

UUCB Fall Congregational Meeting Minutes
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
October 5, 2025, Noon

Attendance: 71 Members

Board of Trustees President Christine Slocum called the meeting to order at 12:12pm, read aloud the church covenant, and confirmed at least 15% of qualified voting members (quorum) were in attendance.

Board of Trustees President Christine Slocum moved to nominate Christine Slocum to serve as Moderator. The motion was adopted.

Moderator Christine Slocum moved to nominate Rachel Clark as Parliamentarian. The motion was adopted.

Moderator Christine Slocum moved to nominate Ken Mernitz and Brian Ronan as Tellers. The motion was adopted.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Bill Parke, Secretary, presented two amendments to fix prior draft congregational meeting minutes which were distributed online before the meeting: (1) change “Nominator” to “Moderator” in the Fall, 2024 meeting minutes held 9/29/2024; and (2) add a title section to the Winter, 2025 meeting minutes held 1/26/2025 as follows: Title = Winter Congregational Meeting Minutes, Date = 1/26/2025 and Place = UUCB. A resolution was made by Christine Slocum to accept the amendments and approve the following congregational meeting minutes as amended:

Fall 2023 = 10/1/2023

December 2023 = 12/3/2023

Fall 2024 = 9/29/2024

January 2025 = 1/26/2025

May 2025 = 5/4/2025

The motion passed.

Endowment presentation

A presentation was given by Endowment Advisory Committee Chair Charles Battaglia, who described what the endowment is, what it does, and its importance to the church. He informed the meeting that a Declaration of Intent form is available on the church webpage, and answered questions. The report was accepted.

Capital Campaign presentation

A presentation was given by Capital Campaign Co-Chair Philip Nicolai, who reviewed the history of the Campaign, its achievements, its current status, and future plans including a November 23, 2025 town hall. The report was accepted.

Stewardship presentation

An on-screen video presentation was given by Stewardship Chair Tom Petrocelli, who requested contributions, explained ways to make a pledge, and provided his contact information for assistance. The report was accepted.

Budget presentation and vote

A presentation on the budget was given by Treasurer Paul Zanolli. A detailed budget was distributed online before the meeting and budget information was shown on-screen, with a hard-copy budget summary distributed as well. Items of interest were presented and discussed, including plans for an endowment draw, fundraising needs, COVID-related payroll tax credit payments, unique payouts, budget increases, and the projected deficit of ~\$68,000 for 2026.

Two amendments made at the last Board of Trustees meeting were presented by Mr. Zanolli:

1) Remove Music Fundraising from Annual Budget (Unrestricted line 315.010). Music Fundraising will be managed through the Restricted Music Fund. (Board approved on 9/17/2025)

2) Remove Music Support Expenses from Annual Budget (Unrestricted line 610.025). Music Support Expenses will be managed through the Restricted Music Fund. (Board approved on 9/17/2025)

A motion to accept the amendments was made and passed, with 1 opposed.

Joel Cohen proposed amendments to the 2026 budget as follows: "I move to reflect in the budget:

- Reductions in the operating budget TBD by the Minister in consultation with the UUCBstaff (\$22,742.00)
- Additional fundraising TBD by the Board (\$22,742.00)
- Additional congregational contributions (\$22,742.00)"

A motion to accept the amendments was made and passed.

An amendment was proposed by Anthony Keller: "I propose an amendment to the budget that we pay our Fair Share to the UUA instead of the budgeted amount." After discussion, the vote was held and showed: In favor: 5. Opposed: 42. Abstentions: 5. The motion did not pass.

An amendment was proposed by Simon Richard. "I propose bumping up giving to Fair Share each year by \$1,000; this year, from \$20,000 to \$21,000." The vote was held and showed: In favor: 38. Opposed: 9. Abstentions: 5. The motion passed.

With no further motions to amend the budget, a motion to approve the 2026 Budget as presented 10/5/2025 including the approved 10/5/2025 amendments was made by Philip Nicholai. The vote was held and showed: In favor: 52. Opposed: 1. No Abstentions. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39pm.

Bill Parke, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo