

Board of Trustees

MEETING: September 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: Sofia Betancourt (President), Chris Chepel (Co-Financial Advisor), Barbara de Leeuw, Mary Heafy, Kimberly Quinn Johnson (Co-Moderator), Emily Koriath, Adam Robersmith, John Simmonds (Secretary), Vanessa Southern, David Stewart (Co-Financial Advisor), Justine Sullivan, Sam Trumbore (Financial Secretary), Bill Young (Co-Moderator)

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Stephanie Carey Maron (Governance Manager), Betty Clark (Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President and the Vice President for Programs & Ministries), Danielle Di Bona (chaplain), Chris Buice (chaplain)

OBSERVERS: Gail Forsyth-Vail, David Jackoway, Barb Greve, Rob Spirko, Janette Lallier, Meg Richardson, Traci Davis



Meeting Minutes

OPEN SESSION

Co-Moderators Johnson and Young opened the meeting to observers at 7:05 pm ET, and Board Chaplain Danielle Di Bona shared an opening reading.

Welcome

Co-Moderators Bill and Kimberly welcomed the Board members and observers.

Co-Moderators' Report

Co-Moderators Johnson and Young provided updates on several key initiatives. Co-Moderator Johnson reported on meetings with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee co-chairs regarding new rules and their impact on candidates, as well as discussions with the Accountability Team about its scope of work. Co-Moderator Young shared updates about letters received from the LREDA Board and the Commission on Social Witness, with listening sessions scheduled for both groups. Both Co-Moderators shared information about a new governance blog, being developed by Governance Manager Carey Maron, to improve communication, which will be accessible to the larger UU universe.

Staff and Finance Updates

EVP McDonald announced plans for an "Autumn of Assessment" focusing on metrics and strategy development, with a detailed discussion planned for the October board meeting regarding the next steps of the "Meet the Moment" initiative.

Schulman Fund Distribution

The Board approved using the June 30, 2025 valuation of the endowed Schulman Fund as the basis for the UUA's FY26 distribution, allowing for accelerated impact on UU congregations and operations. The Fund, which received a significant bequest following Alice Shulman's passing, will fund an equivalent annual distributed in alignment with the donor agreement with a 50-50 split between UUA operations and grants to UU entities. This allows the distribution to happen outside the current endowment distribution policy which is based on fund balances of the preceding December 31; otherwise, the distribution would not have realized the impact of this significant bequest until FY27.

Sam Trumbore moved, John Simmonds seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the following:

The UUA Board of Trustees approves the June 30, 2025 valuation of the endowed Schulman Fund as the basis for its FY26 distribution. This is aligned with the purpose of the fund to support growth and vitality in UU congregations and faith communities, and accelerates the fund's impact in the UUA and its member congregations.

Fetzer Institute Grant

The Board approved the expenditure of up to \$250,000 from a Fetzer Institute grant to support associated programs for faithful innovation and the operations of the New UU Communities Fund.

Barbara de Leeuw moved, Adam Robersmith seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the following:

The UUA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of up to \$250,000 from the grant received from the Fetzer Institute to support associated programs for faithful innovation and the operations of the New UU Communities Fund.

Further Funding Discussion

President Betancourt shared internal plans for seeking out philanthropic and grants for funding from various private sources, noting that the perception of Unitarian Universalists not qualifying for ecumenical funding sources may be outdated. Vanessa Southern praised the grants from both Fetzer and Lilly as recognition of UUA's contribution to the future of faith in America. President Betancourt mentioned ongoing work with a consultant to pursue additional grant funding, particularly in social justice areas.

The Board discussed the need to review the \$50,000 cap on Board considerations, with Sam Trumbore agreeing to bring a proposal to a future meeting after running it through the Values and Resources Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board began its meeting in Executive Session at 7:37 pm ET for the purpose of appointments sensitive business.

Appointments



Co-Moderator Johnson moved, Barbara de Leeuw seconded, and the Board unanimously approved Nathan Ryan's appointment to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

Barbara de Leeuw moved, Emily Koriath seconded, and the Board unanimously approved Oscar Sinclair's appointment to the Board of trustees, to fill the vacancy in the term left by Bill Young which ends at GA 2026.

Mary Heafy moved, John Simmonds seconded, and the Board unanimously approved Gail Forsyth-Vail's appointment to the Board of Trustees, to fill the vacancy in the term left by Amanda Weatherspoon which ends at GA 2026.

Board Chaplain Chris Buice shared a blessing/benediction, and the meeting ended at 9:05 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary

