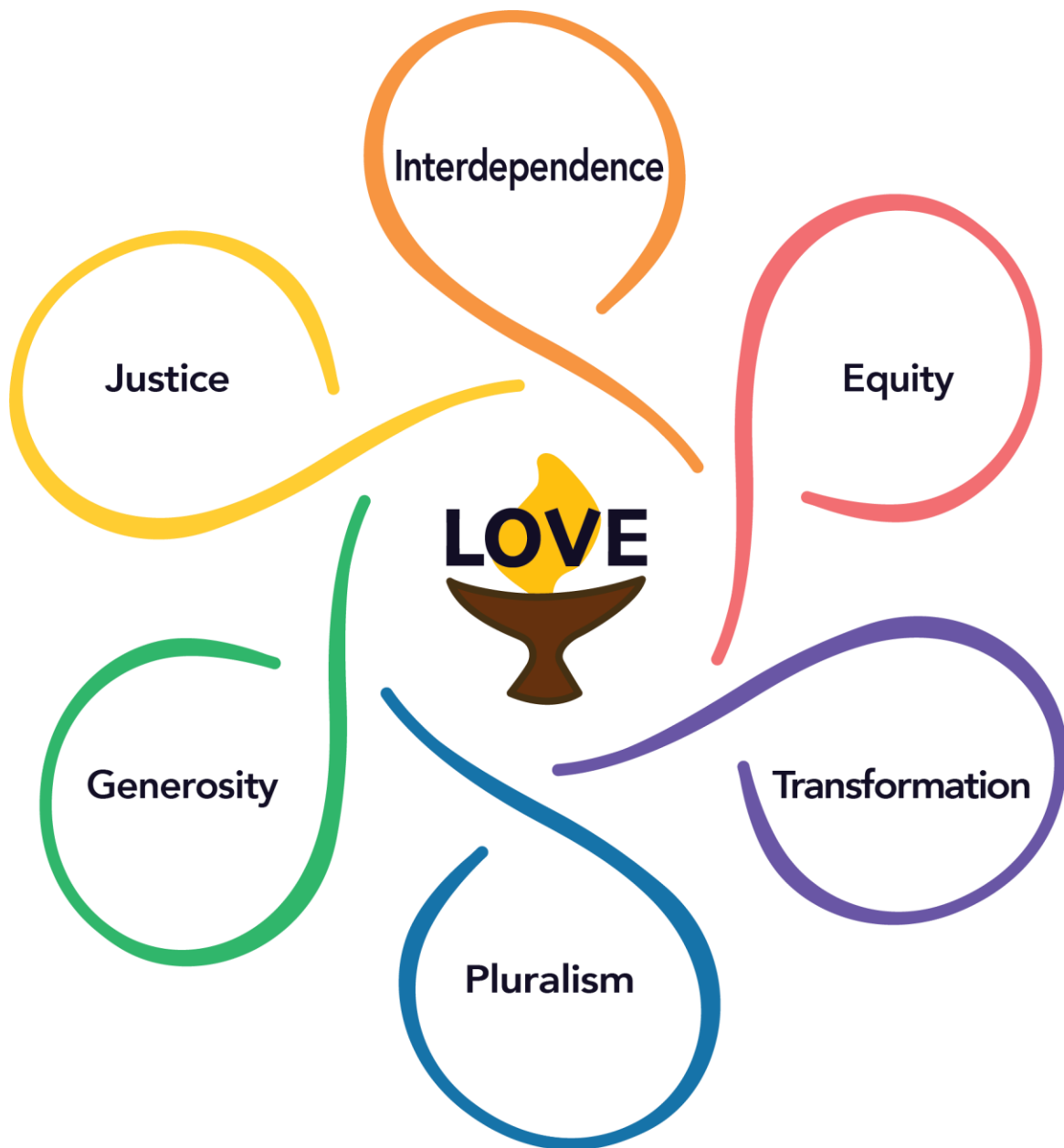


Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, Maine

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024– June 30, 2025



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BRUNSWICK, MAINE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to report the highlights of the year that is drawing to a close. Reviewing the events of a year at UUCB is daunting. It is humbling to see what can happen when so many talented, gracious, and committed individuals give their time - and we are rich with such people. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the large and small activities. Everything from the Orders of Service, weekly announcements, coffee hour, Parish Messenger, LSF classes, Concerts for a Cause, and rotating artwork, happens because people care, share, and give of their time. Of course, the committees and their members do so much in their specific areas, as mentioned in their reports. We are blessed.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

We kicked the 2024-25 church year off on Sept 10, 2024 with our homecoming celebration and a reflection on the gift of welcome.

The Board had a retreat before the Kharma resumed her services. We welcomed new trustees, thanked those that stepped down or off of the board, and set goals for the coming year. Key among these was to get a handle on UUCB's continued growth squeezing our available resources.

This year UUCB saw continued growth in programming, especially in the Lifetime Spiritual Formation (LSF) and music offerings. This is a direct impact from the Heart Gift added to the annual pledge in the previous year. Toben and Will are doing so many wonderful things.

The fall homecoming was held September 8, 2024 on the Brunswick Mall after the service and many people relaxed in companionship as we looked forward to a new season of services.

The first phase of "Project South" became a reality as the new paved area was constructed and additional parking became available.

The Religious Exploration (RE) Director position at UUCB was expanded and renamed Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director in 2024. This change reflects a broader approach to spiritual growth beyond traditional Sunday school models. The expansion was discussed in board meetings throughout the year, with feedback from staff and congregation members. The goal of this shift was to enhance programming for all ages, ensuring that spiritual formation is integrated into various aspects of church life. Toben Cooney-Callnan, who had previously served as the Director of Religious Exploration, took on this expanded role, working exclusively for us, bringing his experience in UU education and leadership to a wider range of programs.

First Aid training was attended by 20 members in October, increasing our capacity to care for others.

The Board, Staff, and Committee chairs gathered for a "Mingle & Jingle" in December, where we simply had fun while getting to know each other better.

To get some guidance for our growth, the Board met with Erica Baron, UUA New England Region Consultant. A meeting of the whole church was held on January 8, 2025. The meeting considered possibilities like expanding the building, holding two services, or hosting services in multiple locations. A lot of good feedback was received, with a charge to do what was possible with the existing facilities before seriously considering going to two services. In that spirit, we tried

different chair configurations, moving the coffee hour to the Merrymeeting Bay room, and using the May Sarton room for an overflow area.

Our 2024 Holiday Fair, led by Lisa Durell was a huge success. In addition to building community and being great fun, the fair raised over \$12,000 for the church.

The board had an energy audit by a friend of the church to get ideas for low-cost improvements that could lower our heating and electrical expenses.

Our Music Director, Will Bristol, has rewarded UUCB with new ways music is used during services, as well as expanding musical offerings outside of service, including a recorder group and a drumming circle. Will has been a true blessing to us.

To keep up with the demands on our wonderful staff, the pledge team was asked to ask the congregation for a notable increase. They took it on, and so did all of our members! Our pledge drive was extremely successful with commitments of over \$344,000!

Mike Heath and others organized an entirely online auction of services and experiences. This highly successful event brought in well over \$8,000.

We are growing. We added 23 new members this year and expanded the number of chairs in the sanctuary from approximately 145 to 187 to accommodate the members, friends, and newcomers that attend each Sunday.

Plans underway to restart the Side Door Coffee House this summer. Keep an eye out for details for these upcoming events that feature local musical artists.

Finally, our tremendous staff is organizing the Last Hoorah & Ha-Ha on June 7th. This is the second event and a fun way to be with folks before summer!

2024-2025 List of Members

Name	Year Joined	Term Expires
Curt Neufeld, Chair Beginning 2024	2023	1 st Term Expires 2026
Joel Austin, Vice Chair Beginning 2024	2025	1 st Term Expires 2028
Keary Lay, Treasurer beginning 2024	2023	1 st Term Expires 2026
Louise Gephart, Clerk	2022	1 st Term Expires 2025
Joanne Allen	2023	1 st Term Expires 2026
Nathan Haynes	2024 (to complete Bill Clark's term)	Clark Term Expires 2025
Catharine Chase	2021	2 nd Term Expires 2027
Michael Michaud	2021	2 nd Term Expires 2027
David Kew	2018 (to complete D. Damour 2 nd term)	2 nd Term Expires 2025

CHARGE

The Board of Trustees receives and responds to reports of the Minister, Director of Lifelong Spiritual Formation, Treasurer, Church Council, and committees. They oversee the business affairs of the church, establish and administer policies that advance the mission and purpose of the church and the work of its committees, create standing and ad hoc committees as required, and inform the congregation about Board activity and decisions in a timely manner. For further elaboration of duties see the UUCB bylaws.

THANK YOU

This was my first year as the chairperson of your board of trustees, and I will continue in the role for the 2025-2026 year. It has been a good experience for me and I have met so many people as a result.

Taking over the position of Board Chair is intimidating, until it becomes clear it is not done in isolation. The Board of Trustees are a team, supporting each other and counseled by our minister. In concert with all the hard working committees, it is very rewarding and I look forward to another year. You are an amazing congregation.

Curt Neufeld
he/him/his
UUCB Board of Trustees Chairperson

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

This third year of my ministry with you has been a very full year of ups, downs, and a lot of life lived in between. I feel more and more at home here, and I began this year believing that one of my priority mindsets this year needed to be to “turn things back over to us”--by which I mean that I made a conscious choice to *try* to empower the whole congregation to actively and intentionally collaborate together, as we have needed to discern so many things. Of primary importance have been questions like, “How do we faithfully live out our mission in the rapidly changing context of the world?” (and we’ve sure experienced some changes this year!) As I reflect back on the year from this vantage point, I am so grateful for the shared ministry we have engaged in together.

Per usual, this report is long because we live a full congregational life worth documenting. I hope this will become a useful record in the future.

General Report

This report aspires to capture some of the major activities I have been engaged in, as your minister, either alone or with others. Committees will also have reports that cover some of these things, and I imagine they will do so from a different perspective.

Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees had a full plate this year with the ongoing operation of the church, as well as several challenges and opportunities. At the top of the list has been their engagement/discernment on issues related to our congregational growth (we have roughly 50 more people attending each Sunday relative to last year at the same time). They have consulted with the UUA throughout the year and hosted a congregational day of discernment under the direction of our Regional UUA Consultant Rev. Erica Baron. Afterwards, they have guided our experimentation with a number of ideas that emerged during that congregational gathering—e.g., adding and rearranging current chairs, moving coffee hour, setting up overflow rooms in other areas of the church building, seating the choir on the platform, etc. Unexpectedly and disappointingly, someone anonymously called the Fire Department to report a concern about overcrowding. As a result, our seating capacity was reduced, exacerbating our “space crunch,” and the Board had to spend significant energy in research and negotiations with various fire authorities (which is ongoing). The board also began to devote time to discernment about the

charge and scope of safety and security at UUCB, in order to address some conflict that has lingered for our congregation around these topics.

Committee on Ministry: The Committee on Ministry will no longer be responsible for assisting with fellowshiping requirements for me, as your minister. Gratefully, I received Full Fellowship from the UUA and will participate in the Service of the Living Tradition at the upcoming UUA General Assembly. Not having this task has freed the COM up to consider its larger charge, and how it might best contribute to the active issues we face requiring congregational input and cooperation. I have appreciated their wise council in navigating congregational issues, and their good sense of history and current congregational dynamics. The COM has begun assisting the Board on two tasks: (1) communication with regard to our growth discernment and (2) an overall “infrastructure review” of our ministry (e.g., how are our committees structured and working? Are their charges still relevant? Is there overlap? Is cooperation between committees working well? Are there gaps not covered by a committee/ministry area/staff? Are there redundancies?).

Communications: I continue to submit a monthly column (i.e. “Spirit of Life”) to the Brunswick Times Record on the third Friday of every month (generally). I participate regularly in the Communications Committee, and they have submitted a report of activities.

