PUUF Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 2026 at 10:00,
Conference Room next to Fellowship Hall

Call to Order/Lighting of the Chalice: 10:04 am

Attendees: Elias Hesse, Veja Lahti, Kelli Mack, Duane Thompson, Frank Erickson, Mira Kepler, Dave Ambrose, Arline LaMear, Susan Olson, Laura Gordon. Meredith Richardson excused.

Minutes from 7/12/26: Kelli moved, Frank seconded that they be accepted as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Dave - The final FY 2025-26 Year End Report was presented. Pledges were a little less than budgeted (97%), but plate contributions, other donations and interest income were more than budgeted, so that total revenue was 111% of budgeted. Although many itemized expenditures were over budget, overall expenditures were 97% of budgeted, so that our deficit was significant less than budgeted at $429.

It was recommended that an account of the pledge received to date at the first of the calendar year be sent to all members, which can be also function as acknowledgements of charitable contributions for IRS purposes. Dave will get with Lauren to try to create a mail merge to make this accounting easy and combine it with the IRS acknowledgement letter.

Meredith requested reimbursement of $50 she personally paid towards the downtown witch light pole decorations. This was approved by CUUPS and comes from their budget.

There will be no more donations from us to LiFEBoat Services now that they have ceased services.

The board recommends that the checking account balance should be approximately $15,000, and whenever it is $10,000 greater than that, Dave should obtain a $10,000 CD. He should continue to roll over our existing CDs as they mature.

Minister's Report: Reverend Mira - nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Technology: Frank - There are generally 3-5 Zoom participants.

Sunday Service: Arline/Laura G. - Completion of the "Five Practices of Welcome Renewal" for 2026 reported, which allows us to call ourselves a "Welcoming Congregation". Recommended Justice Partners are UUSC for September (something related to UU), Basic Rights Oregon for October (related to LGBTQ history month) and the Chinook Nation for November (for American Indian and Alaska Native month). Others to consider later (and/or possibly to do a service) are Helping Hands and Assistance League. Since our meeting, Arline suggested we share our plate with an organization helping fire victims, and the board suggests we do that in September instead of UUSC. The SSC will find an appropriate organization. The "Open Mic" service can't come together by September, so we will do a FUNChurch 9/27 with Julia doing Tarot, Kelli doing yoga and Veja doing drumming. Laura G will do a service on Yom Kippur about atonement from a UU perspective, and she will also do a sermon of the

month 10/11 when the Megler Bridge is closed. Julia Hesse has volunteered to do a thematic service in October "Dancing With Our Shadows". We are considering asking our members who are veterans to join a panel discussion for Veterans Day.

We brainstormed themes for 2027, and knowing it will be a difficult year, suggest "Tools for Navigating the Modern Era" with nautical themes like compass, map, rudder, safe harbor, etc.

Membership: Susan - The UUA database has been updated with current members. She is waiting for the new themes for 2027 for the HipFish ads.

Liaison: Susan - there was no meeting.

Hospitality: Jen Oderkirk - Jen takes the summer off, and has had alternative volunteers covering. The picnic supplies were used at the last two picnic.

CUUPS: Steve - Veja reports the 8/2 ritual was well-received and included new participants doing reading, etc, in the ritual itself.

Right Relations: Steve - no report.

Sunshine/Connections Committee: Veja - Melissa Hunt's baby celebration will be 12/13 during the potluck. Veja is collecting for a gift, probably a car seat unless one can be provided through her Medicaid benefits. Melissa is expecting a girl, due 10/9 who she plans to name Sivia, in honor of someone important in her life.

Strategic Planning: Meredith & Kelli - Meredith wants to bow out. Mira and Kelli will discuss where to go from here.

Old Business:

Music Director proposal - The board feels Jennifer's Music Director proposal to the July meeting is too expensive as an essentially salaried position, but will consider "a la carte" payment for individual services performed. The Heartbeat singers will participate in services approximately once a month (and are so scheduled through the end of 2026). Jennifer can be compensated $50 for coaching the singers for each service they do. Jennifer can be compensated an amount similar to what we provide to NP organizations who do services, namely $150 per service, when she coordinates a music or other service. This roughly calculates to $1500 for the fiscal year, based on 4 music/open mic services ($900) plus monthly coaching x12 ($600). Compensation would start in September. This is in addition to her monthly compensation for playing the piano at services. Kelli moved, Laura seconded that Eli make this offer to Jennifer. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

UUA Common Read - Laura presented the UUA program for this year's Common Read, which is based on *Love At The Center: Unitarian Universalist Theologies* edited by Sofia Betancourt. Options

to participate include a traditional “book club” discussion (tips provided), a lifespan curriculum for childhood, youth and adult education, and an experiential Mystery Game. The program is themed to the “Rings of Love” model that links our UU values to “Love Within Me” (inner spiritual life), “Love Among Us” (interpersonal relationships), “Love Among Us” (our congregational systems and culture), and “Love beyond Us” (our public presence and justice work in the wider world). These in turn are linked to essays in the book, although it is not necessary to read the book to participate in some of the activities. The resource collection for the program is also useful for those creating services. A link to the webinar about the program was provided to the board members, as well as the resources link. Mira will also look at the resources from the point of view of considering them to build our themes for next year’s services. In the past there hasn’t been much interest in book club-like discussions groups, but there may be interest in doing the mystery game, perhaps in place of a service.

Adjourn: 11:31 am