



**FUUSB Annual Meeting
8 June 2025 at 11:20 am
at the Meetinghouse and virtually
Draft Minutes**

Quorum present: A quorum of 39 members was reached and exceeded, with 116 present.

Decisions Made

- Eileen Blackwood was elected Moderator for the meeting.
- The 2024 Annual Meeting minutes were approved.
- The 2025-26 Slate of nominees for FUUSB offices was approved.
- The 2025-26 Proposed Congregational Budget was approved.

Call to Order: The Board President, Rodney Lowe called the meeting to order at 11:21 am.

Chalice Lighting: Reverend Karen G. Johnston introduced Gene Ashley to light the chalice. At age 102, he had been a member of the congregation since 1956.

Election of Moderator: Jonathan Sands nominated Eileen Blackwood as Moderator for the meeting. Zoe Hart seconded the nomination. Votes were counted on the motion and it carried with near unanimity.

Recognition of Major Milestones: Reverend Karen read the names of members who had passed away in the last twelve months: Sylvia Holden, Jean Parsley, Brenda Balon, Richard Cassidy, Susan Alden and Ann Nixon.

Slideshow: Rev. Karen then introduced the slideshow and video clips of Society activities during 2024-25, which was projected on the front wall.

Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting 2024: David Call MOVED and Jean Gunther seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting, held at 7 pm on June 10, 2024. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Election of Slate of Nominees: Bill Barbot represented the Nominating Team and read through the slate of nominees as it was projected on the wall. The slate had been included in the Warning for this meeting. Two minor details were corrected after being pointed out: two nominees for the Board of Trustees, Christine Hallquist and Avery Hamill, were not already serving on the Board, and there were two nominees to serve on the Nominating Team rather than three. Thus the nominees presented to the congregation were as follows.

- President of the Board: Eileen Blackwood (2 year term)(current board member)
- Vice President of the Board: Alana Shaw (2 year term) (to be new member of the board)
- Secretary of the Board: Susan Ogden (currently an at-large member with a term ending in 2026)

- Trustees at large: Christine Hallquist and Avery Hamill (3 year terms)(to be new members of the board)
- Trustee at large: Stephen Rainville (completing a vacated term ending in 2026)(current board member)
- Nominating Team: Kameron McConnell and Mark Power Freeman (3 year terms)
- Endowment Fund Team: Jeb Spaulding (5 year term)

There were no nominations from the floor. Wendy Coe MOVED and David Call seconded the motion to approve the slate of nominees. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Budget Approval: Society Director of Operations and Finance Christina Fulton presented the proposed 2025-26 budget which was also available as a handout and projected on the wall. Kathy Voight Walsh enquired about the use of funds from the First UU Trust. Christina showed that this fund had grown significantly lately due to bequests, so was at a higher level than in the past. Brian Haas asked to have more details shared. Christina noted that there were further details online, and projected the page of Budget Assumptions on the wall. She then highlighted some of these. Nina Dahlstedt asked about the cost of health insurance, and Christina confirmed that there was a significant increase.

Zoe Hart MOVED and Alana Shaw seconded the motion to approve the budget as presented. The motion PASSED unanimously. (At this point, a few folks left to prepare for the picnic to follow the meeting.)

Recognition of Outgoing Board President: Incoming Board President Eileen Blackwood thanked Rodney Lowe for his service and presented him with a gift.

Recognition of Legacy Gifts: Jeb Spaulding of the Legacy Team noted that the congregation had benefitted this year from the gifts of Legacy Society members Maggi Hayes, John Kern, Don Groll, Jerry Packard and Debby Bergh. Jeb thanked the members of the Legacy Team. Melinda Lee spoke on behalf of Jerry Packard, who had been our board president and who remembered us with his legacy gift even though he had moved away. Christina Fulton noted that there is a plaque in the rear of the sanctuary with the names of the Legacy Society members from whom the Society has benefitted.

Presentation of Vision of Ministry and Board Goals: The Vision of Ministry and the Board Goals were available as a handout and were projected on the wall. President-elect Eileen Blackwood noted that this was the first time that the Board had adopted an Annual Vision of Ministry. This was after holding two open sessions to receive congregational input. The Board had also chosen and shared three Open Questions to focus on in the coming year. Zoe Hart inquired about the Ministry Goals, since Oversight of Ministry Goals was included as a board goal. Eileen and Rev. Karen described how our current governance model calls for the board to focus on governance and the staff to focus on ministry. So Ministry Goals will be developed by the Staff, while the Board will hold the Staff accountable. Similarly, since Teams are part of ministry, they function in connection with the Staff, whose goals are being

developed separately. Eileen highlighted the element of the Board Goals that calls for creating a schedule of sessions in which the Board can receive input related to the vision of ministry and open questions. John Lincoln stated that he would like to see more about our building and the Net Zero project in our Vision. Eileen responded that other concerns called for attention this year, but the building could be a focus in a future year.

Justice Banner Unfurling: Christina asked for and received many willing volunteers to help unfurl and display our new Justice Banner. It pictured our meetinghouse and featured the words “Love at the Center”. Members of the congregation had displayed the banner in Montpelier recently, and it had even appeared on Rachel Maddow’s news program as a result.

Other Business: Reverend Karen thanked the congregation for their support in making all of our activities possible. Eileen asked if there was any other business. Beth Howard said that she would like to be able to see the faces of the nominees for our offices. Reverend Karen felt it would be worth making bios of the nominees available as well. President-elect Eileen Blackwood expressed thanks for these suggestions. Chip Patullo suggested that the recently elected nominees should stand and be recognized, which they did.

Chalice Extinguishing: The chalice was extinguished by Avery Hamill, who will have the distinction of being both a board member and a college senior in the Fall. The congregation recited our traditional words for the chalice extinguishing ritual.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.
Minutes submitted by Jonathan Sands, Secretary.