Larger Community & Networking: By now you know that I believe quite strongly in the power of working together. I think most things are made better by partnership and the inclusion of more of our community (when appropriate) in the projects that matter to us. Some of the collective programs, events, and conversations we have been in (and in many cases initiated) are so rich and making a difference in our community. Here are some of the groups I’ve been working with this year:

- **Bowdoin College** - We continue to enjoy our partnership with Bowdoin College, which took a few shapes this year. Bowdoin is represented on the BAIC, and much of our collaborating is facilitated through that connection. Also this year, Will Bristol collaborated with the Bowdoin College Chamber Choir and other musicians on Longfellow Days. Our choir went to Bowdoin for some joint rehearsals, we sang in the combined choir for their concert at Studinski Hall, and we also enjoyed some of the same music in worship the following day. I attended the annual President’s Reception for community organizations and leaders.
- **Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC)** - BAIC continues to grow in the numbers of communities represented, as well as in the types of opportunities it provides our community to come together across faith differences for collective actions for Love, Peace, and Justice Together in our community. That is an allusion to our sign project, which was a big success! We are now well represented on BAIC, with Faith Woodman and Betty Robinson joining me at monthly meetings. We worked with the BAIC on a pre-election day Forum (amazing information!), a contemplation and action retreat held at Bowdoin, multiple community sings (and song circles) to elevate and embody our values, and some events of public witness.
- **Brunswick Pride Committee** - I continued to serve on the Brunswick Pride Committee this year, and Toben also joined the team. In addition to planning and hosting the 4th annual Brunswick Pride celebration, the group is working to offer other opportunities in the coming year. UUCB is contributing to this year’s festival with another Brunswick Pride Community Choir, led by Will Bristol. Essentially, we are inviting all singers in our larger Midcoast community to join us on our regular choir practice the week before pride to learn two songs (+/-) to sing at the gazebo on the mall during the festival. UUCB and the Brunswick Pride Committee also partnered on the Spooky Sing-Along Event, the Trans

Day of Remembrance, a de-escalation training, and queer history lecture which corresponds with and builds on the Queerly ME photo exhibit in our art gallery this June.

- **Habitat for Humanity** - We continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity and are recognized as one of their strongest congregational supporters.
- **Cumberland County Friends of Restorative Justice** - I and several other UUCB folx have been through training as community surrogates to participate in restorative justice dialogues, one way that the DA is handling cases that are better suited for restorative justice than the criminal justice (sic) system.
- **The Gathering Place (TGP)** - We supported the Gathering Place this year with our Santa Project, providing over \$1K in gift cards as holiday gifts for their guests. We also send TGP 80% of our budgeted Benevolence funds to benefit those with immediate essential needs and provide connection to larger support systems.
- **Maine Council of Churches** - This year, I was honored to be a panelist on two state-wide webinars in MCC's series "Here I Am, Send Me" in response to the rise of vulnerable populations (i.e., Immigrants, LGBTQ+ folx, women, the earth). Rev. Jane Field, the ED of Maine Council of Churches was a guest minister this year.
- **Maine Humanities Council** - We were happy to have Samaa Aburraqib, ED of Maine Humanities, as one of our guest speakers this year. We continue to benefit from Maine Humanities as they have given us books and resources through their granting programs. We have expressed our support for them as well, in this era of funding threats for the humanities.
- **Maine Gun Safety Coalition** - We joined our friends at the MGSC (and others) in celebrating some of the reforms passed last year, and in working hard to ensure they not be undone in this new political context. MGSC worked with us (and others) for our Gun Safety Vigil.
- **MUUSAN (Maine UU State Advocacy Network)** - I stay as active as I can in MUUSAN matters and attended their online meetings this year as I was able. I submitted testimony on a couple of bills, spent a day at the legislature offering testimony and support against anti-trans bills, and was honored to open the Senate in Prayer as our new Senate President was sworn in at the beginning of the 132nd Legislative session.
- **Multi-Faith Justice Maine (Maine Peoples Alliance)** - I was able to partner with MJM on several initiatives this year, including a Poll Chaplaincy program during November elections. Diane and I both served as poll chaplains in Lewiston. We helped introduce Multi-Faith Justice Maine to the BAIC at one of our meetings and are hoping to partner more in the future.
- **Oasis Free Clinics** - We were happy to attend the grand opening of the new Oasis Free Clinics site at 331 Maine St., Ste. 4. They are now able to offer expanded services.
- **The Teen Center** - The big transition at the Teen Center this year was their move to the Coffin school. We continue to have a very active group of Teen Center supporters, through monthly snacks, meals, and other volunteering to support the teens. My direct support was as a "Celebrity Scooper" at the Teen Center Scoop-a-Thon at Gelato Fiasco.
- **Wabanaki Alliance** - We continue our membership with the Wabanaki Alliance. This year, we had some intentional conversations about our land acknowledgement practices and made some adaptations that feel more right about our ongoing relationship with the Wabanaki. The Wabanaki focus group of Working for Justice is working now on some ways we can increase awareness of Wabanaki history and current community needs and priorities here at UUCB.
- **Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA)**. I meet monthly with the UUMA ministers (retired, parish, community, etc.) from Southern Maine. This time of collegial connection provides vital resources and support that flow in many directions - we receive and we give.

Lifelong Spiritual Formation: One of the largest changes for us this year was Toben Cooney Callnan's move to full-time (35 hours) as the Director of Lifelong Spiritual Formation, inclusive of programming for both children and adults. Please see his report for a summary of this year's activities, as well as an overview of the program as it is developing. For my part, I simply want to note the value of this change to our overall mission. Having robust adult programming—i.e., experiential and community-based opportunities to engage spiritual practices and/or growth activities—helps us grow as a community in multiple ways:

- It provides immediate containers within which people can learn more about UU values, themselves, and one another in the context of mutual learning.
- It assists in the development of relationships, which are at the heart of everything we do.
- It allows people to take the lessons explored in worship, for example, and deepen them as they desire in tangible ways that fit their lives and interests.
- It is raising our collective consciousness about matters deeply connected to our values, and in ways that motivate responsible action in our community and world.
- It is helping us understand multiple intelligences, and the value of using our whole brains and bodies spiritually, engaging creativity as well as knowledge.
- It is attracting new people to our community, whether they come for one program, attend regularly, or end up making this their spiritual home.
- It is a means by which we are building relationships with other faith communities and organizations serving this area, through collaboration and shared programming.
- So much more – which is to say, this is so worth the investment!

Legacy Giving: One of my commitments this year was to help move us towards a proper launch of a Legacy Giving Program. Quite a lot of work had been done in 2019, but there were some challenges that delayed the launch. I made presentations to the Finance Committee and Board about the importance of such a program and received their approval to work with an ad hoc committee. Our policy proposals will be reviewed by the board in May and we hope to present the congregation with materials at the annual meeting.

Music: This is the first full year of having Will Bristol as our Music Director, and I cannot begin to state the positive value of his work with us, both tangibly and intangibly. Please see his report. The choir has grown—in number, in skill, in musicality, in repertoire, in embodiment, and in community. The recorder group has been a good way of including this kind of music, and some people have found their way to connection and involvement through this. The acapella group is similar. The 4th Sunday All Stars (our children's singing group) has been small but consistent, and they have delighted us with the offerings made in worship so far. In addition to this, we have been a big part of spreading music in our broader community, through our work with Community Sings and Song Circles through BAIC. Will's collaboration with the Highlands, Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, and other singers involved in Longfellow Days was wonderful. We have a monthly Drum Circle started, which is drawing people known and new to us. We have experienced more of the variety, including multiple small groups and collaborations, that we were seeking when we did our search. The choir (and broader congregation) went Christmas Caroling together, which was a great revival of a past UUCB tradition.

Pledge Team: The pledge team needed less of my help this year because they were exceptionally organized, devoted, and capable. The results speak for themselves.

UUCB Staff: We have an incredible staff, and I count my blessings every day that I get to work with them. The teamwork we share, especially with our program staff, has only increased this

year, and we've had a lot of fun together as well. I hope you are all able to see how much we respect and care for one another, as well as how much we love our work with you.

UU Ministers Association (UUMA): I am so fortunate to be part of the Southern Maine Cluster of the UUMA. We have monthly meetings, which are a source of so much support and encouragement, as well as practical collaboration. The UUMA also has meetings annually governing our larger association, and I participate in this regularly, as well as periodic educational and social gatherings. This year, there was the addition of an LGBTQ+ Clergy Group for Northern New England, and this has also been a solid source of support for some of us whose marginality has come into focus under the new administration.

Welcoming Congregations: Thanks to the efforts of Sharon Brown and Kathy Glennon, we completed our application and were granted our "Welcoming Congregations" renewal certification. We have and will continue to meet the Five Practices of Welcoming as an ongoing part of our congregational and worship life. We have noticed a need for some affinity space for LGBTQ+ people, and Kathy Glennon and Diane Fisher convened a group to begin assessing needs. It was well attended, and given the increased vulnerability of this population, we will continue to convene these folk occasionally for mutual support.

Working for Justice: Please see the WFJ report for information from each of our focus-groups and their work for justice through advocacy, witness, partnership, and more. They are doing A LOT. I was glad to lead the Working for Justice retreat this year and felt very good about what came out of that—people expressing more awareness of their own role to play in creating change, as well as what they need from their spiritual community to resource their work for justice. The good news? We're doing a lot of it already. I was present at many protests this year – at least 10, all of them in support of love and justice. I was so happy to see others of you - and other UUs - at nearly all of them.

Worship: The Worship Committee continues to meet for an optional 30 minutes before our monthly meetings to discuss the upcoming monthly theme. This has been such a rich time that it's rarely missed by anyone. We are committed to creating multicultural worship that honors the variety of our faith experiences and traditions. From the initial retreat at the beginning of the year until now, we have experienced some positive shifts toward more awareness and authenticity. (Lest anyone think otherwise, let me assure you that we also spent a lot of time talking about chair set-up and how long announcements take!)

In addition to the regular Sunday worship services, we also held the following special services:

- **Trans Day of Remembrance** - in partnership with First Universalist of Yarmouth, Allen Avenue UU in Portland, Maine TransNet, Brunswick Pride Committee, and the Sexuality, Women and Gender (SWAG) office of Bowdoin college, we held our third Trans Day of Remembrance service in which we honored the approx. 40 individuals whose lives were lost to anti-trans violence in the previous year. The speakers this year were especially powerful.
- **Annual Vigil to Support Victims and Survivors of Gun Violence** - Again this year, we held a Gun Safety Vigil with tabling near the anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre. We got some really good press coverage of this event, and this year the BAIC took on more of a role in partnering for planning, etc.
- **Blue Holidays** - This service was hosted by the Pastoral Care Associates again this year, and focused on offering a contemplative service that makes room for the fuller range of feelings people have during the holidays—especially those who are grieving or who experience holidays as times of depression or anxiety. This year, the weather was

atrocious on this day, so it was primarily only the Pastoral Care Associates who attended - and we appreciated the intimate experience we had together.

- **Christmas Eve (2 services)** - As is our tradition, we had two Christmas Eve services this year. The first was a child-friendly family service, which featured a No-Rehearsal Pageant by Toben, and the second was a traditional service with the choir. The children's service is always a surprise to us, for we do not know who will show up. This year we had so many littles (kids under 4) that there were some interesting twists to the traditional story.
- **Spirit Feast** - Based on last year's success, we held our second annual Spirit Feast this year, and our focus was on Comfort Food (and music and clothing). We had a wonderful turnout, better food than last year (says one attendee), and a really enjoyable time getting to know one another better and simply being spiritual community.
- **Vespers Service - The Highlands.** I'm not sure where to put this but want to record that I led a vespers service in January at the Highlands retirement community, which I really enjoyed doing. Each time I go, I think there are more UUs in the crowd!
- **Zoom Only Worship** - This winter in Maine, we had back to back Sunday snowstorms (unable to hold in person worship). When we realized we would have to miss another Sunday together, we pivoted and produced a zoom only worship experience (followed by zoom coffee hour hosted by Ward Clark) that was extremely well attended (more than 100 participants, many of them with multiple people sharing a screen).

Special Events

The following special and/or notable activities took place this year:

- **Christmas Caroling** - Will coordinated Christmas Caroling with the choir and anyone else who wanted to participate - to carol in the Jordan Avenue neighborhood. It was lovely.
- **Community Sing / Song Circles** - We were very involved with the BAIC in the hosting and leading of community sings and song circles this year. The first event drew hundreds to the town Mall on the Sunday prior to the election to sing songs of Love, Peace, and Justice. We had an indoor sing at UUCB on MLK Day (an alt. inauguration) that drew so many we had standing room only. Towards the end of the church year, we hosted one of several smaller (~50 people) song circles that will be continuing this summer.
- **Connecting with the Sacred: Trusting the Wisdom of Our Bodies.** This was an intergenerational workshop led by Rev. Lauren Bennett and AhSa-Ti Nu, guests here for the weekend for both workshop and worship. The workshop was fantastic but also challenged by a snow-storm. We could not postpone or reschedule due to travel (our guests were already here), so we had fewer people. Those able to attend expressed great appreciation for it, as did attendees at worship that Sunday as Lauren danced and preached, and AhSa-Ti provided special music.
- **Drumming Workshop** - A freestyle drumming workshop was held, and very well attended. This led to Will's creation (with others) of a monthly drum circle.
- **Homecoming Picnic** - This year the Board of Directors hosted a picnic on the Town Mall, which was well attended on our first Sunday of the church year.
- **How to Shape Justice in Our Community** - A conversation with District Attorney Jackie Sartoris was held at UUCB, in addition to many other places around Cumberland County. The focus was on Restorative Justice, a major focus for some of us this year.
- **Election 101 Primer Event** - We worked with BAIC and other partners (e.g., League of Women Voters) to host this community event, which was an excellent source of pre-election information.
- **Interfaith Harmony Week at Bowdoin College** - UUCB had a booth staffed by me, Toben, and Tammi Donovan, who serves on staff at Bowdoin.
- **Holiday Fair** - best ever!

