

GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

April 9th, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Chair: Annette Dreier
Vice Chair: Tim West
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, Natalie Buhl, Tim West, Roz Barker
- 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 March minutes, Nicole seconded.
- V. [Minister's Report](#)
- VI. Discussion Agenda
 - A. Stewardship Team - see [Financial Report](#)
 1. Bank Balances as of March 31 are as follows:
 - a) Checking: \$18,905
 - b) Reserve Funds: \$38,259
 - c) Commercial loan: \$164,583
 2. Misc income is the \$500 grant from Wild Ones.
 3. Rummage sale made almost \$870.
 4. SCRIP to date is almost \$2000!
 5. Ramona was able to cancel the credit cards that were not being used.
 6. WPS has stopped charging us taxes, after we filed for tax-exempt status.
 7. Natalie and others starting to plan a plant sale.
 - B. Membership Team - see [Attendance Report](#)

1. Annette met with the new Membership team again. We'd like them to submit reports to the board. Francesca is willing to help them. Annette willing to join the team when she's done with Chair position.
 2. Francesca is in the process of adding date of membership from the membership book to Breeze.
- C. Programming Team - see [Sunday Services Team Report](#)
1. Natalie reached out to Carrie Arnold. She's happy to speak once a month.
 2. Open Circle is also willing to have us Zoom in once a month when Jim is there.
 3. Annette & Donna met with Fox Valley UU as part of post-Consortium planning.
- D. Religious Enrichment Team - no report
- E. Social Justice Team - see [Social Justice Team Report](#)
- F. Building/Facilities Team
1. Ron re-attached a baseboard by the kitchen area that had come loose.
 2. Ron repaired an outlet that had broken.
 3. Ron bought some gaffers tape to re-tape cords to the rugs and will be doing that soon.
 4. Michael started working on the front door panic bar after Feb board meeting. *Current status of project?*
 5. Revisiting service agreement for HVAC systems: Currently the A/C and heat each get inspected and tuned up once per year per \$555 contract. Contract doesn't include parts if any are needed.
 - a) We planned to consider paying for 1 inspection per year instead of renewing the contract, or having them inspected every 2 years. Ron has the expertise to inspect them as well.
 - b) We'd like to have the A/C inspected this year b/c we've had some problems with it recently. That likely was already been paid for (Aug 2024).
 - c) Michael will ask what the cost would be to do it every other year, and whether there is a no-weekend charge included in the contract.
 6. Kitchen A/C removal: Ramona projected out expenses to see how this would affect our budget and figures we will have a surplus of about \$1600, not including plant sale income. Annette moves that we hire Robinson to do the work previously quoted. Ron seconds. Board voted to proceed, no one opposed. *Ron will contact them to schedule it.*
 7. During planning meeting we talked about a few improvements to the interior:
 - a) Covering window between back of sanctuary and stairwell with paneling so we can hang a bulletin board. Keith & Ron willing to do the installation. Ideally it would match the other paneling in the back of the sanctuary. *Ron will look into what kind of wood we can get and estimate cost.*

- b) Bookcases under the window to the child care room, once the couch has been removed, to hold the things that are currently on the table? We might be better off adding seats there. Sign-up sheets could be mounted vertically. We'll hold off on shelving for now.
- c) We have a few hundred budgeted for facilities, plus extra fundraising money.
- 8. Ron & Michael will change the outdoor lights in the ATM area to stay on all night.

VII. Old Business

- A. End of Consortium: Planning committee had 1st meeting on March 19th. Next meeting April 21 at 6:30.
 - 1. See notes from Sunday Services Team above.
 - 2. Fox Valley is interested in helping with our RE program, speakers, etc.
- B. Library improvements
 - 1. Ron will bring his labelmaker and Roz will labels to the bookshelves.
- C. UU 101 update: Nicole and Margaret will meet in late summer to plan re-launch in fall.
- D. Ramona followed through on staffing compensation item. Hasn't heard back.
 - Updates?
- E. Roz talked with Celestine Jeffries about being a voting location. They would like to look at the building in person in May to consider it for 2026.
 - 1. Did Roz forward info about becoming a poll site to Annette? Yes.
 - 2. Did Annette arrange to meet them here? It is scheduled.
- F. Natalie updated Breeze to make Annette the account owner and give board access to Tim.
- G. Prioritizing strategic planning goals. We are missing some details such as how many people hours projects take.
 - 1. Annette will ask Katie & Sydney to work with her on the Membership portion of the document.
 - 2. Community Connections: Francesca has already increased social media posting. She could use more feedback about what she's doing.
 - a) Could we repost videos from the UUA?
 - b) More photos could be helpful. We could encourage members to send photos to Francesca.
 - c) We could recommend members follow/like our posts so they get seen more.
 - d) Natalie will fill out more of this section.
 - 3. Ramona will work on the Volunteer Engagement section.
- H. Update on couch (sold at rummage sale) from Francesca: the people who bought it haven't followed through yet.

VIII. New Business

- A. Roz: Make library meeting room “food & beverage free zone”? Recently it was quite messy. Currently only cleaned once a week. Teens use it a lot. We could ask them to clean up after themselves, leave cleaning supplies in there, maybe create a sign. Natalie added paper towels.
- B. Roz: Revamp our website to new, cleaner look
 - 1. Examples: [Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship](#)
 - 2. [Home | Habitat Communication & Culture](#)
 - 3. [UUCC – Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia](#)
 - 4. Francesca would like feedback, can make changes.
 - 5. Tim: do we run analytics? Not currently, might be able to.
 - 6. Francesca would like a panoramic photo for our Facebook page.
 - 7. Roz will let Francesca know who volunteered to help with marketing.
- C. Natalie: discuss people for open board positions next year. We’ll need a Vice Chair, Member at Large. Ron has volunteered to be treasurer.
 - 1. Tim will ask Jim Bray if he’d be willing to be Vice Chair. If not, perhaps he would be Member at Large.
- D. Francesca: removing the old keys from the bottom drawer of the desk in the vault. Francesca & Michael will work on this.
- E. Recently one of the kids locked the child care room door. We’d like to replace that so it can’t be locked from inside. Ron will do this.
- F. Should we give out the wifi password to people outside the fellowship? No.
- IX. Review Action Items - see above, highlighted in orange
- X. Check Out
- XI. Adjourned at 8:09 pm (Ron, Tim).