UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
November 13, 2025

Present: President Amber Collins, VP Russell Stokes, Treasurer Karen Ellsworth, Clerk Mary Fulton, Directors Donna Caldwell and Chris Johnson, Rev. Denis Paul
Absent: Director April Ruedaflores
Guests: Trish Kelley and Tony Jaeger

Call to Order: 10:00 am by Amber Collins

MOTION: Amber moves to ratify both the October minutes.
PASSED unanimously.

Staff and treasurer reports are appended.

Committee on Ministry (COM): There were two listening sessions last spring. Donna Caldwell, who was serving on the COM at the time, wrote up a review of the sessions that was shared via e-news and the Order of Service. A continuation was planned for this fall so that the next steps could be determined. Donna will be contacting the COM to initiate reconvening to discuss the ministry of the entire congregation. The possibility of regularly scheduled sessions for deep listening was discussed.

Facilities: Michael Bilecki, chair of the Facilities committee phoned in the discuss two topics: 1. The heating system and 2. The cleaning service.

1. It was determined that UUCSC will continue with Cox/Koolco. Warranty coverage for the air conditioning will need to be verified. Although Amber's daughter works for Cox/Koolco there is no conflict of interest because neither Amber or Eve own any of the company.
2. The cost of the cleaning service has been greater than was allotted in the budget. Nancy Dean has offered to coordinate cleaning over the summer since the need is much less then.

MOTION: Karen moves to authorize payment for janitorial invoices through June in an amount not to exceed $2000.00, to ask the Finance committee to find money elsewhere in the budget to cover extra janitorial services, and to ask the Facilities committee to find ways to reduce janitorial expenses.
PASSED unanimously.

Sunday Announcements:
12/7 – Amber, 12/14 – Karen, 12/21 – Mary, 12/23 - Donna
1/ 4 – Chris, 1/11 – Russell, 1/18 – April, 1/25 – Amber

Retreat: A Board retreat will be held 11/15 from 10:00 till 2:00 in the Oneto Room for the specific purpose of revising the bylaws. Karen provided for each Board member a packet of preparatory materials and will email them as well.

Financial query: Trish Kelley asked what the purpose of the investment funds is since she is responsible for maintaining the accounts. Karen stated that they offer financial flexibility when speaking with banks and when unexpected expenses arise.

Adjourned: 11:30
Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fulton, Clerk

Treasurer's Report
for the 13 Nov. 2025 UUCSC Board of Directors meeting

Budget summary
A summary of the income and expenditures for the first quarter of the current fiscal year is attached.
State sales tax exemption
The taxation division of the R.I. Department of Revenue renewed our state sales tax exemption certificate on October 21. To avoid situations like this in the future, I am in the process of putting together an application to the IRS for a determination letter confirming that UUCSC satisfies the criteria for tax exempt status under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. I believe this will require at least one amendment to the bylaws.
Property and casualty insurance
The congregation's property and casualty insurance carrier is Church Mutual. Church Mutual has been the UUA's recommended insurance carrier for some time, but in the past two years, the UUA has received an increasing number of complaints from congregations about Church Mutual's premium increases and poor customer service. As a result, the UUA's Church Staff Finances office is in the process of selecting a new insurance carrier to replace Church Mutual and has retained Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., an insurance brokerage and risk management services company based in Chicago, to assist in its search.
On October 22, Hugh Dennis, the UUA's Director of Insurance Plan Services, conducted an online
meeting with representatives of about 75 UU congregations to provide information about

the transition. Gallagher and the UUA are gathering information about every congregation so potential carriers will know what types of coverage to offer. The UUA expects to be able to choose one insurance carrier by February 1, 2026. Congregations will not be required to use this carrier; they will be able to compare coverage limits, premiums, and deductibles offered by the new carrier with the carrier they have now, and choose whatever carrier they prefer.
Facilities Use Policy revision
I am still working with Amber and April on this project. We hope to be able to deliver a draft revision to you at the December Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ellsworth
UUCSC Treasurer

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County
Treasurer's Report Summary for 13 Nov. 2025
7/1/2025 – 9/30/2025

Income	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges, donations	47,288	56,749
Fundraising		
Rental	4,320	3,750
Other		
TOTAL	55,881	61,425

Expenditures	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Janitorial services	1,035	750
Salaries, professional fees, services, pension, payroll taxes	37,182	44,843
Utilities, phone, internet	1,376	4,112
Condo fees	2.962	3,168
Other		
TOTAL	57,365	66,958

Notes: Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.
Total income for the fiscal year to date does not include pledges for the current fiscal year that were paid during the previous fiscal year ($33,875).
Some types of income and expenses are not specifically listed but they are included in the totals.

Report for October Board Meeting 2025
Director of Faith Exploration

Dear Board,

Sundays are feeling very lively with an average of 15 kids every week. We finished our aspirational RE covenant, come check it out in our circle room! We're also finishing our identity collages to hang in the hallway with updated pictures of each kid, creating a rainbow of our beloved community.

We've started practicing songs with Ami from 11:30-noon every Sunday in what we've currently calling our All Ages Choir (but other names are in the works). It's a joyful time and is really open to ALL ages, so feel free to come sing with us anytime

The Wünder Revels of Samhain was a wonderful success again. The stone soup was delicious and I loved how our ritual began in the sanctuary and finished in our spiral space. Our next Revels are the first Sunday of February for Imbolc and May for Beltane.