- **Holiday Leadership Party** - The Board of Trustees and Program Staff at UUCB hosted a gathering of committee chairs, board members, and staff to celebrate the holidays and build community together. Our “Yankee Swap” was a good time!
- **Last Hoorah & Haha** - open mic event featuring UUCB staff, a 50/50 raffle, and a few showing off shenanigans, led by UUCB staff.
- **Lifelong Spiritual Formation Kick-Off** - Toben and I co-lead a workshop at the beginning of the year for people to discover their spiritual type and reflect on how they might like to intentionally use the year ahead for spiritual formation. This was the launch of our Lifelong Spiritual Formation program.
- **Longfellow Days** - several of the Longfellow Days events took place at UUCB, and we were very involved in other events in the community. Maryli Tiemann, as always, provided vision and leadership for the whole affair.
- **Murder at the Pie Auction** - this fundraising event, which included a production (radio-hour style) of the play was accompanied by food, fun, and frivolity. We also discovered we have quite a few thespians in our midst.
- **Picchintu Concert** - the Working for Justice Steering Group arranged for a concert of Picchintu, followed by a reception of African foods. Many New Mainers as well as their mentors/language tutors/friends enjoyed the music as well as the celebratory feel of this event.
- **Post Election Gathering** - We held a spiritual gathering on the night following the presidential election for what we imagined would be a small group of people simply to come together, express our feelings, and engage in some mutual support through ritual lighting of candles, singing, silence, and community. It was attended by ~100 people, and we have since heard a lot of appreciation for this opportunity.
- **SoUUps On** - a feast sponsored by our Membership Committee that invites our entire congregation to bring soup, breads, salads and eat a communal meal.
- **Spooky Sing-Along** - We co-sponsored this event with the Brunswick Pride Committee and it was a lot of fun. Will was the planner/implementer extraordinaire for this event, and the costumes, dancing, and karaoke were fantastic.
- **Swearing In Ceremony of 132nd Maine Legislature** - I was honored to give the opening prayer at the swearing in ceremony as the legislature took their vows, and as new Senate President Mattie Daughtry of Brunswick took the gavel.
-

Other Obligations of Minister

- Treasurer (through EOY 2024) Recording Secretary (since 01/2025), Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC)
- Committee Member, Brunswick Pride Committee
- Local Board Member, United Way's EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program) for Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties
- Co-Chair, Pink Haven Maine - an emerging Maine-based group to extend the work of Pink Haven (national org based everywhere and no-where) to help trans and non-binary individuals and families relocate from legislatively unsafe states to legislatively safer states (of which Maine is one, currently), and access community connections and resources in Maine.

Professional Development

This year, much of my professional development time was spent with a continued focus on racial justice. Among other things, the following programs were very important to me:

- **New Ancestors - Ongoing Accountability** - Building off of my work last year an anti-racism/anti-oppression work, I have continued with bi-monthly conversations with my accountability partner (Rev. Lauren Bennett). Beyond allowing a specific racial justice lens

to inform my own leadership, this collegial connection has provided a lot of grounding, creative thinking, and inspiration.

- **De-Escalation Training (Refresher)** - I attended trainings offered by the Maine Council of Churches (in partnership with Prevention, Action, Change) and also arranged for a more in-depth contextual training with the Brunswick Pride Committee. Both of these were good refreshers, and attended also by other UUCB leaders.
- **First-Aid** - I took the Red Cross training for first-aid, which they offered in coordination with the Safety Committee.
- **Skill Building for Social Transformation** - I took this six week course for UU leaders just prior to and after the election. Needless to say, our context in the US gave us a lot to talk about.

Congregational Milestones

The following is undoubtedly an incomplete list of milestones in the lives of our members and friends. If you find your information missing, please let us know.

Notable Anniversaries:

- Barbara and Russell Jabaut celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on August 16, 2024.
- Pete and Bette Horton celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary in July 2025.

Births:

- João Leonardo Barbosa (child of Nell Britton and João Barbosa-Neto) was born March 5, 2024
- Collette Sanger (child of Neal Sanger and Nehemie Desroches Sanger, grandchild of Olga Skorapa and Steve Hodge) was born in September of 2024.
- Andrew James Lowe (child of David and Heather, sibling to Nora and Sean) was born on Thursday April 3rd, 2025.

Deaths & Memorial Services:

- Ann Spencer (d. May 17, 2024) - Ann died in Colorado Springs with her mother nearby.
- Sally Cross Horne (May 25, 1946 - August 7, 2024) - Memorial Service at UUCB on October 5, 2024.
- Michael Veiga (5/20/51 - 10/24/24) - A memorial service was held for Michael (brother of Irene Austin) in Morris Plains, New Jersey on October 13, 2024.
- Phyllis Hartzler (d. Jan. 29, 2025) - Memorial Service at UUCB on April 5, 2025.
- Melville E. Woodman (April 30, 1938-April 13, 2025) - Melville (brother of Faith Woodman)

Interment:

- Val Heath - Ashes interred on May 18, 2024 at Harrington Cemetery in Bristol, Maine.

Marriages:

- Hannah and Donnie Vannah - Vow renewal service at the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport on January 4, 2025.
- Max Donovan Lareau (son of Tammis Donovan) married Erica Hathaway on April 12, 2025, at Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine.
- Andrew Bunn (son of Ann Hartzler) married Diyali Goswami on May 24, 2025

Child Dedications:

- None

High School Graduations:

- Aymeric Dauge-Roth graduated in May 2025 from Phillips Exeter Academy and will attend Middlebury College in the fall.

College Graduations:

- Ben Heath (son of Michael Heath) graduated with a BA in Liberal Studies and Education from Landmark College, Putney, Vermont. December, 2023.
- Wes Paluska (grandson of Susan Paluska) graduated Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA in May 2024
- Eleanor Caswell graduated from Wheaton College on May 17, 2025
- Shannon Gilmore graduated with her Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Goucher College in May 2025

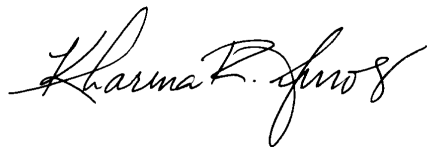
Retirements:

- Mary Cay Harrington retired on January 9, 2025 after 48 years in Financial Accounting

Conclusion

This has been a difficult year in the world, and particularly for some of our UU values (i.e., Love, Justice, Equity, Pluralism, etc.) have been under intentional attack, politically. This has also been the impetus for a new wave of people attracted to UU churches, including ours, all over the nation. We are experiencing growth, in some ways, because the importance of our mission has become very clear, and people have an increased awareness of their need for community. This is our time to rise to the occasion and offer the world our gifts, and I see you doing just that. If we can continue to center love as best as we can, in situations both small and large, we've got this. And, I'm so honored to be serving alongside you as your minister.

Gratefully,



Rev. Dr. Kharna R. Amos
Minister (minister@uubrunswick.org)

ART GALLERY COMMITTEE

Members (with year each joined):

Joanne Allen, Chair (joined 2017) chair since 2020,
Ed McCartan (2014)
Sharon Brown (2020-2025),
Paul Peranteau (2022),
Ann Merrifield (2022),
Carol Evans (2022),

Cathy Meaney (2023),
Linda Gustafson (2023),
Sandra Kimball (2023),
Donna Tompkins (2025),
Suzanne Ritter (2025),
Barbara Stainman (2025)

Purpose:

The purpose of the committee is to support local artists, enhance our worship spaces, and inspire a spirit of creativity and community. We use our fellowship hall and May Sarton Room as gallery space for members and local artists to exhibit their work for one month shows.

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

Created dynamic and engaging exhibits: Exhibited works created by UUCB Fiber artists, Spindleworks, artists, and church members and friends. Artists included Barbara Stainman, Ed McCartan, Joanne Allen, Paul Peranteau, Karl Saila, Wimberley Burton, Sandra Chase Morrissey, Dianne Smith Dolan and a Pride exhibit featuring works by photographer, Kyle Warnock. We also facilitated a planned event and artist receptions.

Created, updated and revised documents to improve clarity and ease of use: Devised a spreadsheet that has become central to art exhibits, planning, staffing and communication. Revised three documents that included two information sheets (one for artists and one for the artist liaison) and another providing a description of our committee to orient new members. We also redesigned the document describing the hanging space and measurements that is invaluable in helping artists plan their exhibit.

Special Acquisition: Purchased a print of Robert Shetterly's painting of Wendell Berry to be framed and hung with the help of the Building and Grounds Committee in the Wendell Berry Room.

Committee expansion: Successfully recruited three new members.

Improved supplies organization: Separated the supplies box into two boxes, one for frequently used items, and a second for lesser used items, a change that improved the item retrieval and the efficiency of our hanging process.

Our Process/Tasks:

- Locate artists whose works we feel are engaging and inspiring to church members and visitors.
- Contact artists to determine their interest, and if accepted support them throughout the process, including scheduling, curating, hanging, promoting and removing the show. Engage other church volunteers as needed.
- Write announcements for the Parish Messenger to raise interest.

Goals for Next Year:

We have lined up exhibiting artists through June of 2026 and have approved eight others we plan to approach to determine their interest. We are working with the Maine Department of Corrections to exhibit art created by prison inmates, a population which has successfully exhibited in other locations. Linda and Dave Gustafson are assisting with this.

We hope that the congregation and visitors enjoy and are inspired by the creative and thoughtful artwork we exhibit. We want this program to help make connections to the larger community. We value creativity and the visual arts at UUCB!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Evans, Scribe
Joanne Allen, Chair

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Building and Grounds members are:

Catharine (Cuffy) Chase (Co-chair)	Jessica Tracy
Susan Snow (Co-chair)	Carol Briggs
Pollyanne Melton (2023)	Jon Allen (standby help and consultant)
David Juhlin	Shirley Bernier
Maryli Tiemann	Tony Sulkowski (sexton)

Purpose

The Building and Grounds Committee oversees the maintenance and management of the church building and landscaping.

Charge

The Building and Grounds Committee oversees the following:

- Maintenance of plantings and grounds
- Snow removal from walks and stairs
- Organizing and maintaining the "Maintenance Notebooks/Operations manual
- Safety signage
- Kitchen maintenance and cleaning
- General cleaning of the building
- Maintenance and repair of church systems
- Ordering tools and materials for maintenance and cleaning

Building and Grounds Rental Subcommittee works to ensure that:

- The church building is utilized as fully as possible
- Calendar and user conflicts are minimized
- Users are informed about facility use and care
- The Rental subcommittee supports, recruits, trains and coordinates custodial and A/V staff, assures that revenues and expenses involving the building and grounds are managed transparently, maintains user policies and procedures, and makes decisions about reservation requests by groups according to *use* policy.

Highlights for 2024-2025

- Installation of asphalt parking area on south side of building
- Storeroom reorganized and made more user friendly
- Enclosure created in storeroom for Zamboni floor machine
- Rental guidelines modified and made more uniform and easier for renters to use
- Peace sign donated by Penny Elwell was installed in garden area in front of church
- Continued interaction with the Safety Committee to implement new procedures and make necessary changes to the existing locks, doors and lights

Meeting Schedule: Building and Grounds meets on the 4th Thursday of each month.

CARING NETWORK

Network Members

Name	When Started
Penny Elwell, Facilitator	2013
Sharon Brown	2013
Adair Delamater	2016
Kathy Jacques	2024

The Caring Network continues to carry out its mission which is to facilitate concrete assistance and support for members of our church community with specific short-term needs. This assistance and support provided by volunteers within our church community might consist of any of the following.

- Preparing and delivering meals
- Providing transportation (shopping, medical appts, etc.)
- Visiting person at home or in a facility, just for a chat or a check-in; making a phone call
- Providing occasional errands.
- Provide visit/support to a family who is welcoming a new child

Respectfully submitted
Penny Elwell

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Members

Marsey Caswell, chairperson	Kristen Pett
Alyson Dame	Rebecca Waddle
Lucy Ijams	Betsy Williams
Louise Gephart (Board Liaison)	

The CSF committee's purpose is to assist the Director of Lifelong Spiritual Formation (Toben) in providing the children and youth of our congregation with an opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, to enjoy the process of learning with other children and adults in the congregation, and to support families as they bring up their children to be part of the church family.

The CSF programs have continued to flourish and grow this year under Toben's enthusiastic and creative leadership! We were able to expand our programming to five different age groupings to better match our youth's developmental levels. We had 29 registered children in our programs, with many more children dropping in.

