

Board of Trustees Report

Purpose of Committee: The Board of Trustees (the board) is elected by the congregation to conduct the operational and financial affairs of the church, in keeping with the church's vision and mission. The congregation delegates its authority to the board subject to the bylaws.

Members: Lynne Turvey, president; Sue Lynch, vice president; Andrew Mills, treasurer; Susan Ruttan, secretary; trustees Wendy Smith, Gerard Hayduk and Declan Kiely

Major Actions of 2025/26

At the planning retreat in September, the board agreed that the goals from 2024/25 were integral to the growth and vitality of UCE, and should continue to be pursued, with the addition of a fourth goal. The goals are as follows:

- Enhance financial sustainability by supporting increased fundraising initiatives
- Advance membership growth by supporting increased opportunities for engagement and hospitality
- Revitalize both internal and external communication and marketing of UCE's many positive attributes
- Begin work on medium- to long-term planning starting with a five-year horizon and annual milestones

Outcomes Achieved

Positive outcomes towards achieving those goals were the result of the support of our church community, and the synergy created by the committees and teams working toward a common goal of a thriving UCE.

- **Financial sustainability** continued to be supported by pledges and donations by members and friends, tenant lease income, growing casual rentals and a garage sale. Two spring initiatives – a goods and services auction spearheaded by Rev. Rosemary in March, and a Chorealis cabaret organized by choir leaders Karen Mills and Gordon Ritchie in April – have raised additional funds for UCE coffers.
- **Five new members** were welcomed into UCE. Interest in joining has been expressed by several more people. A New to UU session hosted by the **Membership Team** gave new members and others interested an opportunity to explore our UU history and values. Rev. Brian Kiely, our Minister Emeritus, is providing monthly deep dives into our UU principles. These initiatives, along with the monthly Sunday potlucks, the canvass Big Splash party, and Chorealis cabaret, increased opportunities for **engagement and hospitality**.
- The **Communications and Marketing Team** brought renewed energy and focus to a primary target external audience by increasing use of social media tools. The success of

these initiatives is reflected in growing numbers of new faces at our Sunday services and other events. A new website is on the horizon, which is expected to attract even more interest in our community.

- The Board asked the Governance Advisory Team (GAT) to start the **process of updating UCE's 2016 Strategic Plan**. Led by GAT member Karen Mills, the ongoing process is engaging the congregation in a review of where we've been and where we want to go – and grow. It's an exciting time in the life of UCE!

Planned Actions for 2026/27

- Continue to work collaboratively with the minister, church administrator, and 15 volunteer committees and teams to support the congregation in its continuing vision to open doors to all seekers of spiritual growth and nurture positive change for a just and healthy world.

Submitted by: Lynne Turvey, President