

UUSD Board President's Report FY 24 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

The 2024-2025 church year has been another busy one for the Board of Trustees. In July, the Board welcomed Donna Davis as a new Board Trustee. At the first meeting of the FY25 Board, officers were elected as follows: President, Paul Barnette, Vice President, Linda Marsden, Secretary, Beth Law, and Co-Treasurers, Richard Wheeler and Kent Sprunger. Board members at-large this year were Carol Huckabee, Donna Davis, and Jane Miller. The Board continued to hold two meetings a month. The Planning Meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10:00 – Noon and is held in person. The Board Business Meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:30 – 5:30 PM and is held via Zoom.

Our congregation continues to grow. As of this writing, we have 273 members and 92 friends. Our Children's Faith Exploration Program continues rapid growth under the direction of our Director of Children's Faith Exploration, Dr. Heather Hamilton.

In July, UUSD was notified that we had achieved Honor Congregation Status from the UUA. This status was achieved by paying our full requested amount to the UUA Annual Program Fund.

In August the BOT began work on the formation of two new committees. The BOT was charged with the formation of these committees in the Searching for the Future 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, compiled by the Searching for the Future Task Force. Board members Donna Davis and Linda Marsden agreed to work on creating a Charge for the Facilities Task Force, and Carol Huckabee and Jane Miller agreed to work on creating a Charge for the Stewardship Ministry Team. Also in August, the Board received the first draft of the new UUSD Rental Usage Policy, created by the Executive Team. After some input from the Board, the final draft of the policy was adopted in September of 2024.

In October, the BOT approved the Board of Trustees Committee Liaison Purpose & Description, created by Donna Davis and Linda Marsden.

In November, the Board celebrated another successful Craft Fair. This year's team was Co-Chaired by Dar Sellers, and Nancy Commisso. The Craft Fair raised a total of \$10,585. Many thanks to Dar, Nancy and everyone that worked on the Fair. It truly takes a village.

The new year brought new challenges, and the Board began work on a solution to the overcrowding situation in the Children's Faith Exploration Program. We researched several options and reached out to the Facilities Task Force to continue the search for a semi-permanent structure, and to provide options to the Board.

In January of 2025, the BOT was preparing for Rev. Heather's ministerial evaluation. A team was formed to do the evaluation, which is required by our bylaws to take place every two years. The team consisted of Paul Barnette, Carol Huckabee and Ellen Loewy. The team chose 25 individuals to complete the evaluation forms. In order to get a cross section of members, the team chose from three groups, long-term members, short-term members and members with

children in the Children's Faith Exploration Program. The executive summary of the results will be presented to the Board in June. The Board also held their first "Coffee and Conversation with the Board", which will be held every 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:15 in the Sanctuary. The Board felt that this would be a chance for members, friends and visitors to speak with the Board on any topic in a more informal setting.

Also in January, the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee began work on the FY26 Phase 1 budget. At the January 29 Board Business Meeting, the Phase 1 Budget for FY26 was approved, and a pledge goal of \$410,400 was established. The Pledge Campaign theme this year was "Writing our next Chapter Together". The successful pledge campaign officially closed on March 31. The Total amount of FY 25 pledges was \$416,032.00, which was 101% of our target, (\$5,632.00 over target). We received 172 pledges from 243 people: 33 new pledges from 47 new people. I want to thank the pledge team led by Linda Lewis, the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees for their hard work.

In February. The BOT formed the Sabbatical Committee, to keep the congregation informed of Rev. Heather's upcoming sabbatical. Initially the committee will consist of Carol Huckabee and Jean Charles.

In March, Rev. Heather requested approval for Leika Lewes' Ordination to be held in the UUSD Sanctuary, during the service on May 25. Leika Lewes has done several services here at UUSD and was accepted into UU Fellowship after her meeting on April 4, with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Congratulations Leika!

As in years past, the Board President creates summaries of the Board's work for the monthly President's Column in the Beacon. Board of Trustees' documents, such as monthly meeting agendas and related documents can be found on the UUSD website under [Member Resources/Board of Trustees Meeting Documents](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Barnette, Board President
UUSD Board of Trustees