In addition to celebrating the growth in numbers of youth participating, this year we celebrate an increase in volunteer involvement. Many UUCB church members have stepped up to spend time learning with our incredible children. We have had enough volunteers to support our 3 Sunday CSF classrooms without needing to hire staff! Our Orange (pre-K-K/1) group has grown in size with the addition of multiple new families and creative volunteer support from Tammis Donovan. Our green group (grade 6-7) participated in the Neighboring Faiths program, exploring world

religions through reflection and field trips to other faith communities in our area, with knowledgeable volunteer support from Betsy Williams. We have had a series of rotating volunteers in our Yellow Group (grades 3ish-5ish), which has kept things fun and fresh for a group of youth who enjoy meeting and getting to know new adults in the church. Our busy older youth have also been generous with their time in supporting Mid-Coast Humane and helping prepare events for younger children.

In addition to traditional programming, our youth have been busy with other Sunday activities such as craft Sundays, Children's Chapel, and planning and supporting services for all ages. Toben and Kharma have intentionally created all ages services that are more inclusive and meaningful for our youth, such as our Pet Blessing Ceremony and Corn Bread Communion. We have been able to build connections and community with families as well through activities outside of our Sunday offerings, such as an October pumpkin get-together, January Game Night, a recent visit to a Goat Farm (thanks to Kharma!), child-care nights, and multi-age activities, such as Spooky Sing Along.

Next year we will move away from the Soul Matters curriculum and are excited to engage new programs including LEGOs Values and Deeper Joy RPG. We will also be providing the popular Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age curricula for older youth. We are looking forward to continuing to grow our CSF family and are hopeful we can expand our pool of volunteers to support our growing number of youth. All of this work would not be possible without Toben's incredible energy and dynamic vision for our programs. We are beyond grateful for his time and commitment to our youth!

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsey Caswell on behalf of the UUCB CSF Committee

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Our participation in the Preliminary Fellowship assessment process culminated in Kharma's official acceptance into Full Fellowship by the UUA IN November of 2024.

The CoM has begun assisting the Board on two tasks:

1. Communicating with the congregation regarding our growth discernment process, and
2. An overall "Infrastructure Review" of our ministry (e.g. how are our committees structured and working? Are their charges still relevant? Is there overlap? Is cooperation between committees working well? Are there gaps not covered by a committee/ministry area/staff? Are there any redundancies?

The Committee continued to assist the minister by providing feedback on issues that arose in the ministry of the church.

The Committee has proposed that the board create three-year staggered terms for membership on the Committee to provide continuity, as well as turnover to engage new voices.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Rumpf

UUCB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

List of Members

Name	Year Joined
Glenn Williams, Chairperson beginning 2021	2021
Jud Caswell	2021
Ward Clark	2021
Tammis Donovan	2021
Mike Heath	2021
Sue Michaud	2021
Other Participants	
Shirley Bernier	2021
Kharma Amos	2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Communications Committee is to provide leadership in implementing the UUCB Communications Policy, which is as follows: to promote effective communication both within the congregation and between the church and the outside community.

CHARGE

The Communications Committee works to ensure that approved procedures and guidelines are followed in all internal and external communications and makes recommendations for updates as needed. With an emphasis on developing a consistent image and message across all platforms in support of the UUCB mission and Unitarian Universalist principles, a commitment to ongoing improvement and modernization is central to the committee's role.

2024-2025 GOALS

The group approved the following goals for the current church year.

1. Improve Effectiveness of Existing Communications Strategies
2. Create a Crisis Communications Plan

Progress on Goals

Effectiveness of Existing Strategies

- Stimulated by a request from the Working for Justice Indigenous Awareness focus group, the Committee is working to provide additional ways for church groups to share information with the congregation. Plans include a portable bulletin board, an interactive touch-screen device mounted on a wall, and use of the "Newcomer's Chat" model.
- We produced a training video demonstrating how to use the OWL device for hybrid Zoom meetings and shared it with committee chairs.
- We continue to expand our use of Google Workspace. We now have a total of 22 UUCB groups and 18 shared drives.
- In addition to Kharma's monthly Brunswick Times Record articles and her recorded sermons, our website now includes weekly posts from Sylvia Stocker's (Minister Emerita) blog entitled "One Good Thing."
- Our *Wayside Pulpit* shares banner space with Concerts for a Cause. We display new inspirational messages approximately once per month.
- The procedure for using church's Zoom account has been streamlined, making it easier for group leaders to set up and run meetings.
- We conducted a survey to learn about the congregation's opinions regarding the *Parish Messenger*. Results clearly indicated that most people want to see it continue, largely as

is, although there were comments about it being very long. Much appreciation was expressed for the work that goes into production. The PM now includes a feature presented by the Membership Committee celebrating our growing community with photos and bios.

- We have reduced the amount of printing required for Sunday services by consolidating information on an optional single sheet.
- We have purchased a new sound board to provide expanded options for microphone inputs etc. Big thanks to Mike Heath for reorganizing the AV booth as part of the process.
- The Committee determined that our current social media presence is sufficient.
- We now have a beautiful UUCB banner in the lobby welcoming people as they enter the building. On special occasions it will be used to advertise our presence at events in the community. Thanks to Kharma's excellent design skills.

Crisis Communications Plan

Following a recommendation from the UUA, we took on the task of developing a Crisis Communications Plan. Although the UUA provided considerable guidance as to what should be included, we had to develop the actual plan for UUCB ourselves. Research showed that there are many examples of such plans used in a variety of settings. We found a template developed by *United Methodist Communications* to be a helpful starting point. Using that general model, we created a UUCB-specific plan. We then chose a recent local news incident as a basis for a hypothetical crisis that could happen at UUCB. We followed the plan in imagining what we would do in response. It was a helpful exercise, and it left us reasonably confident that we would be prepared, should the need arise. The plan includes:

- A definition and examples of what might constitute a crisis.
- Specification of roles required for a Crisis Communications Team
- Directions as to an immediate response, depending on how information about the crisis was received
- Procedures to be followed for the team's initial planning meeting, including decisions about what information is to be shared when and by whom
- Plans for follow-up

The plan itself is available on our website's Communications Committee page UUCB Crisis Communications Plan.

GOALS STILL NEEDING ATTENTION

As indicated in our charge, a commitment to ongoing improvement and modernization is central to the committee's role. Among the projects we expect to continue next year are production of a Welcome Video to be included on our website and a production of a custom-designed UUCB T-Shirt.

APPRECIATION

Communication is central to many aspects of UUCB life. Our committee is a hard-working group, with each member pulling their weight. While there is a lot of work to do, it is also a fun group. It has been a pleasure to lead.

Glenn Williams
Chairperson, UUCB Communications Committee

CONCERT TASK FORCE

The Concert Committee Task Force's charge is to hold a series of concerts to raise money for local charities while sharing a variety of quality music with the Brunswick area community. Beginning in the 2023-24 season, the charities receive ALL the net proceeds from ticket sales, and the church receives the money from refreshment donations.

The members of the task force

Susan Michaud (chair since 2014),	Louise Gephart (2021),
Donna Susemihl (2015),	Linda Muller (2023),
Steve Eagles (2017),	Elizabeth Forrest (2024).
Charlie Evans (2018),	

In addition to our concert volunteers, the Concerts had a paid sound technician, Jud Caswell with backups when needed. We eliminated the paid kitchen help position because we felt we had enough people on the task force to do the job ourselves.

2023-24 Season Final Results:

To start off the new 2024-25 fiscal year, we were happy to announce that the previous fiscal year (2023-24) resulted in a profit of **\$13,865**, the highest to date. Thus, at the beginning of the current fiscal year, UUCB donated **\$6,472** to each of previous season's charities: **Midcoast New Mainers Group** and **Oasis Free Clinics**. We also earned **\$921** from refreshment donations which went in the church coffers.

2024-25 Season:

The charities are chosen each year by the Concert Task Force, with board approval, from the list of Charities with Soul that are elected annually by our congregation. The charities chosen for the 2024-25 season were the **Brunswick Area Teen Center** and **Maine Family Planning**.

This was the lineup for the 2024-25 season.

Performer(s)	Genre of Music	Date	Tickets Sold
Pousette-Dart Duo	Soft Rock	9/20/24	167
Sally Rogers/Claudia Schmidt	Singer-Songwriter & Traditional Folk	10/19/24	148
Novel Jazz Septet	Jazz	11/23/24	176
David Mallett	Singer-Songwriter	1/11/25	-----
Women in Harmony	Chorus	3/15/25	Sold Out
Guy Davis	Blues, Roots, Folk, Spoken Word	4/12/25	180
House of Hamill	Upcycled Celtic/Folk	5/17/25	Sold Out
Susan Werner	Singer-Songwriter of many genres	6/14/25	TBD

We have had another successful, varied, and fun concert series. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the David Mallett concert due to his terminal illness and death. The concert would have been a sell-out. We had to return money to many ticket holders, but others donated the money to the cause. Even without his concert, we have sold **1,089 tickets so far**, mostly from people outside the church, and raised **\$9,027 for our charities** with one more concert to go. And we have raised **\$578 for the church** through refreshment donations. We have one more concert in June, so once we know the final net proceeds for the season, we will be dividing them 2 ways among the Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning.

A note about ticket prices: The musicians do not perform at these concerts for free. We pay them according to a contracted amount, usually 60-75% of the ticket sales, sometimes with a guaranteed amount as well. The ticket prices are also determined by contractual agreement. We must pay for lodging if the performers are from out of town and feed them a meal. The committee thinks it is important to keep the tickets as low as possible and have made a vow to only hire performers who are affordable for most people.

We have 9 concerts scheduled for the next 2025-26 season: Don Campbell Band, Soggy Po Boys, Fred Small, Pejepsco Station, Jud Caswell & Lisa Redfern, Crys Matthews, Chelsea Berry, Low Lily, and Matt Nakoa. All are entertaining and acclaimed musicians with many fans.

I would like to thank all members and friends of the congregation who attended some of our concerts, put up flyers, donated baked goods, or passed on information about upcoming concerts. Thank you also to the members of the task force and Jud Caswell, who have worked tirelessly to make these concerts a success, And a shout out to Shirley Bernier, Gulf of Maine Books, and ticketstripe.com for helping us to sell tickets.

Submitted by
Sue Michaud, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members

Keary Lay, Treasurer (2023)
Paul Peranteau (2016)
Steve Eagles (2016)

Cindy Parker (2020)
David Downes (2024)
Allen Cressy (2025)

The Finance Committee develops the church budget and then monitors the congregation's income, expenses, and pledge payments, and makes regular reports to the Board of Trustees and the Congregation. It is also responsible for securing property and liability insurance for the church building and assists the Annual Pledge Drive Committee and other fundraising efforts as needed.

Financial Summary for this year (FY 25, July 2024 - June 2025):

- Pledge payments of \$284,177 as of the end of May. That is about \$4,000 more than we budgeted through the end of May.
- Heart Pledge payments are \$19,960 as of the end of May. This is about \$6,394 less than we budgeted through the end of May. FY26's single pledge should simplify the payment process.
- Charities with Soul income is about 18% above budget.
- Holiday Fair proceeds of \$12,345. What a huge effort. Thank you so much to all involved.
- Our UUCEF Investment Fund is valued at \$535k as of 3/31/25, down 7\$k from last year.
- The Long Term Maintenance Fund is \$69,570. We used this fund to pave the parking lot.
- The Operating Reserve is \$22,529.
- At the very end of last fiscal year (late June '24) we received a \$30,000 anonymous gift. This gift is specifically to support Pastoral Care in our church. As such, a fund was set up to make sure the money is used as the gift giver intends. Thank you!

- In August '24 Nancy Dorian's estate gave the church an unrestricted gift of \$32,842.19. Thank you so much to Nancy Dorian and her family.
- The Pledge Drive for next year (FY26) has reached \$353k and going by past years results should reach \$366k. This wonderful generosity will allow us to increase Toben's hours from 35 to 40, increase Will's hours from 20 to 25, and increase Shirley's hours from 35 to 37 to meet our growing church's needs.
- Total Assets are \$686k up \$59k from last year. This increase is primarily from the generous gifts we have received.
- At the writing of this report FY25 has one month left. Our current expenditures are about \$8k less than our income. We **may** not have to withdraw our allowance from the UUCEF, as budgeted, at the end of this fiscal year.
- The proposed FY26 budget shows a deficit of \$14,805. Given the extraordinary growth our church has experienced this past year this is a great result, and a testament to the generosity of this congregation.

Areas of continued concern:

- The primary area of concern is due to our growth. As we grow our costs increase. In this situation the revenue increase that comes with growth lags behind the cost increases associated with growth.

Many thanks to members and friends who continue to provide wonderful financial support. I am also thankful for the members of this committee who have provided so much support and guidance to the Treasurer over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Keary Lay, Treasurer

FUNDRAISING STEERING GROUP

Members:

Betsy Williams, Convener
Maryli Tieman
Susan Babb (resigned mid-year)

Diane Kew
Penny Elwell

Purpose:

In December 2023 the Board approved creation of the Fundraising Steering Group. Its purpose is to provide a supportive structure for the generation and implementation of fundraising events for the benefit of UUCB's operating budget.

