francesca: Unity Bus looking for place to park. Francesca plans to email him with the usual conditions.
  - D. Carl: I have the seeds for a 3 Sister's Garden, but don't have the capacity to take care of it. Green Team doesn't have a plan yet for the grounds
  - E. Annette: Is it ok for me to let the consortium know we'll continue to be part of it next year? Yes.
- IX. Review Action Items - see above, highlighted in orange
  - X. Check Out
  - XI. Adjourned at 8:02pm.