

MINUTES, Unitarian Church of Edmonton Board of Trustees

Feb. 19, 2026 – 7:15 p.m. – on Zoom

Board members: president Lynne Turvey, vice president Sue Lynch, treasurer Andrew Mills, secretary Susan Ruttan, trustees Wendy Smith and Declan Kiely.

Rev. Rosemary Morrison, ex officio

Opening Words, Chalice Lighting: Rev. Morrison

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Susan, seconded by Wendy. Approved.

Minutes: January 21, 2026, minutes were approved by email on January 23.

New Business:

1. 2026-27 Proposed Operating Budget. Treasurer Andrew Mills presented the draft operating budget for the coming year, which will be approved next month. A balanced budget is expected.
2. Fundraising projects – Board members discussed the planned Big Splash Stewardship Windup Party, scheduled for March 28. Members discussed whether such projects should be presented to the board ahead of time, as there is no committee reviewing fundraising projects. The “stewardship” name may be changed to Canvass, which is our normal word for the annual pledge drive.

Ongoing Business:

1. Board succession strategy – Lynne Turvey/Susan Ruttan. Susan said it’s difficult to find people willing to sit on the board. One reason is the age of many members; the other reason is that many members are very busy with other groups and projects.
2. Genocide Memorial Garden Update – Sue Lynch updated the plan for a wall hanging reflecting Audrey Brooks’ genocide memorial garden. Sue will do a formal presentation of the project at our next meeting.

Reports:

1. Finance – January financial statements sent to board members by Andrew Mills. Phone calls to church members who haven’t submitted their canvass pledge will be done by Susan, Lynne and Rev. Rosemary in late March.
2. Rentals – a written report by Susan Ruttan, which is attached to the minutes
3. Minister – Rev. Rosemary Morrison sent her report to members.

Membership Changes:

Motion to Amend a Motion Previously Adopted: That the following motion replace the January 21, 2026 motion: That the membership applications of Kelly Bertrand, Hope Naijuka and Fortune Nwoke be approved, and that the membership application form be revised to include the Covenant of Right Relations for future applicants. Moved by Lynne Turvey, seconded by Sue Lynch. Carried.

Closing words: Rev. Morrison

Adjourn

Next meeting: March 18, 2026

Rentals Report 2026-02 (administrator Janet Polkovsky, rentals chair Susan Ruttan)

- Mock-up Mocktails (Token Bitters), which used to rent our kitchen last year, have paid up their outstanding bill and will start renting again this week and will be prepaying their time. Siobhan Tookey of Token Bitters arranged for this to happen, in addition to bringing another beverage maker to UCE.
- Karen Porkka's choir will be returning next month.
- Talks are ongoing with another choir for Monday mornings.
- There is a fair stream of Reception rentals inquiries too.

We have two new Alcoholics Anonymous groups. They are now:

- Tuesday lunch: Carry the Message
- Wednesday Night: Tell It As It Is (meets in the Sanctuary). They get up to 35 people at their event.
- Thursday Nights: Strength In Unity
- Friday Nights: Mandate Sober

An important renter that we lost last fall was the orchestra that used to rent on Wednesday evenings.
