

GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

May 14th, 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 Ron to accept the April minutes, Natalie seconded.
- V. [Minister's Report](#)
- VI. Discussion Agenda
 - A. Stewardship Team - see [Financial Report](#)
 1. Bank Balances as of May 8 are as follows:
 - a) Checking: \$13,852
 - b) Reserve Funds: \$38,341
 - c) Commercial loan: \$162,840
 2. Note: We've earned over \$800 in interest on the CD's in the Reserve Funds since November 2023. Another one ends in a week and we'll roll it over for 6 mos.
 3. Ramona no longer plans to use Venmo (eg, for receiving rent) as it requires using her personal information.
 4. RV camping: about \$450 total; some of the revenue came in right away, and some was held, so doesn't show up on this statement.

5. We donated all of our Chico bags & many mesh bags to RE for summer activity bags.
6. Canvas did well. Close to \$74k pledged.
- B. Membership Team - see [Attendance Report](#)
- C. Programming Team - see [Sunday Services Team Report](#)
 1. Openings currently in July & Aug but have some leads.
 2. Pianist Brad found will play first time on June 22nd.
 3. Annette: We've suggested to musicians that they can play if they want to, solos or duets they prepare, for the prelude, meditation and offering, to minimize need for group coordination, at least before new pianist starts.
- D. Religious Enrichment Team - no report
- E. Social Justice Team - see [Social Justice Team Report](#)
- F. Building/Facilities Team - [Facilities Report](#)
 1. Did Ron secure cords with gaffer's tape? Yes.
 2. Revisiting service agreement for HVAC systems: Currently the A/C and heat each get inspected and tuned up once per year per \$555 contract. Parts if any not included. We planned to consider paying for 1 inspection per year instead of renewing the contract, or having them inspected every 2 years (after this year). Ron has the expertise to inspect them as well.
 - a) *Did Michael ask what the cost would be to do inspections every other year, and whether there is a no-weekend charge included in the contract?*
 3. 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. *Did Ron look into what kind of wood we can get and estimate cost? Ron didn't find boards like we have in the sanctuary now at Menards. He'll research further.*
 - (1) *Natalie will email Katina to find out where they got the wood that was used in the front of the sanctuary.*
 4. Did Ron & Michael change the outdoor lights in the ATM area to stay on all night? Yes.

VII. Old Business

- A. End of Consortium: updates from planning committee meetings on [April 21](#) & [28](#).
 1. We met with Fox Valley, talked with Open Circle, Karen Sandberg, etc. (See Sunday services report for some additional details.)
 2. Annette shared Fox Valley's proposal for help with various aspects of our fellowship including sermons, RE, board meetings, fundraising & growth strategy, pastoral care, etc. The planning committee reviewed all this, recommends we go forward with monthly Zoom w Open Circle (2nd

Sunday), sermons and board support from Fox Valley, 1 service per month (3rd Sunday) w Carrie Arnold.

3. Rev Jim has offered to continue preparing RE & teen lesson plans, Time for All Ages, and meetings with teachers, for \$4488 for the year. The planning committee recommends we accept this.
4. We have already planned for these costs in the proposed budget.
5. Roz moves that we proceed with the recommendations of the planning committee. Tim seconds. Board voted unanimously in favor. We will share details with members at the Annual Meeting.
 - a) Annette will email Christina at Fox Valley to let them know, will cc Natalie & Francesca.
- B. Discuss changes to bylaws re: Active Voting Member & Lifetime Member. Tabled.
- C. Library improvements: Did Roz make labels with Ron's label maker? Ron did it.
- D. Becoming an election poll site. Annette meeting with them on Tuesday. *Any updates from Annette?*
- E. *Prioritizing strategic planning goals*. We are missing some details such as how many people hours projects take.
 1. *Did Annette ask Katie & Sydney to work with her on the Membership portion of the document?*
 2. Did Natalie fill out more of the Community Connections section? Yes. See changes to document.
 3. Did Ramona work on the Volunteer Engagement section? Yes. See changes to document.
- F. Website improvements: Did Roz let Francesca know who volunteered to help with marketing? Yes.
- G. Open board positions for next year. We'll need a Vice Chair, Member at Large. Ron has volunteered to be treasurer. Jim Bray willing to be member-at-large.
 1. *Any other ideas for Vice Chair? Annette will make an announcement in a service, and will talk to Steven Linden.*
- H. Did Francesca & Michael remove the old keys from the bottom drawer of the desk in the vault? Yes. Tablecloths are in there now.
- I. Did Ron replace the child care room door so it can't be locked from inside? Yes. It can still be locked from the inside but doesn't require a key to unlock. Board agrees this is fine.

VIII. New Business

- A. Annette was contacted by the owner of the Dairy Queen. They are interested in purchasing some of our lot to expand their parking lot. They want the portion where the food forest is and part of the fenced in area. He wanted it for \$10k when property was owned by someone else.
 1. Roz & Annette will talk to the Dairy Queen owner to get more info.
- B. 2025-2026 Budget for final review by the board, before presenting to membership at annual meeting.

1. Ramona had to slightly adjust the website amount, so we're projected to end with a little under \$1200.
2. Fundraiser break-down: Pop-up shop (about \$1000), cookie sale, spring rummage sale (about \$1000).
3. We talked about our existing plan to replace cushions on the chairs, which isn't currently in the budget.

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

X. Check Out

XI. Adjourned at 8:01 pm (Nicole, Natalie).