

UUCB Winter Congregational Meeting Minutes
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo Sanctuary
February 1, 2026, Noon

Attendance: 71 Members

Board of Trustees President Christine Slocum called the meeting to order at 12:15pm, confirmed at least 15% of qualified voting members (quorum) were in attendance, and Rev. Bethany Russell-Lowe gave opening words.

With the meeting agenda shown on the projection screen, Liz Parke moved to elect Board of Trustees President Christine Slocum to serve as Facilitator. The motion was adopted.

Facilitator Christine Slocum moved to elect Liz Parke as Parliamentarian. The motion was adopted.

Facilitator Christine Slocum moved to elect Ken Mernitz and Susan Mann Dolce as Tellers. The motion was adopted.

Liz Parke gave a presentation on Meeting Conduct, referring to new voting cards and describing procedure for counting votes.

Meeting minutes from the 2025 Fall Congregational meeting were presented for adoption. Valerie Anderson moved the minutes be accepted. The motion was adopted with zero No votes and one Abstention.

Christine Slocum asked for ballots to be completed to elect Renee Geraci and Mary Coleman to the Board of Trustees of UUCB for 3 year terms to expire January 2029, and Ted Lightfoot to the Board of Trustees of UUCB for remaining 2 years of a term that expires January 2028. Ballots were completed and collected by the Tellers. No nominations were received from the floor. Tellers reported to the Secretary Bill Parke with a written tabulation showing 67 ballots received: 65 Yes for above Slate and two Abstentions (blank ballots submitted).

Marika Frankenstein moved to elect Eve Holberg to the Nominating Committee of UUCB for a 3 year term to expire January 2029. Motion was adopted with zero No votes and four Abstentions.

Paul Zanolli presented the Treasurer's Report and remarked on an unexpected tax credit and bequest allowed the church to avoid a deficit in 2025 and noted completion of a successful ministerial search leading to the arrival of Rev. Bethany Russell-Lowe, Minister, as well as the institution of a sweep account to make specific funds interest-bearing. Mr. Zanolli reviewed budget projections for 2026 and led a discussion of restricted funds with assistance from Facilitator Christine Slocum. In reference to the annual budget, he reviewed the status of loan

paybacks, with a 2019 \$60,000 loan paid back while a \$65,000 loan remains to be paid; the Capital Campaign will repay those funds from Capital Campaign funds this year.

Capital Campaign (CC) and Fixed Assets (FA) Presentations were given by Phil Nicolai and David Quackenbush, respectively. Mr. Nicolai helped the congregation in conveying its thanks to the Capital Campaign team, reviewed suggestions from the congregation for CC projects, and shared that the Board of Trustees, CC and FA will meet to determine based on those and money remaining what the next phase will be in terms of new projects. One project that will proceed is replacement of the stove/oven in the kitchen. Mr. Nicolai reviewed the amount received by the Capital Campaign (over \$900,000), grant funds still expected (nearly \$300,000), and pledge amounts still expected (approximating \$260,000). Mr. Quackenbush reviewed completed projects and projects agreed-upon and to be done.

Lucy Sloan, President of the Women's Society, announced that the society will be buying the church new chairs.

Beth White led the congregation in thanking Christine Slocum and Brian Ronan for their contributions to the Board of Trustees.

Phil Nicolai announced that tickets are for sale for the Cabaret fundraising event.

Christine Slocum announced there being no further discussion or announcements that the meeting is ready for adjournment. Zack Unger moved. The motion was accepted and the meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.

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