PUUF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Oct 4, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room next to Fellowship Hall

Call to Order/Lighting of the Chalice: 10:05 am

Attendees:
Board - Eli Hesse, Dave Ambrose, Laura Gordon, Frank Erickson, Bunny Peterson, Duane Thompson
Guests - Mira Kepler, Susan Olson, Arline LaMear

Approve Minutes: Minutes for meeting of Sept 13, 2026 approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Dave - no report from Lauren (bookkeeper). The internet expenditure total last month reflected the amount being attributed twice, and will be corrected. Dave is asked to ask Lauren if she can do a mail merge of the accounting program with a member letter (with addresses) reflecting the record of pledges received. It will need to be expressed as both for the calendar and the fiscal year, so that a letter can be sent at the end of calendar year 2026 to all members showing their pledge to date for the fiscal year (as a gentle reminder) and their end of year total (for tax purposes).

Minister's Report: Mira - nothing to report

Committee Reports:

Technology: Frank - Craig Holt will be taking back his loaned extra sound system, which has improved the quality of sound but is heavy to transport for services in Fellowship Hall. Frank will research alternatives, and the board recommends that the issue of improving sound quality be brought up in the Liaison meeting with FPCA. We would be willing to share costs.

Sunday Service: Arline/Laura G. - The last FUNChurch had no on-line activity, and repeated drumming and yoga. More back-up ideas are needed, such as doing book & films recommendations as the discussion option for the 12/27/26 FUNChurch. Regarding December shared plate, no one has volunteered to organize "Christmas Family" although Rev Mira will ask for a volunteer at the service today. An easy alternative might be to pick a child's name off the "Giving Tree" in Astoria and Seaside, and purchase for them with funds raised in November/December. FPCA is agreeable to a Blessing of the Animals service, and suggesting combining with us, but for the first time, date TBA, we decided not to do it as an interfaith service. The committee rejected using the Common Read essays as our theme for 2027, and instead we continue to brainstorm nautical themes. A nautical theme can tie us to place with Astoria's history of fishing, shipping, etc and institutions such as the Tall Ships, Maritime School at CCC, and Fisher Poets. The board contributed to the brainstorming today so that there are enough themes that this could be a two year effort. The hymn "Blue Boat Home" could lend it's name to the overall theme, and we might want to "bookend" our services by starting with that hymn and ending with "Let There Be Peace on Earth".

Membership: Susan - There are some new members who should be introduced/ recognized, but two of them travel and Susan can't get them scheduled for a formal recognition. Rev Mira will create words that can be used on an occasion when they show up, to be read by a board member, so we do the recognition *ad hoc.*

Liaison Committee: Susan - There has been no meeting for three months. Susan will talk separately with Pastor Paul about upgrading the sound system.

Hospitality: Jen Oderkirk - no report

CUUPS (Coven of Lower Columbia Pagans): Bunny- The new name and logo are being used on the website and newsletter. See New Business below.

Right Relations: Bunny - Bunny and Steve have done the training, Robert has stepped back. There is still no policy, but this has been a low priority since there are no current issues.

Sunshine Committee: Veja - no report

Strategic Planning: (Kelli absent) - The Board discussed that an important goal is to retain membership/interest as well as attract new members. We have to build and maintain trust as a whole, and we may not have the resilience that exists in smaller groups. One focus could be more formal training for greeters in how to be welcoming (more training that just the mechanics of how to set up the table).

Old Business:

Continue Discussion of Summer Service Schedule:

The consensus is that we continue weekly services with no breaks (except Labor Day) because otherwise we continue to pay rent for no use, and we can't publicize ourselves. We will have simpler services twice a month such as discussions/meditations/sing alongs, planning Rev Mira services and an outdoor and/or CLCP ritual each once a month.

New Business:

Discuss arrangements or agreements necessary for transition from CUUPS to CLCP

The rationale for the restructuring is to create a more inclusive Pagan community by welcoming Pagans who may not want a church affiliation. Currently, CUUPs appreciates PUUF affiliation, and contributes significantly through volunteerism, services/rituals, and providing a path for new PUUF membership. CUUPs National requires that a chapter must include at least three members who are active voting members of CUUPS National and members of a UU congregation, but other members do not have to have membership. CLCP is working on a new covenant, and Mira asks that they also covenant with her as essentially "spiritual co-leaders". CLCP will not be a totally separate entity, but would like to keep their accounting separate, so that CLCP funds are spent on CLPC expenses. This can be accomplished by treating it as a pass through in bookkeeping, and will be part of what the board will need to look at when we revisit our budget at mid-year.

Adjourn: 11:29 pm