

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence

Executive Board Regular Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025 – 7:00 pm – Founders Hall

Our Mission is to love inclusively, nurture spiritual growth and connections,
freely explore life's big questions, and act for justice.

Attendance:

Chair: Peter Graham, Presiding; Chair-Elect: Mary Holm (via Zoom); Secretary: Louise Hanson; Treasurer: Brad Wertz; Members-at-large: Jennifer Ball; Bill Hagel (via Zoom); Rev. Nori Rost

Guests: Sara Vancil; Rilie Kafer (via Zoom). A Quorum was established.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and lit the chalice candle. Timekeeper: Jennifer; Process Observer: Brad; Board member check-in.

Congregational Comments.

None offered.

“Open question.”

Sara Vancil invited discussion of LINK’s stated need to have participating organizations contribute money to cover operating expenses for the inter-faith kitchen. The UUCL Social Justice Team has acknowledged that the request is reasonable. She suggested that UUCL contribute \$1000 to LINK annually, in addition to bi-monthly volunteering and contributing food. Jennifer made a motion, seconded by Mary, to support the LINK program annually in the amount of \$1000. The Board vote was unanimous in support of the motion. Sara was thanked for her considerable efforts coordinating our LINK involvement.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Minutes of Feb. 20, 2025
- Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports

Brad made a change in the solar panel figure in the Treasurer’s report and Jennifer added a change to the last line of the homeless policy statement. (See documents in Board Drive) Jennifer made a motion, seconded by Brad to accept the amended Consent Agenda. The motioned passed unanimously.

Information Items:

Minister’s Report and Building and Grounds update.

Documents are posted for review on the Board drive. Note that Nathan Stover is the new Building and Grounds Team chair.

Stewardship update.

Stewardship kick-off event will be held at Artera on March 30, 4 – 6 pm. The goal is to lessen our budget deficit. The Board can expect to see a proposed budget at the April Board meeting. Plans for communicating with the congregation are underway.

Budget development update.

Explanations are contained in the Treasurer’s Report.

Leadership Development Committee update.

The Committee needs to be formed.

Leadership Development Committee update.

This committee will need to be organized.

It was decided that Clay would present a report on the religious education program quarterly rather than monthly to allow for a more substantive presentation.

Coffee, Juice and Java discussion.

The advisability of hiring a person to oversee the hospitality period on Sunday mornings is addressed again. There are line items in the budget that could cover the cost of hiring a person, possibly a young member of the congregation. Volunteers would continue to bring food. Bill suggested a collection box could be placed on the counter to accept donations for coffee service. Ushers could collect the donations for accounting along with the morning offerings. A motion was made by Mary and seconded by Jennifer to pursue the hiring of a person to take charge of Sunday hospitality. Motioned passed unanimously.

Action Items:**Policy Update – Second Reading, Coordination of Services on homeless policy.**

The text of the policy is printed in the March 20 Board agenda found on the Board drive. Jennifer moved, seconded by Brad and passed unanimously to accept the text of the policy statement below. The wording of the last sentence was offered by Jennifer in a friendly amendment that was agreed to by the Board.

Supporting unhoused individuals is a meaningful and compassionate way for UUCL to engage with the community. Working in coordination with social service agencies ensures that our efforts are effective and meet the broader needs of those who are unhoused. Working together, the minister and members of the Social Justice Team will research and establish partnerships with local agencies providing services to unhoused individuals. The congregation will not provide direct services to unhoused individuals without specific action by the Executive Board.

Appointment of UU General Assembly delegates update.

There is an opportunity to have two delegates from the congregation attend this year's GA. Kristin can announce this opportunity in an e-blast.

Second Reading Board approval of policy to approve Faithify and other Crowdfunding campaigns.

Faithify is the UUA mechanism for congregational fund-raising. Based on requests from the UUCL Social Justice Team and with Board approval, UUCL will use In-Transit accounts to hold and distribute funds collected for individuals and families through Faithify and other funding platforms. Brad moved and Jennifer seconded a motion to appoint a funding policy sub-committee consisting of three members of the congregation. A friendly amendment was offered by Jennifer recommending one of the members be the Board Treasurer or a member of the Financial Committee. The vote was unanimous as amended.

Safety Committee update.

Diana Rinquist has submitted her report, available on the Board drive, reviewing the safety and security situation for UUCL. Mary promoted consultation with local resources for assistance. Peter will consult with the Sheriff's office the issues raised in the report. Mary recommends consulting with Buildings and Ground Team for their input. Peter and Mary will work together to present a final report with actionable items

Awards Committee.

Developing a charter for the Awards Committee is in the works. Peter will consult with Graham Kreicker on the details of this project.

Meeting Review

Follow-up assignments.

Timekeeper, Process Observer, and Covenant Check-in.

Next Board Meeting: Thurs., April 17, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

~ Louise Hanson, Secretary

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As Executive Board of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence, we covenant together with mutual trust and support:

- To welcome and practice curiosity, deep listening, and joy
- To share the work that needs to be done
- To cultivate a culture of patience, open communication, and healthy boundaries
- To act for the good of the congregation and speak with one voice
- To give everyone a chance to speak at the meeting