

	<p style="text-align: center;">Minutes for the Board Meeting of Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, Feb 17, 2026 <b>APPROVED</b></p>
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Attendees (virtual attendance marked with \*):

- Board Members – Maddie Kulpa, Lynn Hixson, Devon Alley\*, Rob Richardson, Roy Kersey\*, Stephanie Kyriazis\*
- Ex-Officio Members – Gillian Denham Jones, Catherine Farmer Loya, Chris Buice, David Asbury\*
- Guests - Mary Rogge, Mark Mohundro, John Montgomery, Pat Bing

**Meeting chaired by Board President Maddie Kulpa. Minutes recorded and submitted by Secretary Devon Alley.**

### **1. Chalice Lighting & Opening**

- Maddie Kulpa called the meeting to order at 6:02pm, following confirmation of a quorum (six members present).
- Opening words were read by Maddie Kulpa (“The Light Within Us” by Brian Lee).
- The Board briefly reviewed the Board Covenant, focusing on commitments of respect, trust, confidentiality, accountability, and constructive dialogue.
- Maddie reported that a PDF of the Board Covenant will be posted to the Teams channel and explored for placement on the church website for congregational access.

### **2. Congregational Comment**

- No additional business was raised by congregants.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

- The following items were presented as part of the consent agenda:
  - January Board Meeting Minutes
  - Financial Reports
  - Management Team Report
  - Strategic Planning Report

- Personnel Committee report was not included, as the committee has not yet begun meeting.
- Management and Planning reports were submitted late; board members were offered time to review.
- Maddie moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Rob seconded. The vote was approved unanimously.

#### 4. Denominational Affairs Discussion – Mark Mohundro

- Mark provided updates on:
  - UUA Southern Region and national workshops
  - Upcoming safety training hosted by TUCAN
  - Planned Parenthood advocacy presentation (March 21)
  - UUA General Assembly (GA), including format changes, costs, and delegate approval timelines
  - Monthly “Gathering” events, including board/staff-focused sessions
  - UU Solidarity Initiative related to immigration advocacy
- Key Discussion Points:
  - Rising costs of GA and accessibility concerns
  - Potential need for scholarships or financial assistance
  - Timeline for GA delegate applications and approvals

#### 5. Artwork Donation to McClung Museum Discussion (Charles Counts Pot) – Pat Bing

- Discussion centered on donating a historically significant **Charles Counts pottery piece** (gifted to the church for its civil rights work) to the **McClung Museum**.
- Benefits identified included professional preservation, public access, and storytelling aligned with local civil rights history.
- Board emphasized the need for:
  - Written agreement ensuring the piece is not sold
  - Clarity on long-term stewardship and access
  - Board review of final donation terms
- **Next Steps / Action Items:**
  - **Maddie Kulpa and Gillian** will contact the museum curator to review the proposed agreement.
  - Final donation terms will return to the Board for approval.
  - Research to be done on any original stipulations tied to the gift.

## 6. Update on External Meeting – Chris Buice

- Chris provided an update on a meeting with Carol, Bob, and Polly regarding safety and legal considerations for a proposed initiative.
- **Outcome:**
  - Agreement on the need for guidelines and safeguards
  - Follow-up meeting scheduled
  - A more formal proposal is expected for Board review

## 7. Announcements and Updates – Gillian Denham Jones and Maddie Kulpa

- **Chili Dinner Debrief**
  - The Board reflected on the recent chili dinner fundraiser.
  - Attendance was lower than in past years, but the event was considered successful.
  - Consensus that the Board cannot sustain the event alone in future years.
  - **Action Item:**
    - Board members to consider potential co-hosts (e.g., committees or program council) for future events.
- **Board Budget Update**
  - Maddie reported submitting the Board's budget request (late due to email oversight).
  - Request remains **\$1,500**, consistent with last year.
  - Funds allocated for:
    - Congregational meeting food
    - Board retreats and training
    - UUA President/Vice President training opportunities
- **Board Member on Duty Script**
  - Proposed updated language removing explicit mention of "emergency exits" while still providing guidance for newcomers.
  - New wording emphasizes ushers' availability to help locate exits, restrooms, and other areas.
  - Consensus: Approved
  - **Action Item:** Maddie to update Teams, website, and printed materials.
- **Stewardship for Us Report**
  - So far, accurate and easy to read
  - Will send out to Board and Management and then decide how to share with the congregation

- **Stewardship and Pledge Drive Update**
  - \$500,000 goal
  - Current total: \$258,747.96
  - We have 102 pledges so far (3 without specific amounts)
  - Numbers generally track with last year, though some large pledges are not yet received.
  - Noted impact of member losses and broader financial pressures.
- **CPR and First Aid Training Updates**
  - **CPR/First Aid/AED Training** scheduled for **April 25**, noon–4:30 PM.
  - Training open to staff, RE volunteers, and interested congregants.

## 8. Board Training: Governance as Stewardship – Lynn Hixson

- Lynn summarized the governance training module covering:
  - Roles of congregation, board, and ministry
  - Mission, vision, and covenant
  - Fiduciary responsibilities
  - Board confidentiality and legal obligations
  - Policy governance and committee charters
  - Importance of mission-aligned budgeting

## 9. Additional Comments

- Chris mentioned the upcoming pulpit swap
- Strategic Planning Update - Devon
  - Timeline adjusted to allow more congregational education and engagement.
  - Data gathering planned for April–May; analysis over the summer.
  - Results will inform next year’s Board planning.
  - **Board Discussion:**
    - Varied perspectives shared on congregational input vs. board-led visioning.
    - Affirmation that the process follows UUA guidance and values.
- Rummage Sale Update – Roy
  - Approximately 15 volunteers identified; goal is 25.
  - Primary challenge is finding one or more coordinators.
  - Event is on the calendar, but leadership structure is still needed.
  - **Action Items:**

- Roy to send volunteer list to Maddie.
- Maddie to contact volunteers to identify potential coordinators.

## **10. Closing Words**

- Closing words were offered and the chalice was extinguished.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Devon Alley, Board Secretary