

GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

January 8th, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Chair: Annette Dreier
Vice Chair: (open)
Past Chair: Natalie Buhl
Secretary: Nicole Bickham

Co-Treasurer: Ramona Makos
Co-Treasurer: Roz Barker
Member At Large: Ron Ropson
Member At Large: Melissa Rink

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: Rev. Jim, Annette Dreier, Ramona Makos, Melissa Rink, Ron Ropson, Nicole Bickham, Roz Barker, Natalie Buhl
- II. Check-In
- III. Open forum and welcome to guests
 - A. Guest(s): Francesca P, Michael P
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 1. Motion made by Natalie to accept the Dec minutes, Ron seconded.
- V. [Minister's Report](#)
- VI. Discussion Agenda
 - A. Stewardship Team - see [Financial Report](#)
 1. Bank Balances
 - a) Checking Account \$25,016.27
 - b) Scrip Checking \$792.74
 - c) Money Market \$16,981.41
 - d) CD's \$20,541.24
 - e) Total Cash \$63,331.66
 - f) Commercial Loan \$167,202.60
 2. Notes re: Dec budget. Donations look high because some people contributed 2025 pledges at end of year. Plowing expenses were high.
 3. Ramona wants to see if we can get a break on utilities by submitting our state tax exempt number.

4. Fellowship credit cards were held in past by 2 people (Karen & Sam), but we no longer use those cards, plan to cancel or not renew.
 5. We're exploring setting up Venmo for donations & building rentals; to do so we need a PayPal account. Ramona has set up PayPal, is waiting for it to be connected to our bank account. Charitable orgs pay lower fees than businesses.
 6. Any way we can benefit from the NFL draft? Let Finance team know if we have ideas.
- B. Membership Team - see [Attendance Report](#)
1. Re: Being more welcoming. (We talked in Nov/Dec about ways to simplify attendance taking while also welcoming visitors.)
 - a) Annette placed notice in Connect about seeking a Membership team. Candy would like to be involved.
 - b) Annette also reached out to membership person at Open Circle (Lisette) to get some ideas.
 - c) Greeters haven't taken a head count last 2 Sundays. **Francesca will send procedures to Annette, who will type up a note to stay at the Welcome table to guide greeters in the process.**
 - d) *Full board: revisit how the new attendance system is going and whether we can generate a list of repeat visitors for Rev Jim to contact.*
- C. Programming Team - see [Sunday Services Team Report](#)
1. Candy recruited Steve K & Jim B to join the SS team. **Natalie will contact them.**
- D. Religious Enrichment Team - no report.
1. Annette gave a thank you card for the new teacher.
- E. Social Justice Team - see [Social Justice Team Report](#)
- F. Building/Facilities Team - [Facilities Report](#)
1. *Michael: update on getting keys for the riot bars? Rather than make keys for the current tumbler, the locksmith would like to replace the whole tumbler for about \$200. We may be able to save \$ by doing it ourselves, then just having him make keys. **Michael & Ron will see if they can do that.***
 2. Notes from Dec's meeting about the A/C removal quotes:
 - a) Ron clarified: Robinson quote DOES include removing the condensing units.
 - b) 3rd quote never received.
 - c) We would gain more space in the kitchen. Could put in a range. Ron says he could do the wiring for a range.
 - d) We discussed advantages of having a range for potlucks, rental groups.
 - e) Not in our current budget. Tabled till about April, then **Ramona will project out expenses and see how this would affect our budget.**

3. The heating is not working very efficiently. Takes a long time to heat the space. On Sundays for example the heat comes on 6 hrs before the service and it's still not up to temperature. It used to be able to keep up. System has already been serviced for the heating season. **Michael will change the thermostat program so it starts warming up earlier.** If that takes care of it for now, we'll have the service company look at it when they come back for the A/C.
4. In spring 2025 board will revisit service agreement for HVAC systems and consider paying for 1 inspection per year instead of renewing the contract.

VII. Old Business

- A. First Nations allyship series for 2025
 1. No updates. David & Nicole looking at Feb/March dates.
- B. Child care
 1. Annette completed staff reviews.
- C. Francesca ran notice in Connect that we are looking for a vice-chair.
 1. Also Annette gave a thank you card to Nancy.
- D. *Ron sorted through book donations, pulled out some that don't seem appropriate, a couple duplicates. They have been set aside for now.*
 1. **Ramona will look through them to make sure there aren't any more we want to keep.**
 2. **Roz will label library shelves with new categories.**
 3. **Ron & Roz will add labels so borrowers can keep track of where they came from.**
 4. **There are some personal journals of a former member. Ron will ask Janice & Mary W if they want them.**
- E. UU 101: Francesca & Margaret gave materials to Nicole. It appears the class was last offered in Dec 2019. Nicole has skimmed through the New UU materials and made a preliminary list of things that will need updating. Questions for the Board:
 1. Suggestions for a co-facilitator who has been in the fellowship longer?
 - a) Mary W might be interested.
 2. The outline refers to a video about the history of UUism. Do we have this on DVD, or does anyone know what video was used?
 - a) Mary might also know about this.
 3. Have we ever made a video recording of founding/early members talking about the founding of the fellowship? Any suggestions for who should be interviewed? And for someone who could film & edit this?
 - a) **Nicole will approach some teens about whether they'd be willing to film.**
 - b) Francesca can edit the video. Natalie can be a back-up.

VIII. New Business

- A. Next thrift sale. Natalie & Annette will talk about it and look at dates for spring or summer.
 - B. Mankind Project wants to rent the building for Sat, Feb 8th all day in place of usual retreat site. Francesca offered it to them for \$350, which is 50% off. That price is agreeable.
 - C. Lifetime memberships: Annette got feedback that if offered to some very early members (Carolyn & Laverne), could offend others. Annette & Ramona will deliver these privately.
 - D. Theme for next canvas is Nurturing our Vision.
- IX. Review Action Items - see above, highlighted in orange
 - X. Check Out
 - XI. Adjourned at 7:41pm. (Nicole, Natalie).