Charge:

- To encourage generation of new fundraising ideas, from within the group and the congregation at large.
- To provide support for the development and implementation of new fundraising ideas.
- To help all fundraising event planners navigate the church calendar and liaise with other church events/entities.
- To help recruit workers for all fundraising events.
- To keep fundraising front of mind for the congregation through ongoing communications.

The Fundraising Steering Group supported two major fundraisers this year: 1. Murder at the Pie Auction radio show and silent pie auction and 2. a community building online auction of events and services.

Murder at the Pie Auction, November 2, 2024. This hilarious radio show production of a play by the same name was under the direction of Shirely Bernier and Maryli Tieman. UUCBers showed great interest in performing in the play and all parts were easily filled. Penny Elwell organized finger foods to be served throughout the production and Betsy Williams led a real silent pie auction throughout the evening as well. Donations of any amount were collected at the door. Great fun was had by all, and the proceeds were: \$736 at the door and \$943 in pie sales, for a total of \$1,679.

UUCB Community Online Auction, May 1-16, 2025. Mike Heath led this community building online auction, with Sue Michaud as website manager and Cheryl Martin, John Robert O'Connor, Eric Root, Suzanne Sargent, Richard Strano, Carl Smith and Betsy Williams all supporting members of the team.

Donations were focused on events and services; no tangible items were included. Auctria, a free software program for auctions with proceeds under \$10K, was used. Opportunities to help people register and learn how to navigate the site were provided during the live auction period. Donations were collected throughout April and the auction ran live for two weeks with the following results: 56 donors, 75 donated items, 73 registered users, with 60 distinct winners, profiting a grand total of \$9,072.

In all, the events supported by the Fundraising Steering Group added \$10,751 to the 2024-25 operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Williams

UUCB HOLIDAY FAIR DECEMBER 7, 2024 9:00am-3:00pm

Chair: Lisa Durrell
With the help of scores of UUCB'ers

The Holiday Fair is a fun, festive event with the goals of building community and raising funds for the church. The overall structure remained the same, with about 16 outside Vendors, the ever-popular Eats and Treats, the Café with homemade soups, colorful UUCB Handcrafts, lush Wreaths created at a parishioner workshop, and relaxing Music provided by UUCB musicians. Gently used items were sold in the ever-expanding White Elephants department, the popular jewelry room, and the tools section. Some remaining items were sold after church on Sunday.

Most of the new ideas of 2023 were continued into 2024 including:

- The Eats and Treats and More department with a country flavor
- 20 lawn signs displayed in the yards of UUCB'ers,
- The donation of useful unsold items for New Mainers and the unhoused
- The week-by-week calendar for marketing tasks
- Youth involvement
- Welcoming greeters at the door all day

New in 2024:

- Fair hours were expanded for the public by an hour: 9-3.
- All departments had co-chairs.
- The sit-down areas to enjoy the soups served in china bowls
- The number of musicians performing doubled

To consider for 2025:

- Involve more of the many new UUCB'ers
- Rethink the involvement of the children
- Consider renting a dumpster to make set-up and clean-up easier
- An assistant chair to learn the ropes to carry the Fair forward

This year's Holiday Fair profits were over \$12,000, a first! The huge success of the fair was due once again to the combined effort, creativity, and teamwork of dozens of dedicated UUCB'ers. Thank you to all for making it happen and for bringing joy and fun to the process!

Submitted by
Lisa Durrell

LIFELONG SPIRITUAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

We have successfully completed our first year using the Lifelong Spiritual Formation program model!

Much of this church year was spent getting a sense of what adult programming was already happening and assessing how it fit under the Lifelong Spiritual Formation umbrella and how to best support each program. I worked with the Membership Committee to help develop an engagement model that began to develop towards a pathway to membership- including newcomer potlucks and revamped You & UU workshops. A Pathway to Membership page is also being developed for the UUCB website. I worked with the Indigenous Awareness Focus Group under Working for Justice. We connected with the Mawita'nej Epijj First Nations Youth Group and provided them with warm snow gear from our Mitten Tree. I worked with the Chalice Circle coordinator to provide a "Taste & See" sampling to offer people interested in participating in a Chalice Circle the opportunity to try out different formats.

I helped organize/support several different workshops and programs including a Circle Process workshop, a Spiritual Types workshop, a Meditation for Everybody workshop and bi-weekly practice, an Eastern Calligraphy Workshop, an online Winter Wisdom discussion group, and bi-weekly QiGong practice. In support of our mission to be a Welcoming Congregation, I helped organize/ support multiple LGBTQIA+ workshops and programs. I led two close reading discussion groups on two different books about trans inclusion. I coordinated with Rev. Tara Humphries of Allen Avenue UU in Portland to have them come and do a "Pronoun Skill Up" workshop. In exchange, I led a service at Allen Avenue about trans inclusivity. I worked with Evangeline Weiss to bring a Cis Ally training workshop to UUCB and helped Rev. Kharma organize a Queer History workshop at UUCB. I joined Rev. Kharma on the Brunswick Pride Committee to help ensure that UUCB has a continuous presence at Brunswick Pride. I worked with Rev. Kharma to organize our Queer Spirit tent at Pride.

While my new role as Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director offered me time to support the growth of adult programming, our children's program saw growth as well. We gained several different families with at least six new kids regularly participating in our weekly Children's Spiritual Formation programming. I hired a Bowdoin student, Margot Trout, to work in our Nursery so that we could provide childcare for our Red Group kids (Under Pre-K age) as regularly as possible. Tammis Donovan served as the lead teacher for our Orange Group kids (grades Pre-K- 1). This age group had the largest increase in participation. Tammis's consistent tender, creative, and fun presence helped to create a cohesive group experience and we saw several of our newer kids come out of their shells and feel more at home as the church year went on. Thanks to the support of multiple volunteers, our Yellow Group (Grades 3-5) had a successful church year exploring each of our different Soul Matters themes together. We also saw them come more together as a group this year (as was witnessed by anyone who saw their Children's Spiritual Formation Sunday skit). With enormous effort on the part of Betsy Williams and with regular help from Faith Barnes, we were able to offer our Grades 6/7 youth the opportunity to participate in the Neighboring Religious Communities program. The group learned about and visited seven different faith communities in the greater Brunswick area. Our Grades 8-12 Youth Group remained small this year (four members total) with limited participation due to the youths' busy schedules but we did organize a tour to Midcoast Maine Humane Society where we learned about how they support the health and rehoming of animals like cats, dogs, rabbits, and guinea pigs. The youth also led a Children's Chapel during which they talked to the younger youth and children about their time at the shelter and showed them how to make cat toys. We were able to donate over thirty cat toys! Overall, we saw not only growth in numbers of children and youth participating in Children's Spiritual Formation, we also saw consistent numbers throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted
Toben Cooney-Callnan
Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee members (date joined)

Karen Reinert (2014)

Betsy Roper (2018)

Donna Tompkins (2019)

Vicki Simpson (2023)

Sarah Fabian (2023) (Chair and Secretary)

Frederick Lancaster (2025)

Leigh Peranteau (2015)

David Juhlin (2019)

Erika McKenney (2021)

Anne Spencer (2023)

Sienna Dode (2025)

Committee Meetings

The Membership Committee meets at UUCB at 12:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month from September through June.

Committee Purpose

The Membership Committee's purpose is to provide ideas and opportunities for newcomers, friends, and members to feel welcomed, develop connections, and find ways to become involved in the life of UUCB. We seek to create and maintain a spirit of warmth, caring, and community at UUCB.

Ongoing Committee Activities

Visitor's Table

Every Sunday one or two committee members staff the visitor's table, providing a place for first-time (or repeat) visitors to get a name tag, ask questions, and generally be greeted to our congregation. We provide information about UUCB and display sign-up sheets for upcoming activities. Visitors are invited to request a permanent name tag and previously requested name tags, which are printed by Shirley Bernier, are available for pick-up. Pronoun stickers continue to be made available. Karen Reinert sends a note of welcome to everyone who signs up to receive UUCB emails and has provided a physical mailing address. Shirley Bernier adds these folks to a spreadsheet for future tracking and follow-up.

All membership committee members are involved in watching for visitors each Sunday and reaching out to make new folks feel welcomed and included.

Newcomer's Chat

A Newcomer's Chat is held after the service on the first Sunday of every month to provide an opportunity for newcomers and returning visitors to meet informally in a small group and learn more about UUCB. One or more committee members plus a member of the board run the Newcomer's Chats.

Annual Count of UUCB Members for UUA

Leigh Peranteau headed up the annual count of members to provide Shirley Bernier with an accurate count to be reported to the UUA in February. In 2024 we reported 234 members.

You & UU Classes

The You and UU classes provide an orientation to the history and principles of the Unitarian Universalist denomination and to UUCB in particular. This year You and UU was presented in two two-hour sessions on Sundays following service, and organized by Toben Cooney-Callnan Kharma Amos, David Juhlin, Vicki Simpson and Betsy Roper. The first session was designed to be an informal 'get to know each other' event and was held on 1/26/24 and attended by 21 people. The second session, held on 4/13/25 with approximately 20 people in attendance, presented a more formal look into UUA and UUCB.

Newcomer Pot Luck

An informal pot luck lunch was held on Sunday, January 19, 2025. Invitations were sent to everyone who had either become a member or signed up to receive UUCB emails since the previous new member ceremony. 8 newcomers and 10 staff and membership committee members enjoyed a simple meal with an opportunity to get to know each other.

Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers provide an opportunity for members to share a meal and conversation in an informal setting. Volunteer hosts open their homes to approximately 6-12 people, depending on their available space, provide a main dish, and coordinate the meal contributions of the guests.

This year Circle Suppers were held at two locations on Saturday, October 5, 2024, generously hosted by Carol and Ken Drake and Robin and Erik Hanson. Judy Strano organized a very successful Circle Dinner on Christmas day, attended by approximately 30 people. Thank you to the hosts who open their homes for these gatherings and to Judy Strano who coordinated the Christmas gathering at the church. Spring Circle Suppers are scheduled for May 31, 2025.

All Church Picnic

The All-Church Picnic is an annual event scheduled in the late spring, weather permitting. This past year the picnic was held on June 1, 2024 at the home of Janice Thompson and Jeremy Jones who have graciously offered their beautiful home in Harpswell for the event. Approximately 70 people attended. This year the picnic is scheduled for August 17, 2025 at the home of Stephanie Bernier.

Brown Bag Lunch

Brown Bag lunches are generally scheduled for summer Sundays after church for members to gather informally to relax and listen to music on the Brunswick common. Members bring their own lunch and lawn chair. Brown bag lunches was held on Wednesday July 24, and Wednesday August 11 at the Brunswick Mall, each attended by 25-30 people. Dates for summer 2025 have not yet been set.

SoUUPs On

SoUUPs On is a well-attended annual event and this year was held on March 2, 2025, immediately following a Sunday service. Volunteers provided tables full of soups, desserts and breads, enough to feed a full house. The SoUUPs On event is a heartwarming example of a congregation spontaneously working together on the day of the event to share the responsibilities for set-up and clean-up in addition to enjoying a delicious selection of homemade foods.

New Member Recognition

Donna Tompkins organizes contact with new members, ensuring that everyone who signs the book is contacted by a membership committee member to be personally welcomed into the congregation.

A new member recognition ceremony was held during the Sunday service on March 2, 2025. 24 new UUCB members were recognized as having signed the book in the previous year.

Communications

Betsy Roper continues to write the announcements that go into the weekly church email, orders of worship and the Parish Messenger.

Special Activities

Women's Group

Judy Strano continues to organize a monthly women's meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month. The topics range from serious to light-hearted. These have been very well attended and much enjoyed by the participants.

New Member Bios

Betsy Roper and Anne Spencer coordinate the writing of brief biographies of new members for the Parish Messenger.

Respectfully submitted
Sarah Fabian, Chair

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear UUCB congregation,

This church year of 24-25 has involved my first September-May period as Music Director at UUCB. Much has changed during this period of time in our external worlds and I have seen it as part of my role to allow for music to support us in our internal fortitude throughout these shiftings. I have tried this year—actively, as well as subtly—to invite all musical groups into experiencing spirituality not just during worship services but also during “rehearsal” times.

UUCB Choir:

I have seen growth and playfulness develop in the choir during this period of gatherings. I have noticed choir members making connections with new people they did not always talk to or sit next to before. I have also noticed some members gaining new-found confidence in their own abilities as well as other members trying out a new role in helping those around them. Our choral repertoire has ranged from Taverner and Faure, to gospel harmonies, to folk songs, and to musical theater selections. In addition to “regularly scheduled,” twice-a-month Sunday services—the choir prepared and sang music for two memorial services as well as in a concert at Bowdoin College in collaboration with the Bowdoin Chamber Singers and local composers. It has been the case that the choir has supported congregational singing in general at the church, with the group previewing a vast range of hymns and musical selections during Thursday practices. Similarly, the choir will also support the formation of The Brunswick Pride Choir in June. Total membership in the choir is at about 36, give or take.