Dungeons and Dragons has started up again with 6 kids and our fearless Dungeon Master, Andrew leading the way with Sky supporting. I'd like to expand that to family hang out time like last year. It's Wednesdays 4-6 and anyone is welcome to come visit during that time.

The OWL (Our Whole Lives) training was highly successful last weekend. We hosted 11 people from congregations all over New England and even one from Atlanta. We plan to run OWL for K-1st graders in late winter this year and OWL for 8th-10th graders next congregational year.

Rev. Denis, Ami and I have been planning for Chalice Days, Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve Eve services. We have some new traditions to celebrate Chalice Days that are helping to deepen our UU celebration of our values.

We are going to run a Coming of Age program for our 8th and 9th graders starting in January. This is a program where kids are matched with mentors and also meet together with the DRE and minister periodically to deepen their exploration of their faith and of deeper life questions. Then in May they will present a service together. Thank you to the adults who have volunteered to make this happen!

We will begin planning meetings for the Wünder Academy of Metamorphosis in January. This will also include general RE visioning, but with a focus on Wünder Academy planning. All are welcome, even if you won't be joining us in the summer.

Finally, I'm looking forward to hosting Reflection Circles starting at the end of January. I think there are a couple spots left in my circle.

Lots of love,
Lee

Office Administrator Board Report, November 2025

OWL training
I assisted with preparation and printing of materials for the OWL training, which took place at UUCSC November 7th, 8th and 9th.
Flyer for Community Sewing
I worked with Rosemary Galiani to design a flyer for the Community Sewing group, with the goal of increasing community participation.
Fundraising
I assisted with ticket sales for the Jazz concert, and have started processing vendor fees for the upcoming Holiday Fair.
Memorial Service
I assisted with preparing materials for the memorial service for Art Stein.
The Building
I dealt with Summit in addressing the latest excitement with the heat not working.
Ongoing
I continue to work with Etta on the newsletter and website, and to take care of the mail, email, phone messages, ordering office supplies and writing checks in response to special requests. I continue to process new yellow cards for the Membership Committee, to produce the weekly order of service, and to deliver the food donations to the Johnnycake Center.
Best,
Sara Kaplow
Office Administrator

Minister's Report to the Board of Directors
UU Congregation of South County
Rev. Denis Paul

November 8, 2025

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Following are my thoughts on different areas of ministry:

Worship Life
10/5 "Unconditional Love in Hateful Times," with April Ruedaflores
10/12 "Never Apologize"
11/2 "The Process of Emergence"

The program staff (minister, director of faith exploration, and music director) have been working on BIG services for December. Chalice Days (December 7 and 14) include new songs written for the occasion, dancing, a new member ceremony and blessing of the hands in addition to creating more celebration-specific decor. Our hope is to involve as many people as possible, and to inspire more to bring the practices home, and create their own traditions to pass on to their children and grand children.

Christmas Eve Eve will also be different this year, with a Christmas tree to decorate during the service, and participation of the NEW intergenerational choir.

Each week, we are seeing more new people, most of whom are telling me that they come seeking accompaniment and to not be isolated during these times. It feels like offering hope and opportunities for meaningful and joyful engagement — not just like-minded individuals — is proving to be of value.

Congregational Life

October's congregational dinner was a great success in that we had more volunteer participation than ever, and made the job of the dishwashers easier, a model we can use in the future. We're planning another dinner for Chalice Days on December 9, and another in the Spring. The program staff has been talking about a special lunch on Super Bowl Sunday, so stay tuned for more information.

Sadly, since my last report, we've had three deaths in the congregation: David Crockett whose memorial is yet to be scheduled by his family, Larry Keland who requested no memorial, and Art Stein whose memorial took place very quickly and was well-attended. We did remember Larry with a Chalice-Side the Sunday after his passing.

Community Life

We're continuing to try new places for Beverages and Banter. At least one has proven to be worthy of returning to. The hope is to spread out the geographical area and patronize accessible spaces in order to increase an already solid participation.

The screening of "Grains of Sand" and the fundraiser concert each brought in quite a few folks new to our sanctuary and thanks to the presence of our giant protests puppet Henry Penelope Sunflower at the No Kings Rally, we've made ourselves known to even more.

Now that SNAP payments to 1 out of 8 Americans has ended for the time being, there has been a lot of interest in collecting food, as a congregation, for the Jonnycake Food Pantry. They were our share the plate recipient in September in October, but a lot of folks would like to do more. The Social Justice group has suggested that we could do a special collection of non-perishable food items one Sunday per month. Jean Bowen and I will organize an meeting of stakeholders to see if we can make that happen as soon as possible. In the coming years, we may be asked to do more of this kind of direct outreach and support in our wider community.

Housekeeping

Monday is my regular sabbath.

My next furlough week is November 18-23, followed by a study week November 25-30, during which time I will be at home, planning worship through April and available by phone or email.

Since my last report, I have made a disbursal of $300 from the Agape Fund for the screening of "Grains of Sand," and deposited the $254 collected at that event.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Paul