

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence

Executive Board Regular Meeting Minutes

April 17, 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; Secretary: Louise Hanson (via Zoom); Treasurer: Brad Wertz; Members-at-large: Jennifer Ball; Bill Hagel via zoom; Rev. Nori Rost

Guests: Rilie Kafer (via zoom). A Quorum was established.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and lit the chalice candle. Timekeeper: Mary; Process Observer: Jennifer; Board member check-in.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Minutes of March 20, 2025
 - Treasurer's Report and Financial Reports
- Jennifer made the motion to approve the consent agenda that was seconded by Mary and passed unanimously.

Information Items:

- Minister's Report (April 17, 2025)
 - Building and Grounds Update.
- These documents are available in the Board drive for review.

Action Items:

- Stewardship Update
To date, 62% of the membership has pledged; total pledge number is 70. Note that a family is considered one pledge unit.
- Budget Update – 2025/26
The Justice Matters line item has been eliminated; some other line item amounts have been reduced. E.g. Utility costs will be reduced due to installation of solar panels. The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation on May 22nd via Zoom and in person on June 1st. In general, UUCL is operating with a budget deficit, a situation not sustainable over time. Current budget reflects a 12% reduction reflecting a need to review UUCL priorities to align with our spending. While we have gained members, importance of active involvement in new-member campaign is advisable. The draft budget will have Board approval before presentation to the congregation. The next Board meeting will address UUCL's investment condition and withdrawal from the Flourishing Fund.
- Leadership Update

The search is on-going for members to assume leadership roles.
[Rilie leaves meeting.]

- Homeless Policy

The Board has ratified a UUCL Homelessness policy. The focus of the policy is that the power in handling people experiencing homelessness on UUCL property is a matter for the congregation and not individuals to address:

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 Action and Justice Committee 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.

- Safety Update

Peter has an appointment with the Sheriff's Department community officers to discuss UUCL safety policy currently under analysis and review. Rev. Nori and Mary volunteered to attend this meeting. The meeting would key off of the UUCL safety analysis conducted and reported by Diane Ringquist.

- Other comment

The installation service for Rev. Nori is scheduled for Sat., April 19th at 2:00 pm. The service will be Zoomed.

Delegates to the UU General Assembly are John Brewer and Lynne Rennick. Mary Holm will attend but not as a delegate. Delegates to the UU General Assembly should make arrangements with Kristin Suter.

The Awards Committee will be meeting to discuss possible awardees.

The congregational annual meeting is scheduled for Sun., June 8th.

Meeting Review:

Follow-up assignments.

Timekeeper, Process Observer, and Covenant Check-in.

Next Board Meeting: Thurs., May 15, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 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

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