

Board President's Year-End Report

Reporting Period: May 2025 – May 2026

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Introduction

This report reflects on the work of the Board and the broader organization from May 2025 through May 2026. Over this year, the Board focused on maintaining organizational stability, supporting programs and staff, strengthening governance practices, and ensuring responsible stewardship of financial and physical resources.

UUC Board Leadership and Governance

The Board met regularly throughout the year to fulfill its fiduciary and strategic responsibilities. Key areas of attention included:

- Oversight of organizational operations and policies
- Support and collaboration with staff and volunteer leadership
- Monitoring progress toward annual goals
- Ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making

The Board worked to maintain clear communication with the community and to approach decisions thoughtfully and collaboratively.

We are deeply saddened & are in grief by the passing away of our friend and board member Bruce Gotts. I am grateful that he was here to welcome me into our loving congregation. We will be doing more to honor his memory after the shock of his loss has lessened

Organizational Operations

This year involved steady attention to day-to-day operations and long-term sustainability. The Board addressed:

- Facilities maintenance and improvements
- Administrative processes and documentation
- Risk management and compliance needs

- Support for committees and volunteer teams

These efforts helped ensure continuity and a solid operational foundation.

Financial Stewardship

Financial oversight remained a central responsibility of the Board. Throughout the year:

We started my presidency last year with our congregational finances being in a bad place, with a realistic forecast of continued negative draws to cover operational expenses on our very limited reserves. The membership was in decline, and their pledges were also declining. We were running out of money, our pledge income was lower, and our expenses stayed the same (at best) or were increasing

- Budgets were reviewed and monitored regularly
- Income and expenses were tracked to support fiscal responsibility
- Financial decisions were guided by sustainability and long-term planning

The Board is grateful to the Treasurer and Finance Committee for their diligence and clarity. Detailed financial reports are provided separately.

Our loving congregation came together to address this serious situation. A committee of concerned and knowledgeable members came together to educate our members about our situation, open a guided dialogue to generate ideas, and discuss possible solutions. This dynamic committee gathered all this valuable treasure trove of information and summarized it, making it useful

I have great respect and gratitude to all who participated. It contributed greatly to empowering all of us to feel and take ownership of our beloved UUC

Community Engagement and Participation

The organization benefited from the continued involvement of volunteers, committee members, and participants. The Board recognizes the importance of engagement and works to support opportunities for connection, participation, and service.

It is important to know that UUC is not limited to those who attend our weekly Sunday service. Our campus is bustling with continued activity and the use of our facilities. Many internal groups and external organizations are the beneficiaries of our complex

- Our choir * Exhale Meditation Group * Daytime Meditation Group

- Speaking Plainly Group * Yoga * Open Issues Discussions
- Arts Reception & Galary * Women’s Book Club * Multiple Covenant Groups
- Garden/Food Forest * Social Hour (After Sunday Service) * Rummage Sales
- Various Social Justice Council Actions & activities * Iglesia de Cristo Services
- Freedom Friends Homeschooling Co-op * “Free to be me” AA Group
- “Peacefully Sober” AA Group * F.A.S.T’s Administrative Office
- Various Concerts * Food Preparation & Catering at Kitchen
- Numerous Private events * Humanist Group Book Club
- Humanist Organizational Meetings * Hispanic Woman’s Coalition Meetings
- USF Medical Clinic Bus * PFLAG Meetings

These are just a few of the activities we have at our UUC Compound

Challenges and Reflections

Like many nonprofit organizations, this year presented challenges related to capacity, participation, and balancing immediate needs with long-term goals. These challenges encouraged reflection, flexibility, and renewed attention to priorities.

The very probable possibility of receiving the remainder of the Murphy bequest challenges us to reflect and use these extraordinary funds in a way that will energize and empower us to not only continue our social justice actions but to look at effective ways to improve our collective mental health and spiritual wellbeing

It is not just investing in our facilities but in ourselves. We cannot give (a sense of wellbeing) what we ourselves do not have

Looking Ahead

As the organization moves forward, the Board will continue to focus on:

- Strengthening leadership development and implementing our homegrown “flavor” of the collective decision /leadership model
- Encouraging broader participation and volunteer support. We need to find effective ways of connecting our newest members and creating an active & vibrant membership

- I welcome the possibility that we will have a ministerial intern. That she will go a long way in addressing our congregation's well-being and in creating a stronger sense of community
 - My vision of creating a “people magnet” that attracts like-minded individuals and families to our facility, so they may discover that they are one of us, and increase our membership, requires an investment in our Garden & Food Forest
 - Our ageing buildings and ageing membership require that we also increase our workforce to reduce our external contracting of routine maintenance and repairs, plus the continued support to our members and committees
 - Maintaining financial and organizational health
 - Supporting a clear and sustainable path forward
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Appreciation

On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere thanks to all who contributed time, energy, and care during this fiscal year. The organization continues to thrive because of shared commitment and collective effort.

FINAL STATEMENT

We are perfectly positioned to launch into a period of high-impact growth and productivity