

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Board of Trustees Meeting – Minutes

Date: Sunday, January 18, 2026

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: Bridge Street building & Zoom (hybrid)

Present: Lora Repp, Elen Maurer, Lori Swanson, Trista Gersie, Julie Badel, Cindy Enderby, John Gale, Rosemary LeVeque, Melissa Williamson, Rev. Bruce Johnson

1. Opening

The meeting opened with words reminding the Board that when we do the work of the Fellowship, we touch lives, and when we touch lives, we change the world and the chalice was lit. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Lora Repp.

2. Agenda

Agenda additions included:

- Strategic Plan notice/update (added after Board Initiative Reports).
- Payment to Alan Turnquist for the Airbnb and plan moving forward.

The agenda was accepted by consensus.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the prior meeting had been distributed. A correction was noted to the spelling of Lori's name.

Minutes unanimously approved on a Gale/Enderby motion

4. Treasurer's Report

Lori reported that KUUF has sufficient funds and bills are being paid. The accounting computer has been repaired by Up & Running, allowing November and December financial reports to be printed.

A bookkeeping issue was identified: payments for Rev. Bruce are currently being coded to an incorrect account, resulting in the Ministerial Team line showing zero while Rev. Bruce's line appears significantly over budget. The Treasurer will record the expenses so they reflect accurately in the appropriate accounts.

Enderby/Gersie motion to accept the Treasurer's Report unanimous

5. Minister's Report

Rev. Bruce provided a written report and noted that KUUF's Soul Matters subscription includes resource packets for worship and religious education. No board action was required.

Lora and Rev. Bruce shared two new relationship-building opportunities for members to get to know Rev. Bruce and Diane beyond Sunday services:

- Thursday evening gatherings (small-group, invitation-based).
- Friday morning in-person "Coffee Hour with the Minister" on Fridays when Rev. Bruce is in town, prior to the DVD class.

6. Building Business

Door camera: John reported receiving a camera alert which resulted in him witnessing an argument outside the front entrance. Pastoral Care was notified and addressed the situation. However, this situation raised the question of whether folks are cognizant of the surveillance. The Board discussed notifying the public that the property is monitored by a visible camera.

Consensus: Post a simple sign near the entrance (e.g., "Cameras in Use" or similar) to inform visitors and support deterrence. Trista will order this.

Snow removal/parking: The Board discussed reduced parking capacity due to snow accumulation and the higher cost of snow hauling in prior years. Next steps include:

- Requesting additional snow removal to restore at least one more accessible/handicap parking space.
- Asking the plow contractor (Tony) for options, including potential cost-saving approaches and acceptable snow placement locations.
- Reminding congregants during announcements to park close together to maximize available space.

7. Board Initiative Reports

Membership: Rosemary has assumed the role of Membership Chair and met with Elen and Lora for orientation. The committee is exploring ways to enhance welcome practices, especially for Zoom visitors, while avoiding practices that may feel uncomfortable or singling out individuals.

Zoom welcome slide: The team will test approaches for displaying the Zoom welcome information so it is readable and accessible (including brief screen sharing at the start of Zoom and/or using the office Zoom profile tile to display the welcome slide).

Caring Committee: The committee is reorganizing. Heidi will serve as Chair; Barry and Linda Ruleison will provide support. The committee will expand participation through "teams" (e.g., cookie-making, meal

support, driving, visiting/check-ins) so members can volunteer for specific tasks rather than serve on a standing committee.

8. Strategic Plan (Agenda Addition)

The Board noted that the current strategic plan framework is scheduled for review and refresh in 2026. The goal is to retain the plan's core aspirations (including the added building aspiration) while updating action plans—removing completed items and adding new priorities.

Next steps include inviting a small group of congregational volunteers to participate in updating the plan. The updated strategic plan will be reviewed by the Board and presented for congregational approval at the annual meeting.

9. UUA Annual Certification / Data Report

The Board confirmed that the UUA data report is in progress and due February 2, 2026.

- Lori is completing the financial section.
- Elen and the Lora are completing the membership section and will share the process with Rosemary for next year's cycle.

Members discussed that reported membership and financial data influence KUUF's annual contribution to the UUA.

10. Sunday Services

Christmas Eve service: Members shared positive feedback on the Christmas Eve open mic service, noting it felt like a full Christmas Eve service and was well received.

Upcoming services: The Justice Ministry service is scheduled for next Sunday. Planning is underway, with adjustments due to illness affecting preparation.

Music: The committee is experimenting with changes to service music. Feedback included appreciation for the message of the new selection as well as missing familiar elements. The Sunday Services Committee will continue the trial and consider gathering broader feedback.

Tech/operations: Juxta shared that they may transition out of the role in the future (not imminent) and requested development of standard operating procedures for Sunday mornings to support a future handoff. The Board and Sunday Services Committee will gather input on tech improvements and process refinements (e.g., slide transitions, file organization for the new year, Zoom audio levels).

11. Fundraising and Budget Planning

Goods & Services Auction: The group clarified past auction dates (February 10, 2024; April 5, 2025). A 2026 date was not set during this meeting due to schedule constraints. The committee will determine a

date that supports the budget process and key participant availability. Volunteers noted: Lori will continue to support planning; Martha has volunteered to assist.

Budget timeline: The Board noted that the proposed budget is typically approved at the May Board meeting and presented for congregational vote at the annual meeting (tentatively targeted for Sunday, June 7, 2026, pending required notice).

Finance Committee: Members discussed the need for the Finance Committee to meet by early March to draft a tentative budget in advance of canvass/pledge efforts.

12. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 1:42pm following completion of agenda items.