

## Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: Bridge Street building & Zoom (hybrid)

Present: Lora, Elen, Lori, Trista, John, Julie, Lucinda, Melissa, Rosemary, Rev. Bruce

### 1. Chalice Lighting

When we do the work of the Fellowship, we touch lives, and when we touch lives, we change the world.

### 2. Agenda

Agenda additions included:

- Request for KUUF sponsorship/endorsement of an educational event about crypto mining/data centers .
- Consideration of a year-end/holiday bonus for Sandra.

**The agenda was accepted by consensus.**

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the prior meeting had been distributed earlier in the week. No changes requested.

***Enderby/Maurer motion to approve the minutes unanimously passed.***

### 4. Treasurer's Report

Due to ongoing computer issues, the Treasurer was unable to complete the QuickBooks reconciliation for this month. Bank statements were printed; there has been little change since last month and bills are being paid. The Board will receive and review two months of financials at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the inconsistency of the computer (works intermittently, then fails). The device was purchased within the last 10 years (likely ~7 years). Janine and Leonard attempted troubleshooting; the system worked during their visit but failed again later.

**Action Item:** Contact Up & Running and arrange to bring the computer in for evaluation/repair.

## 5. Minister's Report

Rev. Bruce's written report was received. Rev. Bruce noted it was longer than usual and intended primarily as an informational update; no Board action was requested.

Rev. Bruce shared that he recently wrote and submitted a reflection to the Mining Gazette which was then posted on the online edition in the Letters to the Editor section. Board members welcomed the contribution and expressed interest in seeing it.

Rev. Bruce will provide information about his upcoming Saturday morning workshop for inclusion in the KUUF Digest, and the Board requested that it also be posted on the website (Upcoming Events) to increase traffic and visibility. Elen will coordinate with Martha on website placement and potential creation of a recurring "From the Minister"/blog-style area on the site.

## 6. Building & Grounds

Solar Feasibility Study (Michigan Tech):

A Michigan Tech engineering student team completed a solar feasibility study for the Bridge Street building and presented findings to the Building Managers and President. The report indicates solar panels are feasible, with the ability to store energy in batteries to provide limited backup power (e.g., furnace operation and some lighting) during outages. The estimated cost discussed was approximately \$8,000-\$8,500 (Board suggested planning up to \$10,000 for budgeting). Net metering/selling power back to the grid is not available under current utility rules, so the project would rely on onsite use and battery storage.

Discussion included: potential fundraising (including a matching-funds approach using a portion of existing building/Bridge Street funds), the value of a visible "green" initiative, and the importance of congregational input alongside other Phase 2 priorities.

**Action Items:** (1) Share a synopsis of the student report in the Digest, with an option to post the full report electronically for members who want details; (2) Identify a person (e.g., Dave Watkins or another knowledgeable volunteer) who could help interpret the report for the fellowship if a forum is scheduled; (3) Revisit as part of budget planning and/or Annual Meeting discussion.

Bridge Street Fund Balance:

The Treasurer reported the Bridge Street Fund ending balance as of 11/30/2025: \$29,667.

Exterior Work Estimates / Coordination:

Craig has been gathering estimates for exterior work, including gutter improvements (especially front drainage), tree trimming along the lot line to reduce leaf clogging and improve drainage, and other maintenance. The gutter work is anticipated for spring. Tree trimming costs appear to exceed the current subcommittee budget and may need to be considered in the next fiscal-year budget (estimated additional \$1,000-\$1,200 discussed).

**Action Item:** Ensure Craig copies Melissa (Building Manager) on all estimates and communications related to exterior work so items flow through the Building Managers as intended.

## 7. Board Initiatives & Program Updates

### Volunteer Fair:

The Volunteer Fair was reported as successful, with new people signing up for tasks and follow-up emails continuing after the event. Not every task was filled, but the Fair increased awareness of work being done and expanded the pool of volunteers. Discussion included whether the long task list may have felt overwhelming to some, and whether clearer framing could help (e.g., clarifying that some roles are needed only once or twice per year, and that signing up adds someone to a “call list,” not a weekly obligation). The group also noted the need to engage long-time members who have previously carried heavy volunteer loads, with limited/occasional options.

