

UUC Board of Trustees Minutes February 17th, 2026

In attendance:

Hugh Kimball – President
Lora Poepping – Vice President (*via zoom*)
Michael Kasprzak, Treasurer
Alison McCormick, Secretary
Sooraj Kuttykrishnan
Nicholas Eddington
Becca Hutchinson
Tamar Lively (*via zoom*)
Reverend Doug

Guests: Patricia Graesser and Dave Mentz – Faith Land Initiative Update

Item 1

Opening Reading: Nicholas Eddington: Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel
Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity
pg. 262- 263

Opening Question: Becca Hutchinson
What are you looking forward to now?

Board Check In

Item 2

Faith Land Initiative Update - Patricia Graeser/Dave Mentz

Patricia and Dave reviewed for new staff and 1st year BOT members what Faith Land Initiative is and how this project has become viable at UUC. The committee of five continues to meet with community advocates, partner organizations, and UUC leadership to assess local community needs and possibilities to ensure we have impact and make good use of our space/resources. Several ideas have emerged as a result including:

- Lake City Homelessness
- Teen Feed—Work with Aria to develop service projects i.e to grow container gardens
- Eckstein Middle School - Families in Need and Storage Space
- 12 Step Programs
- Community Partners Board Retreats
- Connections with North Seattle College to use as resource access point
- Portable Housing for Transgendered Individual in Need

Dave Mentz discussed his delight in seeing how this Initiative aligns with UUC church mission. There has been great support from the UUC staff. Morgan Sherwood has been working on an aligning policy and practice, so initiative has clarity. Reverend Victoria has been helpful and supportive of this large undertaking. Dave indicated that at this time there is a weak response from the congregation. He thinks this is because there hasn't

really been a direct ask for volunteers yet, and it's a transition time for new minister. Emily Joseph has volunteered to work with Eckstein. Hugh expressed his concern as to who will run these projects as it cannot be the staff or board. This is a congregation's volunteer commitment. Tamar Lively discussed the concept of how the process of capturing interest would be the concept 'how do we get to yes'? Lora thanked Dave and Patricia for all the work this initiative has and will continue to require. She indicated BOT is all in.

Item 3

Candidacy Week- Hugh

Rosemary sent out BOT Emails to change the date of Candidacy week, so it would not conflict with SPS spring break. The new dates are April 18th-26th

The Search Committee requests a few BOT members who will assist during that week. The tasks are about reaching out to various groups to meet with various groups and basic logistics.

More people to help groups meet with candidate

Nicholas, Soorj, and Becca volunteered. Hugh will inform Rosemary and serve as back up if necessary.

Item 4

Nomination Committee Update - Becca

Nominating Committee has identified 3 candidates for the 2026-2027 slate of BOT candidates.

Additionally, they have identified a few who have interest in volunteering for the 2027-2028 slate of BOT officers. They have also identified a few congregants who indicated their interest in serving on the 2027- 2028 BOT

Item 5

Board Covenant- Lora

Lora emailed copies of the current BOT covenant and the new version (completed with facilitator). Discussion followed and motion to accept the new Covenant was approved. Lora will ensure the new covenant will go into the onboarding packet for the new slate of BOT officers.

Item 6

Approve January Minutes – Alison

Approved with change of line item regarding Minister salary. The Finance Committee will meet on January 24th, so Michael will have the correct financial information and report at the March BOT Meeting. Alison submitted the January 2026 minutes to Columbia bank for verification on change of approved UUC signers

Item 6

Board Evaluation - Hugh

Hugh obtained this Leadership worksheet from the UUA curriculum on strategic leadership. BOT completed the questionnaire and discussed the outcome. The purpose of this exercise is to assist BOT in identifying our collective strengths and areas of growth.

Item 7

Open Items – As Needed

Upcoming Important Dates

April 18th-April 26th –Candidacy Week

April 26th - Congregational Meeting – Call the new Minister

April 21st BOT Meeting

June 14th Congregational Meeting

Meeting Adjourned

9:00PM

Minutes Submitted By

Alison McCormick

BOT Secretary

