

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
July 16, 2026

Present: President Amber Collins, VP Cathy Soloman, Treasurer Karen Ellsworth, Clerk Donna Caldwell, Directors Chris Johnson, April Ruedaflores, Bill Jones

Call to Order: 10:00 am by Amber Collins

MOTION: April moves to ratify the June minutes, seconded by Chris.
PASSED unanimously.

MOTION: April moves to accept the Treasurer's report and the OA report, seconded by Bill. **PASSED unanimously.**
Reports Appended

Treasurer's report - In response to the congregation's application to the IRS for a letter of determination of 501(c)(3) status, Karen received a letter advising us that our Articles of Incorporation must specifically reference our nonprofit status. She proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation that would add the language required by the IRS.

MOTION: Cathy moved that the Board adopt the following amendments to the Articles of Incorporation dated June 10, 1991:

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and religious purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a corresponding section of any future tax code.

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the assets shall be distributed to the Unitarian Universalist Association or to another organization for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a corresponding section of any future tax code.

Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The resolution approving the revisions to the original **Articles of Incorporation is Appended.** An approval letter from the IRS is anticipated soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Facilities – The AC units in the upstairs and main level offices are not working. The Board decided to have the units repaired and review longer term needs/solutions once the assessment of the building's needs is completed.

Ministerial search – our profile remains open on the UUA website. New members are needed for the second round of the hiring team as three members left at the completion of the first round to take on other responsibilities. Specifically, a Board representative and a Finance Committee representative were requested – Donna volunteered to represent the Board and Karen will speak with members of the Finance Committee at their meeting later today.

Committees – Reorganization of Committees continues, with some functioning now as teams with a Coordinator (e.g., Betsy Dalton will coordinate fundraising efforts). A volunteer is needed to serve as a contact person for Social Justice, to help coordinate with social justice efforts that are taking place in the community.

Share the Plate – the report was not available for the Annual Meeting package; a revised Social and Racial Justice Committee report that includes the Share the Plate report is **APPENDED** to this set of minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Nancy Dean visibility art proposal – Nancy attended the Board meeting to present her proposal to add a sculpture in the front grounds representing our chalice. She will work with others to provide this at no cost to the congregation. A goal is to increase the visibility of our congregation. The Board was in favor of moving forward with this; Nancy will provide renderings for Board review. Amber will share the idea in the next Condo Association meeting this month.

Adjourned 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Caldwell, Clerk

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County
Treasurer's Report
for the July 16, 2026 UUCSC Board of Directors meeting**

Budget

The preliminary year-end figures show a deficit of about \$17,000 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The budget adopted in June 2025 has a deficit of \$19,471, so although it appears we will end the year with a deficit, the deficit may not be as large as originally projected. Based on the information available, it does not appear that any significant over-spending took place, and we came very close to our \$16,000 fundraising goal. But we did not receive donations sufficient to pay for all expenses. I should have a more accurate report next month.

Financial administration

Finance Committee chair Sue Strakosch and I met last week with Ame Botus, our financial administrator. She believes the new forms we have created for credit card purchases and reimbursement requests will make her job substantially easier. Anyone who requests reimbursement by check or makes a purchase with a UUCSC credit card will now be required to submit a form identifying the budget account the purchase should be charged to, and will be required to submit the receipt for the purchase. Last year, Ame spent a lot of time with Mary Alice assigning purchases to the correct budget account. We hope that will no longer be necessary. At their meeting on July 16, the Finance Committee will begin working on revisions to the Chart of Accounts. We hope to eliminate unused accounts and re-label accounts with inaccurate or confusing names.

Application for IRS determination letter

In response to the congregation's application to the IRS for a letter of determination of 501(c)(3) status, which was submitted on June 4, I received a letter last week advising us that our Articles of Incorporation must specifically reference our nonprofit status. Fortunately, revising articles of incorporation is very simple—it can be done by submitting a form through the Secretary of State's online filing system. I have prepared a resolution that must be approved by the Board before I can submit the form. I have also responded to the letter from the IRS confirming that we will amend the articles of incorporation. That letter was mailed on Tuesday. I expect to be notified soon by the IRS that our application has been approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ellsworth
UUCSC Treasurer

There is no report to the Board from the minister this month, during this period of transition.