**Action Item:** The volunteer initiative group will meet after the New Year to review outcomes and plan next steps, including follow-up for unfilled roles.

### Committee List Reorganization:

The committee reorganization/document discussed at the prior meeting remains in progress and has not been finalized. The Board expects this work to connect with the website redesign and how committee information will be displayed in Members Only. Rosemary and Lori plan to reconvene after the New Year to complete and align the document with website needs.

### Website & Communications Updates:

Website updates are underway. Trista has been sending Martha small batches of ready-to-update content weekly; Martha has implemented changes the following day and reports the process is straightforward. Larger updates (mission statements, committee structure changes, etc.) will take longer as input is still being gathered.

Note: Harriet maintains the “Committees & Contacts” list in Members Only. Once the committee reorganization is finalized, relevant changes should also be forwarded to Harriet for that document.

### Religious Exploration (RE) Update:

Board members shared very positive feedback about Suzanne’s work with children’s RE. Attendance appears steady and the program is functioning well. After the New Year, the RE team plans to meet (including Janine) to discuss broader outreach and wording for a brief public-facing description of Sunday morning offerings.

## 8. Community Awareness: Crypto Mining / Data Centers

Several Board members attended a recent community forum about crypto mining/data centers. Discussion highlighted potential community impacts such as noise (reported up to ~90 decibels near facilities), large energy demand, water use, limited local employment benefit, and the importance of transparent public process (including concerns raised about nondisclosure agreements in other jurisdictions). A public presentation is planned at the Orpheum in Hancock in mid-January (date discussed as approximately January 13).

The forum organizers requested community sponsors to be listed (no financial sponsorship) as a show of support for public education and awareness.

***Maurer/Enderby motion that KUUF be listed as a sponsor of the January public educational event on crypto mining/data centers (no monetary contribution) was unanimously approved.***

## 9. Personnel / Recognition

The Board discussed Sandra's expanded responsibilities while KUUF is without an accompanist. Sandra has been supporting worship in additional ways and doing "two jobs." In recognition, the Board approved a year-end bonus consistent with last year's practice.

Enderby/LeVeque motion to provide Sandra a \$500 net bonus, grossed up so that she receives \$500 after taxes/withholding unanimously approved.

Action Items: A physical check will be prepared and signed by authorized signers, so Sandra receives it before Christmas. Because of the computer issue, payroll entry and pay stub documentation will be completed once the system is functional.

## 10. Land Acknowledgement Update

Lora reported on follow-up with the Land Acknowledgement team regarding the length and appropriateness of "tribal news" during the land acknowledgement. The team indicated they are not willing at this time to provide a brief, recurring land acknowledgement that they view as perfunctory/performative. Instead, they propose: periodic Digest updates, an Indigenous-focused worship service (March or May), a related book read/discussion, and additional activities to deepen engagement.

Board feedback recognized the value of deeper engagement and supported trusting the team's proposed approach. Some expressed discomfort with having no land acknowledgement at all and suggested exploring alternatives such as (a) a brief acknowledgement displayed on a pre-service slide, (b) a permanent visual display or artwork in the building, ideally developed with input from Indigenous partners, and/or (c) a periodic written acknowledgement in the Digest. Lora will share this feedback with the team and continue the conversation in January.

## **11. Caring Committee**

Holiday care packages were assembled for members who may be alone or needing support during the season. Approximately eight packages were prepared. Total cost was approximately \$277, funded through the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

A community request related to Christmas dinner support was discussed; Copper Shores reportedly covered the need, but KUUF remains open to supporting community efforts when specifics are provided.

## **12. Upcoming Services & Dates**

- Christmas Eve Service: Led by Bucky
- January 25 Service: Justice Ministry (KJM) will lead; Vicki will be the speaker.
- Next Board Meeting: Sunday, January 18, 2026.

## **13. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:52pm