



Minutes of the Board Meeting of
Tennessee Valley Unitarian
Universalist Church

Tuesday, August
18, 2026
Final

Meeting chaired by Board President, Maddie Kulpa. Minutes recorded and submitted by Secretary, Bill Cherry

Attendees (virtual attendance marked with *)

- **Board Members** - Maddie Kulpa, Lynn Hixson, Rob Richardson, Ory Weaver, Jennifer Fowler, Bill Cherry*

- **Ex-officio Members** - Gillian Denham Jones, Catherine Farmer Loya, Carol Villaverde

- **Guests** - Mary Rogge, Carolyn Rodgers, Kathy Greenburg

Opening Words

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Maddie Kulpa. An opening chalice lighting and reading were shared.

Announcements - Maddie Kulpa

- Meeting schedule - Four Hybrid meetings - Aug/Nov/Feb and May. All others will be ZOOM only
- Congregational meetings - 2nd Sunday on January - June date TBD
- Annual Chili dinner - 1st Saturday in February
- Rummage sale - Maybe in the Spring - 75% probability
- BMOD changes - No announcements after August. To be covered by staff. There will be a designated BMOD with specific duties to be determined. Hope to use Realm Connect for sign-ups.
- Board to host 1st Sunday brunch in October. Lynn is coordinating.
- Mark is planning to restart Wednesday potlucks in September.

Consent Agenda - Maddie Kulpa

- Included items (all are on Realm):
 - Minutes from May meeting
 - Right Relations Team Report
 - A specific ask was made for all Board members to attend one of the listening circles
 - Finance Report
 - Management Team Report
 - Program Council Report

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made and seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Old Business

- On-boarding
 - All have completed the survey.
 - All members should confirm that their information in the Realm contact list is correct.
 - Maddie stated that “Pathways” is not set-up for everyone at this time. Just officers.
- Board Communications
 - Maddie stated that the Board email will only be used for congregation communications and meeting reminders and the Realm group will be used for internal Board discussions and a text thread will be created for urgent matters.
 - A Google Drive will be set up for document management which will replace Realm’s limited folder capabilities.
 - Updated slides have been added to the TV monitor and Maddie asked all to review and provide any feedback
 - Lynn clarified that notifications in Realm appear as emails but they cannot be replied to directly. Maddie agreed to investigate to see if email replies can be enabled in the system
- Board Committees
 - Committee membership needs were discussed for the 6 Board committees
 - Finance is OK
 - Buildings and Grounds - Needs a landscape replacement for Barbara Lamb. Maddie will be meeting with Dick T.
 - Right Relations is OK for now
 - Strategic Planning - Probably OK for now but Mary will confirm
 - Both Personnel and Stewardship committees are in need of rebuilding. Board members are encouraged to identify potential candidates and make recommendations to Maddie
- Board Covenant
 - Lynn is working to revise the existing Board covenant to make it more succinct.

New Business

- Endowment Committee
 - Rich Davis reports that another member is needed for the Endowment Committee with one potential being mentioned. This is the result of a member’s relocation.
- New Board training
 - A new strategic board training program is available through UUI. This self-directed consists of 4 modules and the objective is for each Board member to complete 1 each month so we can have it completed by January. Lynn will send the group code to everyone for access.
- Working Group Proposal

- Maddie is proposing that we use the second half of our Board meetings for break-out sessions of 4 people each to focus on 3 main areas; 1) Mission-Vision Discernment, 2) Policy Development and 3) Congregational Assessment. Maddie has agreed to lead the 1st group, Lynn the 2nd and Bill the 3rd. Some members expressed their interest as follows - Carol, Congregational Assessment, Catherine, Policy Development and Ory, Mission/Vision. Maddie will follow-up with absent members for their selections.
- It was clarified that fundraising activities i.e. Rummage Sale and Auction will be managed via the Management Team and not by a separate Board committee.

Closing Words by Maddie

Respectively submitted,
Bill Cherry, Board Secretary