UUCB Intergen Orchestra:

The intergen orchestra rehearsed three times in December and played an impressive total of 6 pieces of music on the service of December 22nd. The orchestra involved 25 instrumentalists. We worked on the Huron Carol which I arranged expressly for this group with the goal of listening together as one ensemble. I think we rose to this challenge.

UUCB A Cappella Group:

An a cappella group has met since September once a month at church to sing different styles of a cappella music with the primary goal of enjoying the act of singing together. We have begun to think creatively about how to be involved in presenting music through church means.

Fourth Sunday All-Stars and children's music:

An offering penned as the Fourth Sunday All-Stars by me has been initiated for any children wishing to sing after services once a month. With this time as a training ground, I have incorporated—with the assistance of several adult helpers—children as musical participants during various services. During Children's Chapel Sunday services, I have worked with all of the children from Spiritual Formation, introducing UU music to them once a month. As a volunteer, Tammis Donovan has worked with the youngest of our youth frequently in a musical capacity during Spiritual Formation times.

UUCB Drummers:

A drumming circle has begun to meet once a month—also with the support of several church folk. This group found its impetus following an introductory drum workshop in January 2025. The group is open to drummers and those playing other instruments besides drums. I maintain free group improvisation and experimentation as the primary goal.

UUCB Recorder Ensemble:

The UUCB Recorder Ensemble has continued in its steadfast commitment to meet once a month and we play as a more coordinated ensemble as a result.

Miscellaneous:

Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos and I have started working on a variety of instrumental and vocal music more intensely together—some fruits of our trials and errors have made their way onto services. Various small groups have developed and/or have continued to appear during this church year, including Ambrosia, Trillium and The Sunny-Siders. Guest musicians who have substituted in the music director capacity include Jud Caswell, Grace Lewis McLaren and Derek Herzer. There is also an abundance of individuals—far too many to mention here, without the likelihood of excluding some—who have participated in unique musical ways during worship this year. Thank you all!

I have worked with and involved a few outside groups and guests in worship services, including The Highlands Chorale, AhSa-Ti Nu Ford and Jazmin DeRice Miller. I believe that cross pollination with others from outside of our church walls is of additional importance and value in our decidedly divided world.

- Several “non-worship” music events have been open to not only church members but also to the general public due to sponsorship from the church, including: the *Spectacularly Spooky Sing-Along* in October (also sponsored by Brunswick Pride);
- the drumming workshop in January, and
- the *Trusting the Wisdom of Our Bodies* workshop in March.
- The Brunswick Area Interfaith Council has provided more and more Community Sing events that our church has sponsored in partnership with the other members of this coalition.

Finally I would like to mention how I feel congregational singing has positively evolved during the year through our experimentations with prayer response and hymnody in worship. It is also the case that—outside of worship—Concerts for a Cause, along with other church sponsored musical shows, also lend to the development of our congregational musicality.

In summary, 24/25 so far has been a wonderful year of musical experiences with more to look forward to in 25/26! I am honored to serve as the Music Director of this congregation!

Sincerely,
Will Bristol
UUCB Music Director

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES

Members

Rev. Kharma Amos	Faith Barnes	Mary Larson
Julie Dahmer (chair 2019-)	Jane Danielson	Sue Loeb
Irene Austin	Mary Cay Harrington	Renee Manomaitis
Joel Austin	Walt Harris	Judy Strano
		Willow Whitehouse

Mission:

The mission of the Pastoral Care Associates is to respond in a compassionate way to pastoral needs that come to our attention. We assist the Minister, expanding the scope of pastoral care offered. We covenant to discuss care situations respectfully and keep details strictly confidential, involving other members of the congregation only when appropriate.

Membership:

Our committee again this year had a solid and growing team of caring committee members to serve the various pastoral care needs of the congregation. Willow Whitehouse, Judy Strano, and Mary Cay Harrington became members this year; Samantha Nord has stepped aside temporarily. The committee meets monthly and communicates by email as needed.

Service:

The pastoral care associates offered emotional and moral support to several members of our congregation this year. The needs were both short-term and ongoing. We visited members and friends in their homes, met for walks and coffee, stayed connected by phone and email, and sent cards. We were also able to chat privately with people at church after the services. We provided support for people who contacted us directly and also those whose needs came to our attention indirectly. We followed up on the joys and concerns written in the book on Sunday mornings and included those sent to us by email. This year we changed the joys and concerns Gmail address to joys-and-concerns@UUBrunswick.or to increase digital security.

Pastoral care associates contact the Caring Network when we hear of anyone with a non-pastoral need such as meals or rides and are often among the church members who help provide these services. Completing a major undertaking begun last year, Irene and Faith looked at the United Way's extensive list of community services, pared them down, and organized them into an accessible list of services we can reference to meet the needs of our congregation that go beyond what we can provide. In December, we offered a Blue Christmas service to provide comfort for anyone not feeling the joy of the season. Finally, the pastoral care committee has arranged for Amy Angelo of the Alzheimer's Associate of Maine to present information on Alzheimer's and dementia to the congregation this May

Appreciation:

I deeply appreciate the time and thoughtful caring that pastoral care associates devote to so many in our church community each year and their commitment to this mission.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Dahmer

2025 PLEDGE TEAM REPORT

Committee members

Al Cressy,
Walt Harris,
Diane Kew,
Nancy Kurtz,

Cindy Parker,
Kristen Pett,
Vicki Simpson

Committee purpose

To raise the funds necessary 1) to cover the operating costs of UUCB for fiscal year 2025/26 and 2) to further expand staff hours to meet the demands of our growing congregation

Goals accomplished

- Established theme: *We Care Together*
- Publicized the campaign widely via in-church announcements and testimonials, church bulletin inserts, emails, phone calls, Parish Messenger articles, and a table presence in Fellowship Hall to inform people of drive's purpose, goals, status, and ways to pledge & donate
- Reached out to *all* members of the UUCB community to request a pledge; sent thank you notes as well as pledge drive commitment letters to all donors
- Added a work/calendar flow for letters, creation of materials, etc. to the Google Pledge Drive folder for use next year
- Pledge drive raised approximately \$350,000 by early April 2025

What worked well

- Asking the church leadership (Board of Trustees and Committee chairs) and major donors to pledge in advance of the public phase/in-church kickoff
- Having a liaison to the finance and membership committees
- Having an ICON database expert on pledge team

Ideas to improve process for FY 2026/27

- Meet with webmaster to streamline pledge drive presence and online pledge process
- Have a pledge card available year-round for the Visitor's Table, include a QR code
- Find some way to clarify the current and future pledge drive years for contributors
- Have someone who is not running the meeting take notes
- Institutionalize a way to get pledge information to new members (maybe part of a new-member folder that is given out when someone signs the book?)
- Institutionalize how the team defines and calculates how many family units we have
- Work with membership to determine who should be removed from the membership list
- Institutionalize the mailing list used to solicit pledges...should be widest net possible
- Be clearer about when pledge drive ends
- Shorten pledge drive period to three weeks, with fourth week reserved for dedication of pledges

Special thanks to ...

Cindy Parker for being the historical memory of the pledge drive and for analyzing past and present data so we could see trends, etc.

Respectfully submitted
Diane Kew

SANTA PROJECT 2024

This was the third year after the covid hiatus that we collected gift cards at Christmas time for the folks at The Gathering Place.

In 2022 we were able to give them about \$1000.00 in Hannaford gift cards.

In 2023 through the generosity of our congregation at UUCB, we were able to give The Gathering Place \$1380.00 for distribution to their patrons.

And this year, 2024, we gave \$1500.00 These gift cards are much appreciated as they give folks a chance to buy snacks or prescriptions at Hannaford's which is near The Gathering Place. They also show the folks at The Gathering Place that they are thought of with a little extra during the holiday season.

Thank you for your generosity.

Santa's Elf
Sharon Brown

WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP (WFJSG)

CO-CHAIRS:

Faith Barnes
Jill Scherer

MEMBERS

Joanne Allen
Kharma Amos,
Irene Austin,
Joel Austin,
Susan Babb
Faith Barnes
Jody Batson
Carol Briggs
Catherine Chase
Ward Clark
William Clark
Cathey Cyrus
Jane Danielson
Grace Denker
Margaret Duston
Steve Eagles
Stan Eller
Jaki Ellis
Lynn Ellis
Diane Fisher
Louise Gephart

BOARD OF TRUSTEES LIAISON:

Nathan B Haynes

Carol Gillespie
Kathy Glennon
David Gustafson
Robin Hansen
Mary Cay Harrington
Nathan B Haynes
Bette Horton
Pete Horton
Gretchen Kamilewicz
Sue Kennedy
Diane Kew
Donald Thomas Klein
Jay Kuder
Lucy Kuder
Nancy Kurtz
Frederick Lancaster
Mary Larson
Jean Lay
Stephen Majercik
Renee Manomaitis

Cheryl Martin
Pat Moore
Peter Nimkoff
Samantha Nord
Betty Robinson
William Rixon
Tom Rumpf
Jill Scherer
Carla Sherrell
Judy Smith
Susan Snow
Thea Spires
Rob Stuart
Donna Tompkins
Betsy Williams
Willow Whitehouse
Bonnie Wood
Stephen Wood
Faith Woodman
Betty Wurtz.

PURPOSE:

The Working for Justice Steering Group organizes and supports social justice initiatives that express the UUCB's choice to work towards the prevention of prejudice and hate. Initiatives seek to encourage reflection and action among the entire congregation.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:

The Steering Group consists of nine different Focus Groups (LGBTQIA++ added this year) which committee members may join. Focus Groups, with respective contact people, are listed below followed by descriptions of each Focus Group's activities during the 2024-25 Fiscal Year:

Focus Group

Black Lives Matter
Charities With Soul
Gun Safety Education and Awareness
Habitat For Humanity
Indigenous Awareness
MUUSAN (Maine Unitarian Universalist State
Advocacy Network)
New Mainers and Immigrant Justice
Teen Center
LGBTQIA++

Contact Person

Jane Danielson
Stephen Wood
Lynn Ellis
Gretchen Kamilewicz
Cathey Cyrus
Steve Eagles

Faith Barnes
Carol Briggs, Joanne Allen
Kathy Glennon, Diane Fisher

CO-SPONSORED OR HOSTED BY THE WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP AS A WHOLE

Re-Invigorating (Y)Our Relationship to Social Justice was a retreat for members and others which took place on November 9, 2024 at the church. Attendees had an opportunity to explore their deeper personal visions and goals for the group, and to discuss how to be more effective and involve more of the congregation.

Imagine Your Social Change Role Partner Fair was held at the church on May 17, 2025. Many of our social justice partners came to staff tables, as well as our focus group members. Visitors were able to speak with presenters, gather information and leave their contact information. We hope to repeat this successful event.

FOCUS GROUP REPORTS

Black Lives Matter

Sacred Ground, a curriculum on the history and legacies of racism in this country, was offered for the second year at UUCB. This year, two groups each with 10 participants and 2 co-facilitators began the program -- one group dropping to 7 while the other remained at 10 people by the end of the 11-session program. The feedback from those who completed the program was quite positive, citing the powerful nature of the materials and dialogue. This fall, Sacred Ground will be offered again at UUCB in conjunction with St. Paul's Church, which provides the curriculum.

Some UUCB members who had been active in Sacred Ground began exploring restorative justice, its concept and potential as a process in which community members might engage. That exploration led to the worship service on November 17 with guest speaker Brandon Brown and his reflection on "Restorative Justice: A Practice for

Repairing Harm." UUCB members then pursued two opportunities for participating in

the reparative practice of restorative justice in the wider community. One group began working with the Restorative Justice Project of Maine for its initiative at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. Another group of congregants began serving as community surrogates in restorative dialogues conducted by the Cumberland County Friends of Restorative Justice.

Charities With Soul

Nominations for six optional charities were made by parishioners in March and April 2024. I compiled these into ballots with a brief description of each charity for congregation voting, which took place in May. Stan Eller and I tallied the votes, resulting in these elected charities:

Brunswick Area Teen Center,
Maine Gun Safety Coalition,
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project,
Big Brothers Big Sisters,
Brunswick Topsham Land Trust,
Maine Family Planning.

Legacy charities comprised the other six months:

MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program,
Tedford Housing,
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee,
Oasis Free Clinic,
Four Directions Development Corp,
The Gathering Place

The same process is under way for church year July 2025-June 2026.

Gun Violence Education and Awareness

This year has been active for this group focused on raising awareness of the public health crisis that is gun violence in our country. Following the mass shootings in Maine in 2023 brought an increase of interest to the education we engage in.

