

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World



Board Minutes
February 18, 2026

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Board members attending in person:

Jane McLeod, President

Bill Lonnberg, Treasurer

Regina DiLavore, Secretary

Pam MacLaughlin, Board Member at-Large

Steve Mascari, Board Member at-Large

Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, ex officio Board Member

Board Members attending by Zoom:

Linda Pickle, Vice President

Mary Craig, Board Member at-Large

Guests attending in person

Dr. Susan Swaney, Music Director

Andrew Appel, Special Purposes Fund (SPF) Committee, Chair

Submitted by: Regina DiLamore

Attached Documents:

A. Consent Agenda

- President's Report
- Lead Minister's Report

B. SPF Monitoring Report

I. Call to Order and Chalice Lighting

Jane called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The chalice was lit, and a quorum was in attendance.

II. Check-in

III. Approval of the Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- Fiscal Oversight Dashboard 7/1/2025-1/31/2026
- President's Report
- Lead Minister's Report
- January 2026 Draft Board Meeting Minutes

Jane moved to approve the consent agenda, Pam seconded the motion and the motion carried. See Attachment A for the consent agenda reports.

IV. Monitoring Reports

A. Special Purposes Fund (SPF)

Andrew Appel provided the SPF monitoring report. He reported that the investment portfolio showed positive performance during the first half of the fiscal year, marked by a significant recovery in a previously underperforming green energy fund.

A substantial anonymous gift was received and, after consultation, was fully allocated to the operational endowment.

Board members from the Bylaws working group are working on revising the SPF section of the Bylaws in consultation with the Special Purposes Fund committee.

The SPF committee is investigating new banking options. This potential move is driven by concerns over the current institution's ethical reputation and its lack of competitive interest rates.

Finally, the SPF approved funding requested by the Building Committee for capital improvements, including replacing the Meeting Room sliding doors and updating the kitchen. The full SPF report is provided in Attachment B.

B. Music Director

Sue Swaney, Music Director, expressed her sincere appreciation to Reverend Susan for her commitment to planning sermons well in advance, noting that this coordination allows the music ministry to align more effectively with the sermon. Sue also extended her gratitude to those who have stepped up when Ray Fellman was out and to Steve Mascari for organizing the All-Ages Rock Band. Additionally, she thanked UUCB for continuing to host Voces Novae rehearsals and concerts. Sue discussed the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra's performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony on May 16th, which will feature a diverse array of local musical groups, including the UUCB choir. She also shared news regarding several new music commissions planned throughout the coming year.

In closing, Sue addressed choir safety and accessibility. She recommended replacing the dark carpeting in the choir area, as its appearance can be visually deceiving and poses a potential safety risk. To further support the well-being of the choir, she has established a volunteer buddy system to provide check-ins and support for choir members who live alone

V. Unfinished Business

A. Emeritus Title – Next Steps

Jane facilitated a discussion regarding the formal process for conferring the Minister Emerita title upon Reverend Mary Ann Macklin. To ensure the congregation is fully informed and has ample opportunity to provide feedback, the Board confirmed that two listening sessions will be held at least 30 days prior to the official congregational vote scheduled for June 7, 2026.

The first of these sessions may be incorporated into the Cookies and Conversation with the Board event on March 29th, with a second session tentatively planned for April. To maintain accessibility for all members, congregants are also encouraged to submit their comments via email or through a Google Form that the Board may establish for this purpose. Finally, Jane noted the need to publish an article in an upcoming Friday Update to clarify the significance and details of the process.

B. Name Change Process

Jane facilitated a discussion regarding the proposal to hold a special congregational meeting, distinct from the regular annual meeting, specifically to vote on the potential UUCB name change. The Board explored the necessary preparations for this transition. Mary recommended that all details regarding this potential special meeting be provided to the congregation in writing to ensure clarity and transparency.

To support the process, the Board plans to host several Zoom sessions in April to discuss the proposed name change. Per the governing documents, any such changes must be officially announced by May 9th to meet the notice requirements for the June meeting.

The conversation expanded to discuss Bylaws revisions. Reverend Susan suggested drafting an executive summary to accompany the Bylaw revisions, which would clearly define the purpose, goals, and rationale behind the proposed changes.

Following past successful practices, Jane suggested including a link to a Google Form within these communications to collect congregant comments and questions.

The Board also deliberated on the structure of the name change vote, noting that a separate meeting would allow for formal motion and sustained, dedicated discussion. With one listening session remaining, Jane proposed setting a firm deadline for the committee's final recommendations to ensure the congregational meeting can be scheduled appropriately. Following that final session, the Name Change Working Group may distribute a new survey to gauge the current sentiment. Reverend Susan acknowledged there may be grief associated with the change. She indicated the committee will likely present its formal recommendation in April. Jane concluded the discussion by committing to circulating a proposed schedule encompassing all these upcoming sessions and deadlines.

VI. New Business

A. Review Draft FY2027 Budget

Bill led a discussion regarding the draft budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which has been organized into nine distinct categories. He highlighted several key adjustments compared to FY 2026, including for compensation (an \$ 18,574 increase) and for additional ministry staff (a \$ 22,260 increase); the latter primarily driven by the addition of a ministerial intern. Additionally, employee benefits are projected to increase by \$ 11,214, of which \$ 7,148 is for medical..

Bill anticipates a "net zero" budget for the coming year, ensuring that projected expenses are fully balanced by operational income. The proposed budget will set the framework for the upcoming pledge drive, which has an initial goal estimated at \$845,000. Overall, the congregation should expect a 5% increase in the total budget compared to the previous year. Bill concluded by noting that the church remains on target with the current fiscal year's financial goals.

