GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

Chair: Carl Bennett
Vice Chair: Steven Linden
Past Chair: Tim West
Secretary: Nicole Bickham
Co-Treasurer: Topher Daniel
Co-Treasurer: Ron Ropson
Member At Large: Laura Schoff
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, Jim Brey, Ron Ropson, Carl Bennett, Steven Linden, Topher Daniel, Nicole Bickham

II. Check-In

III. Open forum and welcome to guests
  A. Guest(s): Aubrey, Michael P, Ramona, Francesca

IV. Consent Agenda
  A. Minutes
    1. Ron made motion to accept the June minutes; Tim seconded. Passed unanimously.

V. Discussion Agenda (remember some items were deferred from JUNE meeting):
  A. CLS Position: Tim notified applicants that Aubrey was selected. Board members agreed (via email between meetings) on July 1 start date.
    1. Ron sent employment offer to Aubrey. Paperwork complete.
    2. Ron created a folder Board > Congregational Life Specialist. Placed position/success document, Aubrey's Resume, and the offer letter there. Did Ron get access to the Personnel folder and move docs there? Yes.
  B. Stewardship Team - see **End-of-fiscal-year Financial Report** (Also here's the Financial Report for May)
    1. Updated budget was presented to congregation at annual meeting.
    2. Bank Balances as of 6-30-2026 are as follows:
      a) Checking $27,286.66

        b) Reserve Funds $21,516.36
            (1) CD $10615.12
            (2) Money market Checking $10,901.24
        c) Compared to last year, we have $5200 less in the bank, but we paid for the parking lot.
    3. Building loan $151,176.55 remaining ($10k less than last year)
        a) Monthly: Principal $907.62, Interest $582.78
        b) Payoff in approx 10 yrs, 8 mos
    4. Did Ron submit our UUA pledge? Yes.
    5. Did Ramona & Ron get information to Roz she requested about people who haven't donated in past 2 yrs? Yes.
    6. Ramona: we received a $1000 donation from someone for a specific use -- LGBTQ+ RE. At some point the Board needs to decide how it will be used. Materials, speaker, etc.
    7. Signers on each account will be changed as follows:
        a) Checking-7272: Remove Ramona Makos, Add Christopher Daniel, Keep Ron Ropson.
        b) Money Market-7281: Remove Ramona Makos, Add Christopher Daniel, Keep Ron Ropson.
        c) Scrip-7370: Remove Ramona Makos, Add Christopher Daniel, Keep Ron Ropson and Annette Dreier.
        d) CD-4089: Remove Ramona Makos, Add Christopher Daniel, Keep Ron Ropson.
        e) Ron Ropson will be the Beneficiary Owner on all accounts including the commercial loan-4023.
    8. Francesca: We got a letter from Wells Fargo through FedEx; the letter was subsequently lost (at Walgreens). Francesca will follow up.
    9. Ramona: She and Ron are thinking of moving $15k more to our reserve fund (eg, for the roof). Do we need Board approval? Carl: no.

C. Membership Team - see **Attendance Report**
    1. Francesca: The way we take attendance has changed slightly, which may explain part of the decrease. She shared some suggestions with Aubrey for getting accurate attendance.
    2. Caring Committee made a few phone calls checking on people in May; June report here.
    3. Tim: Candy said something to him about getting gas cards. He referred her to Ron.
    4. We had some discussion about a directory. Carl would like to see us have one again. Others opposed. Francesca: many fellowships (eg, FVUU) no longer create them for security reasons. Board members do have access to Breeze.

D. Programming Team - **Sunday Services Team Report**

E. Religious Enrichment Team - no RE Report

F. Social Justice - see **Social Justice Team Report**

        1. Laurie and Jim have been invited to be part of the Rising Together 2027 (Jan 24th) event at FVUU. Jim has agreed.
    G. Building/Facilities Team - no Facilities Report
        1. Michael has a few electrical projects in mind for the basement: (1) lights outside not coordinated correctly, and he'd like them on a photo cell ($10-15); (2) ground fault receptacles outside (1 in front, 1 in back, total cost $75-150); (3) connect hot water pump downstairs to a switch so it can be turned off when the building isn't in use, would save about $150/yr (about $75); (4) sump pump on separate circuit (<$10).
            a) Ron says that should not be a problem budgetwise.
            b) Ron says the ground fault issue is a priority because of building codes.
        2. Cleaning doesn't seem to be getting done. Topher is willing.
        3. Nicole noticed we already have some weeds growing in the parking lot cracks. Ron says they filled only the larger cracks. Ron will contact the company who did the repair to ask about the smaller ones.