Our focus remains twofold: legislative action and recognition of lives lost to gun violence. Our partnership with the Maine Gun Safety Coalition strengthened, and we followed their guidance on priority bills for the 132nd legislative session.

Two concerning bills - LD208 and LD1062 - look to overturn two bills from the previous session – repealing the 72 hour wait period on firearm purchases and eliminate background checks in the private sale of firearms. New members to this focus group testified in Augusta, many for the first time.

On December 14, 2024, we continued our commitment as a community to lift up all lives lost to gun violence on the anniversary of the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. We joined with Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC) to host a truly moving acknowledgment.

Habitat For Humanity

Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine continues to provide basic home weatherization, critical home repairs, home modifications, and new home construction in our local area. During the past

year, Habitat completed 83 projects for 134 homeowners, and this summer Habitat will break ground in Bath for a new home build.

UUCB has supported Habitat in several ways. Over this past year several members of UUCB volunteered each week at the ReStore, going out on the truck to pick up donations, cleaning donations for resale, and handling customer payments.

We also participated in Habitat's annual fundraiser, "A Walk to Build", which was held this year on May 4, 2025. About twelve church members walked and fundraised, so far raising \$8482.50. The total collected by the Walk is now a little over \$50,000.

We want to thank everyone who supported Habitat this year, and we are always looking for new blood both at the ReStore and the Walk.

Indigenous Awareness

Of the many folks at UUCB who have expressed interest in the Indigenous Awareness Focus Group, seven people were able to meet regularly to give attention to setting the following goals for that focus during the 2024-2025 church year:

Continue the past year's efforts to inform and engage the congregation in better understanding and supporting Indigenous led efforts throughout the state of Maine - particularly the Wabanaki Nations' work via the Wabanaki Alliance to have the state legislature and governor acknowledge and recognize Wabanaki inherent sovereignty and right to self-determination.

Support ongoing efforts by local organizations (Pejepscot Portage Mapping Project (PPMP), Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) and Mawoluhkhotipon ("We Work Together" – Passamaquoddy) to raise awareness of the untold Wabanaki stories, past and present, of this mid coast region – particularly this place we now call Brunswick.

Reach out in partnership to Toben Cooney-Callnan, UUCB Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director to offer and engage with the congregation in Lifelong Spiritual Formation programming about Wabanaki stories and concerns, both past and present by exploring informed Native and non-Native educational resources, including Wabanaki REACH; Wabanaki Alliance; Brunswick Topsham Land Trust, First Light, and others.

In support of those goals:

We explored with Toben the possibility of offering a REACH workshop to UUCB and the larger community, but because of the high cost involved will look ahead to next year when we hope UUCB might partner with the Curtis Library or another group to share that expense.

As part of this year's annual Mitten Tree collection of warm mittens and hats, Toben oversaw the collection of warm socks in support of efforts by local Wabanaki families to outfit their children with warm clothes for winter outings.

We worked with the Worship Committee to refine the words of the Wabanaki acknowledgment spoken each Sunday morning as the worship service begins. They now read:

UUCB is located on the ancestral homelands of the Wabanaki people, who have deep, enduring and ongoing relationships with Brunswick's lands and waterways. We acknowledge the painful legacy of the region's colonial history and commit to better understanding it. We will work to

recognize and welcome the presence and concerns of the Wabanaki whose people and culture live within and contribute to the vitality of this community we share.

We are scheduled to offer the worship service, on October 19, 2025 of the 2025-2026 church year.

We're exploring with the Communications Committee the possibility of creating a shared designated display area in the church where opportunities for participation and learning can be made available to the congregation – hoping to invite reflection, increased awareness and understanding as well as the opportunity to act on issues of concern.

We participated in the WFJ Justice Partner Fair on May 17 offering information from the Wabanaki Alliance Tribal Coalition; Wabanaki REACH; Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG); Pejepscot Portage Mapping Project (PPMP); Mawoluhkhotipon; Four Directions. Representatives from MIAG and Mawoluhkhotipon were able to be present with us at our table.

MUUSAN

At the time of this writing, the Maine State Legislature is still in full swing. It's been a very busy year for MUUSAN's priority issues, as established at our fall Network Meeting.

We advocated on a total of 31 bills in 9 issue areas:

- Democracy,
- Environment,
- Housing,
- LGBTQIA++,
- Gun Safety,
- New Mainers/Immigrants,
- Prison Reform,
- Wabanaki Sovereignty, and
- Women's Reproductive Rights.

Our new system directly connecting MUUSAN liaisons with statewide partners in each of these areas, allowed us to choose priority bills and receive helpful talking points for our advocacy. Some members of UUCB signed up on one or more of MUUSAN's issue area "Take-Action" Google Groups to receive action alerts as soon as possible. Others (63 at last count!) received once weekly emails on UUCB's Legislative List, which often had action alerts in multiple issue areas.

Anecdotally, the bills that received the most support from UUCBers this year in terms of testimony submissions and contact with legislators were in the areas of Environment, Gun Safety, LGBTQIA++, New Mainers, and Wabanaki.

Thank you to everyone who brought your UU voice and values to Augusta this year. We are told that legislators really appreciate hearing faith-based points of view other than Christian Nationalist. If you would like to learn more about our work, please contact Betsy Williams (bwilliams120@gmail.com) or Steve Eagles (seagles4@gmail.com).

Immigrant Justice

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Faith Barnes at faithb.56@gmail.com or at 207-751-2892.

The purpose of the Immigrant Justice Committee is to work with organizations that service the immigrant population and to be a liaison between UUCB and these organizations - to identify volunteer opportunities, be a source of information and communication about needs and resources, help connect offers of help with areas of need and generally oversee the UUCB efforts.

I'd like to thank all the UUCB volunteers who make Immigrant Justice work possible through their dedication to provide transportation, mentorship, literacy services to both children and adults, and job coaching to Midcoast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) and Midcoast Literacy.

The primary focus of immigrant justice has moved from housing and transportation to job coaching and assisting immigrants to know their rights and how to deal with this current administration. The highlights are listed below:

- UUCB sponsored a Pihcintu concert. Pihcintu is a multinational girls chorus based in Portland. We were fortunate to work with two sisters from Burkina Faso who provided delicious African food and beverages for the reception.
- MCMNG hosted several Job Coaching meetings. The Job Coach role has shifted from helping the immigrant find a job to assisting with communication and helping the immigrant understand the US work ethic.
- MCNMG sponsored two presentations with a retired ILAP attorney focused on interactions with ICE- one to members of the new Mainer community and another to volunteers working with immigrants. The presentations were very helpful.
- UUCB ordered Know Your Rights cards and is distributing them to the community of volunteers at UUCB and to the immigrants themselves.
- MCNMG, TEAN, and the Welcome Center sponsored a presentation by Atty. Ben Tucker to immigrant teens and adults. Ben reviewed the documents required when driving, the need to obey the traffic laws, what to do if you get stopped, and how to interact with law enforcement.
- MCNMG is starting a new initiative to assist new Mainers to obtain US passports for their children who were born here. The process is quite new and is currently in the pilot stage.

Teen Center

Members: Carol Briggs-Member of the Teen Center Advisory Board,
Joanne Allen, Cuffy Chase, Pat Moore, Susan Snow, Betty Wurtz, Donna Tompkins

Purpose:

We aim to support the Brunswick Area Teen Center with snacks, meals, and financial assistance. We want to help young people to form community as they grow and face the challenges in their lives.

Goals and Accomplishments:

This has been a good year for the Teen Center. They've moved from the PeoplePlus building to the Coffin School. This location is much better. They have more space and an outdoor recreation area. The kids can walk over from the Middle School.

The teens created a garden of raised beds and we provided the soil and big planters for small fruit trees. They are planning and planting with great enthusiasm! The kids will enjoy the fruits and vegetables, of their labor. The teens have snacks and a meal daily. They love to cook.

The playground equipment is old but there are hopes/plans to repair it and to put in a solid surface path so that mud and snow aren't tramped inside. A new van provides transportation for many field trips.

The Scoop-a-thon at Gelato Fiasco was a great fundraiser. Thank you to Kharma, who was a celebrity scooper.

Thank you to everyone who brings snacks and donations for our first Sunday of the month collections. Our committee provides homemade meals once a month and supports the Center with gift cards during the holidays.

Please come to the Open House for the Teen Center June 12 from 4:30 to 6pm. You can meet the director, Taylor Carter, and the Americore volunteer and learn more about the activities.

LGBTQIA++

The LGBTQIA++ group (co-chairs Rev. Diane Fisher and Kathleen Glennon) is a new focus group with a growing membership. We recently held our first meeting to support LGBTQ+ members which was positively received and look forward to hosting future meetings. The group supports the church's mission as a Welcoming Congregation by helping with the completion of the renewal process. Members of the group have attended programs within the church supporting greater understanding of LGBTQIA++ people through participation in book groups, workshops at our church and other churches and the statewide MUUSAN network. The focus group will be working with other members of the church to support our church's visibility along with other congregations at Brunswick Pride at our Queer Spirit Table.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee members:

Stephanie Bernier (several years as an employee, 2021+ volunteer),	Suzanne Sargent (2023),
Mary Larson (2020),	Stephen Majercik(2023),
Pat Moore (2018),	Cindy Parker (2016, 2023),
Ward Clark (2021),	Irene Austin (2024)
Co-Chairs – Stephanie Bernier since 2022, Mary Larson since 2020	

Purpose

The Worship Committee assists the minister (or other Worship Leaders) in the Sunday morning services and other special worship services. The committee acts as a liaison between the minister and the congregation. In addition, the Worship Committee fills the pulpit on Sundays when the minister is absent and for summer services with guest ministers and lay leaders (approximately 20 services annually). Our members advise and assist guests in preparation for those services.

Goals

Understand multicultural appropriation in an effort to be more culturally inclusive and respectful in our worship services in order to be truly welcoming to a growing number of congregants.

We continue to delve into our worship service habits as we aim to be more sensitive, welcoming, and culturally appropriate in the topics and components of our worship services.

Through inviting professional and lay-led service leaders from other religions, we strive to be in good relationship with other faith communities while increasing our own understanding.

This is a goal that we will continue to strive for in our worship services through readings, discussions and observation.

Explore Soulmatters themes provided by the UUA so that we can deepen worship experiences for our congregation

We met 30 minutes prior to each monthly Worship Committee meeting in order to share our thoughts and experiences about each of the annual 10 Soul Matters themes.

These discussions enhance our understanding of the multiple interpretations of each theme and allow us to search for meaningful components of worship services, most specifically for those when our minister is away.

We will continue to explore the Soulmatters themes proposed for the 2024-25 calendar year.

Provide an opportunity for members of the WC to give feedback about worship services and to evaluate how we are doing at meeting the diverse needs of our congregation.

The Worship Committee feedback form has been set up for us by Kharma in order for us to note our reactions and thoughts about each of the services. We try to have honest discussions about this feedback in our Worship Committee meetings so that we can offer the best worship experiences to our very diverse congregation.

We have attempted to be flexible and creative with our growing population to provide enough seating and space to move about.

We are still trying to find the best way to have discussions about and evaluate our services as well as how to process feedback from the congregation.

Experiment with components of our worship services in an effort to be more open and inclusive to our growing numbers of congregants.

We hope to include a wider variety of readers during the services. We are using musical responses to Joys and Concerns. We have coloring posters on the sanctuary wall to be more inviting to people of all ages who prefer not to be idle during the services.

To take part in a Worship Committee retreat, aside from our monthly meetings, so that we can delve into deeper conversations about creating the best and most meaningful worship services to a diverse congregation.

We took part in a half day worship retreat which Kharma planned to help members of the committee deepen our understanding of all of the components that go into creating meaningful worship services for varying spiritual types.

Appreciation

The Worship Committee has worked very well together on the above goals. We are incredibly grateful for the direction our beloved minister, Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, has given us. As Worship Associates we have more responsibility for tasks in the services and a greater understanding of the significance of those tasks.

