

Board of Trustees

MEETING: June 8, 2025, 7:00 pm Eastern Time

Pursuant to notice duly given, this meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association was held via Zoom conferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Chepel (Co-Financial Advisor), Barbara de Leeuw, Charles Du Mond (Co-Moderator), Suzanne Fast, John B. Newhall, Meg Riley (Co-Moderator), Adam Robersmith, John Simmonds (Secretary), David Stewart (Co-Financial Advisor), Justine Sullivan, Sam Trumbore (Financial Secretary), Amanda Weatherspoon, Bill Young

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Stephanie Carey Maron (Governance Manager), Betty Clark (Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Vice President of Programs and Ministry), Danielle Di Bona (chaplain), LaTonya Richardson (Director of General Assembly and Conference Services), Kimberly Quinn Johnson, Natasha Walker (moderator candidates)

OBSERVERS: Brian Lasher, Richard Myers, Dick Burkhart

MEETING MINUTES

OPEN SESSION

Co-Moderator Du Mond opened the meeting to observers at 7:06 pm ET, and Board Chaplain Danielle Di Bona shared an opening reading.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved with one abstention (S. Fast), and included the following item:

- Minutes from the May 12, 2025 board meeting

Sharing Appreciation for Investment Committee Members

David Stewart moved, Barbara de Leeuw seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the following resolution of gratitude for several members of the Investment Committee who have completed their terms on the Committee:

The Board of Trustees of the UUA would like to express deep gratitude to several members of the Investment Committee for bringing their expertise in service of our denomination during the last number of years. We are grateful for each outgoing member and will sorely miss each of your presence.

Brian Lasher's long-term efforts as a calming, focused, and extremely effective co-chair will be a real loss. Vanessa Lowe's deep expertise in Community Development Financial Institutions, well-timed questions, and maintaining a laser focus on BIPOC managers and beneficiaries will be an example for the IC to emulate. Eric Horvath's incredibly detailed and in-depth financial due diligence on our new direct Community Investments portfolio will be a gap that the IC will struggle to fill.



We hope you are able to lift up your years of service on our behalf with fondness, and we would welcome your service again if you decide that there is other work that might inspire you to join us again. The Board of Trustees wishes you all well, and thanks you heartily for your service.

Staff Update

Widening the Pathway to Ministry Report-Back

President Betancourt reported on the recent Widening the Pathway to Ministry gathering, attended by about 40 UU leaders representing various stakeholders. The meeting aimed to gather preliminary input, with participants showing a positive and open attitude despite discussing challenging issues. President Betancourt emphasized that this was an early stage in a longer process, and that UUA staff will compile an executive summary and distribute it to participants, UUMA members, and the UUA Board of Trustees. The discussion touched on the relationship between this initiative and ongoing work on ministerial transitions and sustainability, with President Betancourt noting that while the topics overlap, they are being managed by different staff groups to avoid overwhelming the system.

UUA Initiatives for General Assembly 2025

EVP McDonald provided updates on several key initiatives ahead of General Assembly 2025. They discussed the "Meet the Moment" program, which will feature new wave cohorts and a take-home discussion guide, as well as the launch of a new virtual hymnal called "Sing Out Love" with approximately 30 new pieces. They also confirmed the sale of a Pittsburgh property; and announced plans to celebrate multiple anniversaries, including the 200th of the American Unitarian Association and the 25th of the Our Whole Lives program. International guests will attend GA 2025, reflecting growing global connections, and while no major Supreme Court decisions are expected that week, the team is prepared for crisis response if needed.

General Assembly 2026

LaTonya Richardson, Director of General Assembly and Conference Services, and EVP McDonald presented a proposal for GA 2026 (to be held from June 14–21, 2026), in which GA is split into two weekends, with the first weekend dedicated to the all-online business meeting and the second to content-focused gatherings. The Board discussed concerns about the timing and logistics, but ultimately approved the date range. Stephanie Carey Maron explained that the governance sessions would be scheduled to accommodate all necessary business, including voting. The Board expressed excitement about trying this new format, which aims to better accommodate various GA participants and activities.

Barbara de Leeuw moved, John Simmonds seconded, and the Board unanimously approved:

Moved that General Assembly 2026 be held from June 14, 2026 through June 21, 2026, pursuant to the structure previously approved by the Board at its April 12, 2025 meeting.

Cornerstone Fund Partnership

The Board authorized the UUA to:



1. enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Cornerstone Fund to offer building loans to UU congregations, including the new climate resilience loan program,
2. invest up to the current balance of the current UUA building loan fund in Cornerstone to facilitate this purpose,
3. arrange for the Cornerstone Fund to take on the UUA's existing loans on mutually agreeable terms, and
4. seek UUA and UUCEF sources of capital for the new general loan and climate resiliency loan programs with Cornerstone.

Suzanne Fast also noted the need to follow up on accessibility requirements in Cornerstone's underwriting criteria.

Sam Trumbore moved, Barbara de Leeuw seconded, Suzanne Fast abstained, and the Board approved:

Moved: To authorize the UUA to 1) enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Cornerstone Fund to offer building loans to UU congregations, 2) invest the balance of the current UUA building loan fund in Cornerstone to facilitate this purpose, 3) arrange for the Cornerstone Fund to take on the UUA's existing loans on mutually agreeable terms, and 4) seek additional UUA and UUCEF sources of capital for the new climate resiliency loan program with Cornerstone.



EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board began its meeting in Executive Session at 8:00 pm ET for the purpose of discussing sensitive business.

Board Chaplain Di Bona shared a blessing/benediction, and the meeting ended at 9:14 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald
Recording Secretary