VI. Old Business
    A. Updates from Jim re: Green Sanctuary status. Fox Valley has the designation. Jim & Roz have looked into it, and Jim has spoken with a UUA rep. He thinks we can get the designation without too much problem. In September, we'll need to put out a call for a committee. They'll work through a list of questions. Jim is willing to lead. Jim will get info to Francesca about starting a committee. Could be a subcommittee of social justice.
    B. Rental agreement (Francesca requested it be shortened): Tim plans to complete by June 27, 2027.
    C. Is Annette still looking for people to take over child care contact person for Shannon, and to fill in when he can't be here? This is covered.
    D. Photography release procedure: Board discussed CLS person taking on photo releases: (a) add a field in Breeze to track (Fox Valley's: photo releases); (b) fold it into the membership process, RE enrollment, etc. (c) make special name tags to be used at events by people who DON'T want to be photographed.
        1. Francesca will correct the name on this and share with Aubrey.

VII. New Business
    A. Items deferred from June meeting:
        1. Natalie forwarded a message from Carrie Arnold about an opportunity to host a concert. See attached info. We decided not to pursue at this time. Nicole will convey to Natalie.
        2. Melissa Chan would like to start a Death Cafe group at the Fellowship. Details here. Initially it's just for the Fellowship, might be open to others later. We're in favor. Francesca will convey to Melissa.
        3. David & Nicole are interested in facilitating a film screening & discussion using the film The Eternal Song, part of a film series called Ancestral

Wisdom for Collective Healing. Probably early Sept or late Oct. Film trailer & info here. Cost is $50 for non-profits and faith communities, for a maximum of 25 guests. Nicole is willing to donate the screening cost and track RSVPs. Nicole will contact Francesca to schedule. Board suggests we ask for free-will donation to cover cost.

B. Follow-up from Annual Meeting: Randy K mentioned a "UU weekend" in Ripon, and interest in having these kinds of opportunities announced in the future. Tim suggested we discuss this as a Board. Francesca gets a lot of emails about these kinds of activities and it's hard to know who will be interested in what.
    1. Francesca: At visioning workshop, people requested a place to find announcements for things like these. Ron says there's more space available there.
    2. Francesca: Our newsletter is shorter than it used to be because some people complained about the length.

C. Francesca shared the monthly Board Message signups.

D. Bylaws Changes
    1. Tim: Bylaws state the annual meeting must be in May. A few other things need to be cleaned up or clarified. He proposes we create a subcommittee of the Board to work on it. Amendments would ultimately go to a special meeting of the Members.
    2. Francesca says we need to clarify the definition of Friends. This is a topic for that committee.
    3. Nicole noticed the length of term is not listed for the Secretary, at least in the 2020 version of the Bylaws.
    4. Topher moves, Carl seconds. Passes unanimously. Carl, Steven, and Tim will serve. Tim will send a copy of the Bylaws and a list of items to address to subcommittee members.

E. Carl: Rev Hannah helped us get in touch with our UUA regional primary contact. Carl would like to find a time (whole Board?) to meet with her, ideally at 5:30 on the evening of a meeting. Carl will contact her to try to schedule for September.

F. Who orients new Board Members? Francesca suggests each board member have a binder with a copy of the Bylaws. We could pass them on to whomever replaces us. These may have existed at one time but currently none of us have them. Alternatively each position could have an electronic document that we can edit and then pass on to the next person.

G. Francesca will give Aubrey access to posting on the fellowship Facebook page.

H. Nicole needs a substitute secretary for Oct (14th). Francesca willing to build the agenda, and Steven willing to take minutes.

VIII. Review Action Items (highlighted above in orange)

IX. Check Out

X. Nicole moves to adjourn, seconded by Steven. All in favor. Adjourned at 8:14 pm.