

GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

February 12th, 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 (via phone), Ron Ropson, Nicole Bickham (via phone), Natalie Buhl, Roz Barker
- II. Check-In
- III. Open forum and welcome to guests
 - A. Guest(s): Francesca P, Michael P, Tim West, Jeri F
 1. Michael conveys gratitude from the men's group for use of the facility for their retreat
 2. Jeri: a grassroots group has formed in GB calling themselves Resist Green Bay, to support LGBTQ, neurodivergent ppl, minorities etc during this time. Some fellowship members are in the group, others interested. Looking for a place to meet. The group has no budget but hosting could be a benefit to the fellowship. Requesting free use of space.
 - a) Frequency? Not defined yet. At most once a week.
 - b) Contact person for opening/closing? Probably me (Jerri). Annette: we need a GBAUUF member present.
 - c) The group has a Facebook page.
 - d) There was some discussion on whether group activity (eg, FB posts) reflect on us.
 - e) The group could pass a hat for donations. Other suggestions: no rallies here, just planning meetings; pass along our concerns about language/name-calling on the FB group; we have a rental agreement they'd need to sign.

- f) Francesca will generate a rental agreement for Resist Green Bay.
 - B. Francesca requests someone to write board message for March. Annette volunteers.
 - IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 - 1. Motion made by Natalie to accept the Jan minutes, Annette seconded.
 - V. **Minister's Report**
 - VI. Discussion Agenda
 - A. Stewardship Team - see **Financial Report**
 - 1. Bank Balances
 - a) Checking: \$21,955.97
 - b) Reserve Funds: \$38,103.87
 - c) Building Loan: 165,500.15
 - B. Membership Team - see **Attendance Report**
 - 1. Annette placed notice in Connect about seeking a Membership team. Candy would like to be involved. Other updates? Sydney and Katie also interested.
 - a) Annette will email these 3 about setting up a time to meet.
 - 2. Annette contacted membership person at Open Circle (Lisette) to learn what they do. Annette has not heard back.
 - 3. Did Francesca send procedures to Annette about taking attendance? Did Annette type up a note to stay at the Welcome table to guide greeters in the process? Yes.
 - a) Francesca: head count is being done only about half the time.
 - b) We'd like the greeters to offer hymnals. Teens sometimes need reminder to stay off phones.
 - c) Francesca: Mary used to keep track of names of who attended. Without that, we don't know which guests are coming back (if they only sign in the first time). Annette: our new Membership Team can be asked to develop a system for that.
 - 4. *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. Did Natalie contact them? Yes.
 - 2. Natalie: we are looking for a speaker on April 20.
 - 3. Might make April 28 a virtual service b/c of NFL draft.
 - D. Religious Enrichment Team - no report
 - E. Social Justice Team - see **Social Justice Team Report**
 - F. Building/Facilities Team - no (separate) report
 - 1. Michael provided his iPad for the mixer remote control.
 - 2. Ron moved the speakers from the front to the back for less feedback in the front and better sound in the back. Have already tested and it sounds good.

3. *We may be able to save \$ by replacing the riot bar lock tumblers ourselves (so we can lock the door once service has started), then having new keys made. Did Michael & Ron look into doing that?*
4. Kitchen A/C removal: Tabled decision until April, then **Ramona will project out expenses and see how this would affect our budget.**
5. Michael: how is it working to have the building heat come on earlier? It is working well, so we'll just have the service company look at it when they come back for the A/C. Ron also did an analysis and it confirms the furnace is working as expected and has proper capacity. We are losing a lot of heat in the basement ductwork and vents.
 - a) Would having ceiling fans help? Yes, it's probably 5 degrees warmer up there.
 - b) Would we use less energy if we didn't let it get quite so cold? No, it would use more.
 - c) Insulating the ductwork would pay for itself in a few yrs. We CAN do that within our budget. Ron willing to do with a couple volunteers.
 - (1) **Ron will get an announcement to Francesca to recruit volunteers for ductwork insulation.**
 - (2) **Annette will order scrip cards for Menards.**
6. 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. David & Nicole started looking into a more recent program, based on the work of the Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures collective. We're not sure yet if it's a good fit and will continue to explore.
- B. Library
 1. Did Ramona look through books to make sure there aren't any more we want to keep? Yes.
 2. *Did Roz label library shelves with new categories? No. Roz doesn't feel qualified to choose categories and sort them. Michael will ask Mark Goldstein to suggest categories for library.*
 3. *Did Ron & Roz add labels to the books?*
 4. Did Ron ask Janice & Mary W if they want personal journals of former member? Ron emailed them, and they responded but didn't commit to an action. The items are currently in basement storage. **Ron will put plaques from library into storage.**
- C. UU 101:
 1. Margaret Krings willing to collaborate with Nicole on a re-launch, but has very limited availability this spring. **Nicole will connect w Margaret in late summer to plan for fall.**

2. Coincidentally, Soul Matters recently launched a new, experiential group curriculum called Starting Point, a 4-session orientation program for both newcomers and “longtimers.” Nicole viewed the 70-min overview presented by Scott Tayler though has not seen the curriculum itself. Will share more about this in future given how much new business we have tonight.
 - a) Rev Jim suggests the 2-session version might be better for us, based on feedback from another small congregation.

D. Next thrift sale: Did Natalie & Annette choose date(s)? Mar 29

E. Lifetime memberships: Did Annette & Ramona deliver these? Yes.

VIII. New Business

- A. Annette: Rev Jim has accepted a half-time position with Waukesha, and will work half-time for Open Circle. As far as we know now, there will be no Consortium. We'd like to develop a team to clarify what our goals are. Annette would like to have some board members, and also put out invitation to members at the Town Hall meeting.
 1. Roz, Annette, Natalie, Tim, Nicole, Ramona interested.
 2. Jim: when it became clear Stevens Pt was leaving consortium, we reached out to other congregations but couldn't find one to replace them. He wants us to know this move has nothing to do with us. Jim did also ask Open Circle about expanding the consortium and bringing in an intern.
 3. Francesca will send Jim's notice and Annette's message out to members.
- B. Ramona: Can 2-3 board members act as the interim membership committee to get newly interested people signed up as members? I'm thinking of the LaPlant family that is interested for some time but hasn't been approached to sign the book yet. (Not discussed.)
- C. June 1st chosen for the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting.
- D. Staffing issue. Tabled for now.
- E. Francesca raised a question about NFL Draft parking check-in. They are to check in with campground host.
- F. Tim West has volunteered for Vice Chair. Thanks, Tim!

IX. Review Action Items - see above, highlighted in orange

X. Check Out

XI. Adjourned at 8:04pm. (Roz, Ron).