

Unitarian Society of Germantown
Board Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, July 29, 2025, 7:00-8:30pm

In Attendance: Carla Campbell, Eva Finney, Mary Kalyna, Brad Flamm, Susan Rizack, Deborah Coleman, Maryann (Mer) Helferty, Bill Dowdall, Margaret Thomson, Keith Kratz

- 1) Welcome and chalice lighting; introductions
-Mer to send opening reading in advance of next month
- 2) Consent agenda- May minutes
-May 2025 Board minutes will be reviewed and approved at the August Board meeting as part of the consent agenda.
- 3) Bill Dowdall: Request for transfer of \$7,000 from Memorial Fund to Memorial Garden Fund
-Will the Board approve this transfer to purchase 10 additional memorial stones (a minimum order of stones is required) to keep the Memorial Garden supplied for the next several years?
-The Memorial Fund is funded by donations upon death of church members and is not to be spent for normal operational costs. Former uses of the Memorial included the driveway repaving. It is not a part of the operating budget but is a special projects committee.
-The Memorial Garden Fund has become depleted with the costs of maintaining the garden and orders of additional stones (which have increased in price from \$200 to \$700 per stone). The cost of future stones will reflect the full cost of purchase of the stones plus the attached faceplate and labor so that the church should be fully reimbursed for the cost of the stones in future.
-Decision – the Board approves the transfer.
-All vote yes except for Deborah who abstains.
- 4) Planning for August 31 board church service: Worship Associate Margaret Thompson to join us.
-Several board members expressed reservations about the Board leading a service prior to the Board Retreat in October since the Board would not have the chance to decide the vision and strategic direction of the congregation for the coming year.
-Mer to investigate the topic of the labor movement for the August 31 service.
- 5) Identification of board secretary and vice president
-Keith has agreed to serve as Board Secretary for the 2025-26 term.
-Mer is considering acting as the Vice President, but needs to discuss the expectations with Carla, particularly as they apply to time commitment.
- 6) Save the Date: Deeper Than the Skin concert (Saturday, September 20) and church service (Sunday, September 21) planning group meeting in July/August. We could use a few more board members to help with specific tasks as the event gets closer and to help on the night of the concert.
-Deborah, Eva, Susan, and Brad will assist.
- 7) Introduction to policy review process we will pursue throughout the year

- Carla described the policy review process - We will review policies by having one person take the lead and review a policy. They will relay any suggested changes to fellow board members in advance, ahead of a discussion of the policy at our board meeting.

8) We ask that each member take a turn at the Welcome Table twice (July through December and January through June)

9) Consider October dates for board retreat: Weekend of Oct. 4/5, Oct. 18/19, Oct. 25/26

10) MET report feedback

-no recent report provided

11) Need for a volunteer to join the Denominational Affairs Committee as the Board representative

-The Denominational Affairs Committee manages selection of UUA General Assembly (GA) delegates and reporting back after GA. The Committee also receives information from the regional and national UUA and is charged with communicating key information back to the congregation. The committee is most active in February/March leading up to GA and then after GA in the summer.

-Brad Flamm has volunteered to take on this role.

12) Meetings for 2025-26: all Tuesdays at 7 pm via Zoom: August 26, September 23, October 28, November 25, December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE DATES.

13) Future topics: Finance Committee overview