We very much appreciate the dedication of Will Bristol, our Music Director and other musicians, Toben Cooney-Callnan, our LSF Director, and AV team who make it possible for us to provide excellent worship services in person, live-streamed, and recorded.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Bernier and Mary Larson

APPENDEIX

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BRUNSWICK
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

AGENDA

JUNE 8, 2025, 11:15 A.M.
(In Person and via Zoom)

1. Call to order: Mike Heath, Moderator
2. Chalice Lighting: Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos
3. Reading of the Church Mission Statement and Congregational Covenant: Curt Neufeld
4. Approval of the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of June 9, 2024
 - Financial Statements Treasurer's Report: Keary Lay
 - Finance Report and Budget Presentation for 2025-2026MOTION: To approve the Board-approved 2025-2026 budget
5. Nominating Committee Report and presentation of candidates: Glenn Williams
 - Open Trustee Positions
 - Officers
 - Moderator
 - Nominating Committee
6. Charities with Soul Report and Motion
7. Recognition of outgoing Board Members
8. Volunteer Appreciation
9. To consider any other business, as appropriate and agreed to by the assembled congregation.
10. Closing Words and Adjournment: Mike Heath

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick
Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation**

**MINUTES
June 9, 2024**

Attendance: 85 UUCB members in person plus 8 Zoom participants on line. Total: 93 Quorum constituted

- Meeting was called to order by Moderator Michael Heath at 11:21 am
- Rev. Dr. Kharmia Amos lit the chalice and provided a reading
- Board Chair, David read the UUCB Mission Statement and Congregational Covenant.: David reminded those present that the Mission Statement is the lens we use to determine what we do, and the Covenant helps us determine how we do it.
- Approval of Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of June 11, 2023. Moderator asked those present for comments or changes to these minutes. None were made. Moderator declared minutes approved by consent
- Report of the Finance Committee & Presentation of FY 2024-25 Annual Budget
 - Treasurer's Report: Keary Lay, UUCB Treasurer, reported that the 2023-24 financial situation will end with a smaller deficit than originally budgeted due to better than projected income.
 - Finance Report and Budget Presentation for 2024-2025
Keary reported that, due to a successful annual pledge campaign and other factors, the Finance Committee is presenting a balanced budget that includes:
 - increase of RE Director to 35 hours/week, including full time benefits
 - salary increases in line with UUA recommendations for all staff
 - full salary of part-time Music Director

MOTION from the Board of Trustees: *To approve the Board-approved 2024-2025 budget* (Board motion does not require a second.

Moderator called for discussion: Carol Evans noted all of the good financial news in addition to the pledge drive.

Motion carried by unanimous vote on floor and on Zoom

- Nominating Committee Report and presentation of candidates: Glenn Williams, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the nominations for church officers for the 2024-25 church year:
 - Open Trustee Positions.
 - Joel Austin 3 year term
 - Nathan Haynes for 1 year to fulfill position due to resignation of Bill Clark,
 - Michael Michaud for second 3 year term
 - Catherine Chase for second 3 year terms
 - Moderator called for motions from the floor - none made
 - Moderator declared the slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee to be elected to the Board of Trustees by Consent of those present
 - Board of Trustees Officers - all for 1 year terms
 - Curt Neufeld - Chair
 - Joel Austin - Vice Chair
 - Louise Gephart - Clerk, continuing from previous year
 - Keary Lay - Treasurer, continuing from previous year

- Moderator called for noms from floor - none made
 - Moderator declared the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee to be elected by Consent of those present
- Moderator - Michael Heath - 1 year term
 - Moderators called for nominations from the floor - none made
 - Moderator declared Michael Heath elected by Consent of those present
- Nominating Committee- open nominating committee positions:
 - Glenn Williams — Chair (2nd 2-year term ends 2026)
 - Betsy Roper — (2nd 2-year term ends 2026)
 - Irene Austin — (2nd 2-year term ends 2026)
 - Stephanie Bernier — (2nd 2-year term ends 2026)
 - Moderators called for nominations from the floor - none made
 - Moderator declared Nominating Committee members elected by Consent of those present
- Charities with Soul Report and Motion - Stephen Wood, representing the Working For Justice Charities with Soul Task Force
 - explained history of the Charities with Soul Program, and formation of Charities with Soul Task Force from the Working for Justice Steering Group.
 - Explained the process of reviewing the current 7 legacy charities, and decision to recommend removal of Habitat for Humanity as a legacy charity due to UUCB's significant contributions for the organization's annual Walk.
 - Motion from the Task Force: *UUCB remove Habitat from legacy charities, thereby increasing charities elected by congregation to 6 each year.* Seconded Steve Eagles
 - Moderator re-read the motion and called for a vote. Motion passed with unanimous vote of those present
- Proposal by Building & Grounds Committee to add parking to south side of building -
 - Presentation by Maryli Tieman, representing the Building & Grounds Committee. Explained the history and process of the Project South plans to provide paved area for staff and handicapped parking as Phase 1, with the remainder of the property to be developed into green space with Phase 2.
 - David Kew read the motion from the Board: *To authorize the UUCB Board of Trustees authority to spend up to \$10,000 from the Long Term Maintenance Fund to implement Project South Phase I to provide paved space that may be used for handicap and staff parking. The remainder of the space will be used for green space under Project South Phase II.* no second needed
 - Moderator opened floor for discussion:
 - questions regarding quotes for prices. Maryli reported that price quotes are current.
 - questions regarding towns requirement about backing out of the parking spot. Town has approved, contractors have recommended against permeable pavement for accessible parking.
 - question regarding use of water permeable pavement. Maryli explained that contractors did not recommend this due to potential of ice build-up under pavement in winter
 - several comments expressing concern regarding mixed use of parking spaces for staff and handicapped parking, especially during the week when people coming to the church may need handicap access. Comment was made that staff and Building and Grounds can work together to make sure that parking is accessible to those who need it.

- Opposition raised regarding concerns about paving the area at all. Feeling that the entire area should be left for green space, particularly native plants for support of all creatures of nature.
 - suggestion made to ask town of Brunswick to designate two handicapped spots on Middle St. to avoid having to pave the area
 - request for description of process to determine that we actually owned the additional land which makes this process possible. Process was described by Maryli
 - Ashley Richards moved to amend the Board's motion to read: *To authorize the UUCB Board of Trustees authority to spend up to \$10,000 from the Long Term Maintenance Fund to implement Project South Phase I to provide paved space that may be used for **handicapped parking only**. The remainder of the space will be used for green space under Project South Phase II.* Motion seconded.
 - The question was called. Vote to call question passed
 - Moderator re-read motion as amended.
 - Vote to amend was 32 in favor, 34 against. Motion to Amend failed.
 - Original motion re-read by moderator. 4 opposed 1 abstained. Motion passed.
 - Moderator read original motion from the Board:
 - Moderator called for vote: 89 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstained. Motion Passed question called
- Recognition of outgoing Board Members
 - David Kew recognized Faith Woodman and Bill Clark for their service on the Board of Directors.
 - Karma recognized David Kew as outgoing Chair as leader, both in being "agenda focused" as well as leading from the heart
 - Volunteer Recognition. David Kew explained that the Board used the acronym GIFTS to select some church volunteers for special recognition.
 - G (Get Involved) - Brad Nord for work on the RE Committee
 - I (Initiate Something)- Jane Danielson - for starting the Sacred Ground Program
 - F (Find a New Way to Serve) - Diane Kew - for leading the Pledge Campaign Team
 - T (Take a Break) Lynn Ellis - for stepping down from tireless efforts for Gun Safety
 - S (Serve Quietly)- Jim Michaud -for behind the scenes weekly service in the church office
 - To consider any other business, as appropriate and agreed to by the assembled congregation.
 - Sylvia Stocker asked for Recognition of Staff - a standing ovation was given
 - Lynn Ellis asked for someone to carry on leading the Working for Justice Gun Safety Task Force.
 - Mike Heath provided Closing Words and Adjourned the Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Louise Gephart, Clerk

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick		
	FY 25	FY 26
Account		
Revenues		
INTEREST INCOME	200	200
INVESTMENT INCOME	22,800	22,300
PREVIOUS YEAR'S SURPLUS		
OFFERING REVENUES		
Charities With Soul	18,000	20,000
Gift	5,000	5,000
Offset Fees	150	150
Plate Church Only	18,000	20,000
Pledge Payment	306,000	366,000
Heart Pledge	28,750	0
SubTotal OFFERING REVENUES	375,900	411,150
FUND RAISING INCOME		
Clynk Returnables	500	771
Concerts for a Cause	3,200	3,200
Holiday Fair-net of expenses	10,000	12,000
Other Events-net of expenses	8,000	8,000
SubTotal FUND RAISING INCOME	21,700	23,971
EXTERNAL INCOME - UUA Snow Fund	950	950
PROGRAM INCOME		
Coffee Hour		
RE Plate	100	100
SubTotal PROGRAM INCOME	100	100
RENTAL INCOME		
Room/Premise - Current	5,000	5,000
SubTotal RENTAL INCOME	5,000	5,000
Total Revenues	426,650	463,671
Expenditures		
SubTotal OPERATIONS	17,915	18,780
SubTotal OUTREACH EXPENSES	22,130	24,140
SubTotal PROGRAM EXPENSES	39,227	50,300
SubTotal PROPERTY	27,220	32,425
SubTotal STAFF	319,958	352,632
Total Expenditures	426,450	478,277
SUMMARY BELOW		
OPERATING SUMMARY		
Total Revenues	426,650	463,671
Total Expenditures	426,450	478,277
NET OPERATING EXCESS/LOSS	200	-14,605

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is charged with nominating candidates for openings for all the elected positions as provided for in the bylaws: Trustees, Board of Trustees Officers, Moderator, and Nominating Committee. The Committee takes seriously its responsibility to find candidates who will provide strong, stable leadership for the church, and to nominate individuals willing to lead without pushing any personal agenda into the process. Given the bylaw stipulation that Officers be elected from the elected Board of Trustees, nominating Trustees with a careful eye to leadership succession is an important aspect of the process.

The Nominating Committee meets from time to time to detail expected openings from expiring terms or resignations, then recommend potential candidates for the open leadership positions. Committee members then approach the suggested individuals to discuss the responsibilities and determine the best fit for the positions. The Committee submits its recommendations of candidates to fill each opening and presents the slate to the Congregation for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting.

We are excited to present a strong slate of Trustees, Officers, and other positions and we are confident they will help lead the church in a positive direction in the coming year.

2024-2025 Board of Trustees (9 members, elected to 3-year terms, limit of 2 consecutive terms)

2024-2025 Members

Name	Year Joined	Term Expires
Curt Neufeld, Chairperson Beginning 2024	2023	1 st Term Expires 2026
Joel Austin, Vice Chair Beginning 2024	2024	1 st Term Expires 2027
Keary Lay, Treasurer Beginning 2024	2024	1st Term Expires 2026
Louise Gephart, Clerk Beginning 2023	2022	1st Term Expires 2025
Joanne Allen	2023	1 st Term Expires 2026
Catharine Chase	2021	2 nd Term Expires 2027
Nathan Haynes	2024 (to complete Bill Clark's term)	Clark Term Expires 2025
Michael Michaud	2021	2 nd Term Expires 2027
David Kew	2018(to complete D. Damour 2 nd term)	2 nd Term Expires 2025

Five Trustees will be continuing in their current terms. One person (Vice Chair) is exiting prior to the end of term. One person is completing a term for another which ends this year. There are thus four Trustee openings to be filled by election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Moderator: The Moderator presides at all meetings of the Congregation and is elected for a 1-year term (maximum of 3 consecutive terms). Mike Heath served as moderator for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Nominating Committee: The bylaws call for the Committee to be made up of up to 5 members to serve 2-year terms, maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The immediate past Board Chair (or another recent Trustee) serves as the Nominating Committee Chair. The other members are elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

2025 Nominating Committee

Glenn Williams – Chair (2nd 2-year term expires 2026)

Betsy Roper – (2nd 2-year term expires 2026)

Irene Austin – (2nd 2-year term expires 2026)

Stephanie Bernier – (2nd 2-year term expires 2026)

Cindy Parker – (1st 2-year term expires 2025)

Three members will be continuing in their current terms. A new Chair will be appointed by the Board, and there will be one opening to be filled by election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2026**Nominations for Open Board of Trustees Positions (4)**

Ann Butenhoff (1st term ends 2028)

Marsey Caswell (1st term ends 2028)

Mary Cay Harrington (completing Joel Austin's term, which ends in 2027)

Nathan Haynes (1st full term ends 2028)

Officer Nominations for 1 Year Terms

- Curt Neufeld — Board Chair
- Mary Cay Harrington — Vice Chair
- Keary Lay — Treasurer
- Marsey Caswell — Clerk

Nominations for open Nominating Committee Positions (1)

Carol Evans — (1st 2-year term ends 2027)

(David Kew will assume the Chair position.)

Nomination for Moderator Position (1)

Mike Heath

**CHARITIES WITH SOUL
FOR 2025–2026 CHURCH YEAR**

2025	
July	The Gathering Place*
August	Oasis Free Clinic*
September	Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
October	Four Directions Development Corp*
November	Mid Coast Literacy
December	Big Brothers Big Sisters
2026	
January	Maine Family Planning
February	MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program*
March	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*
April	Restorative Justice Project Maine
May	Maine Gun Safety Coalition
June	Tedford Housing*
	*Legacy Charity



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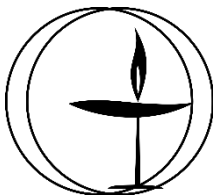
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UU Church Of Brunswick Maine



***Our mission is
to be a spiritual community,
to welcome all, to nurture one another,
to work for justice,
and to care for the earth***