

GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

Chair: Tim West
Vice Chair: Carl Bennett
Past Chair: Annette Dreier
Secretary: Nicole Bickham

Co-Treasurer: (open)
Co-Treasurer: Ron Ropson
Member At Large: Melissa Rink
Member At Large: Jim Brey

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: Tim West, Nicole Bickham, Carl Bennett, Ron Ropson, Annette Dreier, Melissa Rink
- II. Check-In
- III. Open forum and welcome to guests
 - A. Guest(s): Hannah Villnave, Francesca, Michael P, Ramona
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 1. Ron made motion to accept the April minutes; Carl seconded. Passed unanimously.
- V. Discussion Agenda
 - A. Stewardship Team - see [Financial Report](#)
 1. Bank Balances as of 5-11-2026: \$45,919.63 total
 - a) Checking \$19,382.34
 - b) Reserve funds:
 - (1) Money Market \$15,989.79
 - (2) CD \$10,547.50
 2. Commercial loan balance: \$152,084.17
 3. Payments are \$1490.40/month: 63% principal, 37% interest.
 4. Any updates on the co-treasurer position? Annette talked with Topher Sunday. He is interested, wanted to know if he can do most of the work from home. **Ron will reach out to him.**

5. Ron asked Ramona whether we can reallocate what we didn't spend on an RE teacher this year toward the Congregational Life position. Ramona: Yes, we could start the person June 1 instead of July 1 if preferable.
 6. Please see attached [Annual Program Fund](#) request for discussion/approval and [Preliminary Budget](#) for discussion/changes/approvals.
 - a) Because we are about \$8000 ahead for the current church year (so far), we will probably be okay with the budget shortfall for next year. It would also help if we could save on snow plowing.
 - b) Ron also calls our attention to our pulpit expenses. The budget currently includes only quarterly sermons from Fox Valley although we had hoped to keep them monthly.
 - c) Annette: Does Fox Valley livecast sermons? Yes, but at 11am. They also have recorded sermons that they could consider offering for our use. Hannah can talk with Christina about that to come up with the cost if we're interested.
 - d) Regarding the UUA request, we will keep it at \$1200, which is what we pledged last time. **Ron will submit that.**
 7. Roz requests "sometime before the annual meeting" to hear who has not donated within the last two years so the Membership Team can reach out to them. Melissa moves to authorize this, Annette seconds, all in favor. **Ramona will work with Ron to get that information to Roz.**
- B. Membership Team - see [Attendance Report](#)
1. 82 members currently. 13 new since July 1.
 2. Caring Committee sent a plant to someone who had surgery and brought a couple light meals to people who have had health issues.
- C. Programming Team - see [Sunday Services Team Report](#)
1. Note that Carrie Arnold has offered to continue speaking for free next yr!
 2. The team asks: Would Rev. Hannah and Rev. Christina be willing to speak at GBUU on the 4th Sunday of each month? Rationale is explained in the report.
 - a) Hannah says the 4th Sunday works for them. However, we're not sure yet if we can afford monthly sermons.
 3. Re July 5, 2026: Hannah can give the sermon that day, or record one for us for future use if we decide to skip that one for the holiday weekend. We've already paid for that.
- D. Religious Enrichment Team - no RE Report
- E. Social Justice - no separate Social Justice Team Report
1. Nicolet School: filled 30 pantry bags for distribution to families
 2. Served meal at St John's Women's shelter
- F. Building/Facilities Team - no separate Facilities Report
1. Michael repaired the shut-off faucet for the outside spigot near the rear exit.

VI. Old Business

- A. Did Tim contact Shannon to schedule an employee review? Yes, it has been done.
- B. Any updates from Jim & Roz on Green Sanctuary status? They're still researching it. Fox Valley has that designation. **Jim will follow up on this.**
- C. **Did Tim review the rental agreement?** Francesca would like it rewritten to be shorter.
- D. Did Carl remove the fountain from the basement? Yes.
- E. Did Annette email Spiritual Journey group info to Francesca to add it to the order of service? Yes.
- F. Congregational Life Specialist position:
 1. Did Tim email Francesca language for posting CL position? (Link to job description [here](#).) Yes.
 2. Congregational Life Specialist interview process: [List of questions](#). Carl leaves town June 8 for a month, so the interviews will need to happen soon if he's involved. **Ron will discuss with Laurie which of them will be the 3rd committee member, and then coordinate with Carl & Roz to schedule interviews.**
 - a) Francesca forwarded Kim's resume to Ron.
 3. Could Roz be the Board-designated supervisor? We think it needs to be someone on the Board, and by default that would fall to the Board Chair.

VII. New Business

- A. Should we have an AED at the fellowship for medical emergencies? We're not pursuing this for now given our proximity to emergency services.
- B. Roz plans to attend, and wonders if anyone would like to join her, the 4th Annual City Center Safety Summit for downtown businesses on May 21, 2026 (10-12) at Central Library. Hosted by Police Department in partnership with Broadway, Downtown, & Olde Main Districts. Target audience is business and property owners & staff. Will cover 2025 Public safety analytics, 2026 Summer Safety Strategies, and Downtown summer events. Nicole shared the details with Laurie so she can share it with the Social Justice team.
- C. Francesca: Migration Advocacy would like to use our space for an event on June 1, without collecting monetary donations. Laurie & Ron will open and close and handle tech. Nicole moves, Carl seconds, all in favor.
- D. Ramona is willing to monitor and advise the treasurers through the next fiscal year. Passed unanimously.
- E. Carl has planned a June 7th lunch with new members at Panera. He would like to post photos and bios on the bulletin board. **Carl will email Roz details to send to new members.**
 1. Tim: we should get a photo release signed. Francesca shared potential language for this. Fox Valley has one; Hannah sent it to Tim. Could add a field in Breeze to track this. Only have to get a release one time. Could fold it into the membership process, RE enrollment, etc. They also give

special name tags at events to people who DON'T want to be photographed. This could be a task for the CLS.

- F. Annette is looking for people to take over 2 tasks: (1) child care contact person for Shannon, and identify someone to fill in when he can't be here; (2) back-up contact person for Rev Jim for BATS issues. Later the CLS could possibly take on these roles.

- 1. Tim is willing to be the contact person for Jim.

- G. We need to schedule the annual meeting. We chose June 14th. **Tim will work on slides for the annual meeting, Annette will help.** We will need a new Vice Chair, co-Treasurer, and Member at Large. **Annette will write an announcement and give it to Francesca for the Connect.**

VIII. Review Action Items (highlighted above in orange)

IX. Check Out

X. Nicole moves to adjourn, seconded by Carl. All in favor. Adjourned at 7:46 pm.