VII. Feedback from Congregants

Feedback from congregants highlighted concerns regarding limited accessibility to the Fellowship Hall. In response, Reverend Susan is currently developing a plan to implement changes to better accommodate members and visitors. Additionally, UUCB will request that no supplemental fundraising tables be set up during the five-week duration of the pledge drive.

VIII. Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 8:13 pm

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:37.

**UUCB Board Meeting
President's Report
February 18, 2026**

If you would like this report, or any other items from the consent agenda, to move to the regular agenda, please let me know by Tuesday, February 17 at 5pm.

A few updates:

We have not yet received any applications for GA delegates. The deadline is March 9. I've asked that the announcement be included in the next several Friday Updates. If you know of people who might be interested, please encourage them to apply.

I have invited everyone the Board recommended to serve on the internship committee. Linda Pickle, Mike McGregor, and Christine Banister have accepted the invitation; all others have declined. Allison Tomusk has agreed to serve as chair. Rev. Susan will convene the committee and ask members for their thoughts about other members.

I have not yet received a report from the Pledge Drive Committee. Corrin knows that the report is overdue and has promised to submit it ASAP. In the interim, Rev. Susan can update us on the committee's work.

We will select recipients of the 2026 service awards at the May Board meeting. Please add your nominations [here](#).

Our next Cookies and Conversation events are scheduled for Sunday, March 29 at 10:30am and 12:30pm.

I'd like to schedule an event for the Board to get together informally before the end of the fiscal year. Bill Lonnerberg has generously offered to host. Would a June 7 potluck dinner be possible? That is the same day as the annual meeting.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

February 2026 Lead Minister's Report to the Board
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington
Submitted by: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Calendar highlights

I will be away in Lisbon, Portugal March 22nd – 27th for a Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)-sponsored convening, titled “Converging Futures: Where Gender Justice, Democracy, and Faith Meet.” The conference focuses on the way that anti-women; anti- trans attacks are deeply interwoven with anti-democratic movements around the world and creating common language to combat these movements. I don't expect to miss either Sunday service, but will work to have a contingency plan in place for March 29th in case I experience delays returning to the U.S.

Updates or Highlights from Ministry

My focus over the last month has been on gearing up for the Pledge Drive and working on the draft budget to help determine a pledge drive goal for FY 27.

Pledge Drive: The 2026-2027 Pledge Drive kicks off on Sunday, March 22rd and will end with a one service (10:30am) Celebration Sunday and post-service party on April 19th. We ask everyone to submit their pledge cards by Sunday April 19^h. Additionally, all Board members and other elected leaders and members of Board committees are invited to a pre-pledge drive Leadership Reception on Saturday, March 7th. We ask you to make your pledge at this party to help kick off the pledge drive on a strong footing. Thank you!

Membership Roll Review: I did not get a membership roll review completed last year. This process is to clear the membership roll of inactive members who have not pledged. The administrative staff and I have a plan in place to do this at the close of this year's Pledge Drive.

Budget: Bill Lonnberg, Amanda Wayne and I have been working since early January on compiling a draft budget for the FY 2026-2027 year which we are submitting at this meeting. It includes resources to hire a full-time ministerial intern in the fall of 2026. It also includes small salary adjustments continuing to try to ensure all staff are within UU guidelines. We still have work to do on that front.

SPF Board Report for the first half of Fiscal 2026-2027

Investment performance was solid over the first half of the fiscal year. Total earnings were about 8% of the starting investment balances. The performance of the First Trust NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index Fund (QCLN) since acquisition had been disappointing enough for the committee to discuss liquidating it and moving the money elsewhere, but the performance improved in the 2nd calendar quarter, and it was up about 35% for the July 1 – Dec. 31 period. [How's that for a sentence]

A bequest totaling \$72,008.53 was received from a congregant who asked to remain anonymous. These funds were then sent to Vanguard and settled in the Brokerage Money Market Fund on September 18, 2025. After discussion and conferring with Rev. Susan it was decided that the entire amount would be directed to the Operational Endowment because we had sufficient available funds for the foreseeable future and that 'bucket' was the most undersized if we want it to function as a useful income source for the Operational budget. That increased the Operational Endowment from \$110K to about \$182K or 65%.

Mary Craig and Regina DiLavore have initiated discussions with the SPF committee on updating the relevant bylaws which were intentionally not modified at the last set of bylaw revisions.

The SPF committee has discussed moving away from Old National Bank for our checking account but has not made any changes yet. There are concerns about the allegations of redlining by ONB in the Indianapolis market and the lack of viable interest-bearing options on an account that normally runs between \$35K - \$75K. Vanguard is completing a transition program to integrate old platforms into a unified brokerage-centric platform so trades there have been temporarily disrupted.

Bill reported to the committee on some of the conclusions of the Building Committee and their 5-year plan. There was (is) an urgent need to replace the sliding doors at the back of the Meeting Room with real fire doors that can be part of the building evacuation plan. In addition to this there are windows with decayed frames that need to be replaced, parking lot repairs to be done and updates to the kitchen needed. The funding proposal totaled \$71,000, including a \$3,000 contingency budget. Proposed was \$15,000 to come from Operational Reserves, \$8,000 from this fiscal year's operating budget, \$18,000 to come from the maintenance T-account, \$5,000 to be solicited as member donations and \$25,000 to come from the SPF Legacy Fund. The SPF part of the funding plan was approved and most of the cash has already transferred.