Director of Faith Exploration, Lee Cowan

There is no report to the Board from Lee this month as she is on vacation.

Office Administrator Board Report, July, 2026

Getting things in shape for the new OA

I have spent a fair amount of time revising the OA handbook and organizing things to try to make it easier for the new Administrator.

Pin Codes and Facilities

Mary Fulton and I are making progress on updating the pin codes. Mike Bilecki and I have tried to coordinate on air conditioning repairs. I worked with Jean Burke to update the tenant leases and to find tenants for the vacant offices upstairs.

Memorial

I prepared materials for the memorial for Louise McLeod and have sent acknowledgements for donations received in her memory.

Ongoing

I continue to work with Etta on the newsletter and website, and to take care of the mail, email and phone messages. I continue to produce the weekly order of service and the monthly announcements insert, and to deliver the food donations to the Johnnycake Center.

Best,

Sara Kaplow
Office Administrator

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

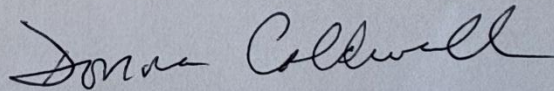
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADOPTING ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT
TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

1. The Board of Directors of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County hereby adopts the following Articles of Amendment to its Articles of Incorporation dated June 10, 1991:

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and religious purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a corresponding section of any future tax code.

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the assets shall be distributed to the Unitarian Universalist Association or to another organization for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a corresponding section of any future tax code.

2. The Treasurer is hereby authorized to sign the Articles of Amendment on behalf of the President and Clerk of the Board of Directors.



Donna Caldwell, Clerk
Dated June 16, 2026

2025-2026 Social and Racial Justice Committee

Annual Report

Cathy Solomon, Chair

Goals/Mission Learn, Educate, Advocate

Accomplishments/Highlights

Learning:

Our discussions continued on a monthly rather than twice monthly basis and with a smaller group. Given the atrocities that were happening at every level of the government, the participants had become more focused on “doing” rather than “learning”.

Education:

- Beyond the Binary, a day of learning, sharing and supporting the gender diverse community. This was the second time sponsoring this event which was focused on young adults and was a moderated panel format. Funded via the Hurdis Fund.
- NonViolence Training. A full day of learning about Kingian NonViolence techniques. Funded via the Hurdis Fund.
- Observer Training. Sponsored by the RI Council of Churches, this training focused on an individuals’ rights and what they can and cannot do under the law if involved in a confrontation with agitators.

Advocacy:

- Writing letters to Senators and Reps on issues such as the Voting Rights Act.
- Participated in the fall and spring Legislative Forums produced by the UU Legislative Ministry of RI.
- Participated in South County Pride as a sponsor and had an information table

Collaborations:

We continued collaborations with local social justice groups.

These include:

The Womxn Project, the South County Huddle, the League of Women Voters, the South County Social Justice Coalition, Westminster Unitarian, TANK (Towards an AntiRacist North Kingstown), ARC Westerly, South County Resistance, South County Rising

● Share The Plate

○ May/June/July 2025:

- The WunderAcademy of Metamorphosis at UUCSC
- Total collected: \$534.00

○ August/September/October 2025:

- Jonnycake Market
- Total collected: \$845.88 plus \$35.00 cash.

○ November/December 2025:

- The Gentle Farm
- Total collected: \$799.42

○ January/February/March 2026:

- Kitchen of Hope
- Total collected: \$987.10

○ March/April 2026:

- Mental Health Association of Rhode Island
- Total Collected: \$569.92

○ May/June/July 2026:

- Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence.
- Total Collected: TBD

● Total collected: \$3,771.32

2025-2026 Goals

- Stand up against hate and prejudice
- Protect the vulnerable
- Support causes that are in line with our principles
- Learn more about the needs in the community.
- Educate the congregation about these needs and determine appropriate actions
- Community Support
- Continue to show up in support of community events
- Advocate for action. Make a difference

2025-2026 Challenges

- The current political events have created an opportunity to come together and make our voices heard, but it has distracted us from other social justice causes and generally has overwhelmed many people.
- We struggle to reach more people in the congregation to work with us. It's generally the same faces. (thank you!)
- We have an opportunity to be the voice of reason and compassion in the community, but with limited resources and people, it is difficult.