

UUCWI Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Sept 11, 2025

Four board members were present: Don Winebrinner, Toyan Copeland, Lynn Wenzel, Linda Freeburg

Not present: Clara Beier, Dee Marion

We reviewed the minutes of August 14th. Approved by consensus

Report on Financials: Lynn presented several financial reports. She shared the results of her work contacting those individuals who haven't fulfilled their pledge from 2024-2025, and we have now received 96% of pledged amounts. Stephanie affirmed that she is not to use auction proceeds towards any individual's pledge totals. One maturing CD was rolled into a new CD, according to our laddered strategy. We discussed the possibility of refining a GL code allocation.

Auction/Membership/ingathering: We received a report from Clara and discussed it. We recognize there is a necessary balance between building community and raising funds. We're asking the auction team -through Don – to discuss this and see what things we might increase (tickets? Starting price of silent auction bids?) to achieve or exceed our financial goals.

Outreach: Linda described this past month's efforts to conduct outreach and the experience of several interconnected obstacles, made more difficult by our volunteer/distributed structure. She will keep working on learning which efforts will give us some impact. One new tool is available to us through the Whidbey Community Foundation. Nick Fowler was suggested as a resource for recent photos, and Toyan has good copy of our logo. Mavis is stepping back from Facebook posting because of how many things she's already working on.

Minister Search: Search Team members are Clara, Lynn, Toyan, Linda and Mark Simpson as the congregational advisor. We approved this team's membership by consensus. The search team is asking for approval on the employment agreement and the minister's duties. It was moved and seconded to approve the scope of work for part time minister and approved by consensus. It was moved and seconded to accept the employment agreement template and approved by consensus. We are making progress and receiving applications.

Congregational Conversation: We had over 50 people in attendance on August 24th after the service and a consensus that it was well received and successful. Food was terrific; facilitation was very effective. Dee collected the documented work product and reported results to the board, along with an executive summary. We will incorporate ideas and comments from these reports in transparent discussions about ministerial priorities and future board endeavors.

Leadership Council: We discussed topics for the upcoming leadership council meetings. Next meeting will be Saturday October 11th. Potential topics for upcoming meetings:

1. Report from each committee leadership on their activities and accomplishments since the last meeting
2. Sharing the report from our Membership Consultant and asking for their investment in building a more welcoming conversation,
3. Sharing expectations from Committee Chairs and committee members for minister time and involvement, and
4. Reporting on progress in committee tasks to become a more welcoming congregation.

Choir: We have a proposal from Eileen Soskin for a new choir, suggesting a practice and performance schedule and related costs. It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal and costs; passed with consensus.

Safety Review: Toyon has been in communication with the island County Sheriff's department about assessing and strengthening our safety protocols and emergency preparedness. We will form a team to dig in on this endeavor, including hearing from the Sheriff's department on how best to initiate this work. Don has expressed an interest in being on this team.

Signage: The previous sign committee worked on sign design possibilities and presented their results to the board. At that time, they didn't recommend that we build that design, in part because of concerns about cost. Going forward, the board will own this project and work on it within the board's purview. We intend to solicit early input from the congregation on their aspirations for what image they want the sign to convey, and what we want it to say about us. We will likely work with an external designer who can take that input and create design options for us.

Attach: copies of the employment agreement and the Scope of work for part time minister.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15. Next meeting will be in person on October 9th at UUCWI.