

Minutes for June 24th, 2025

Meeting opened at 7:18pm by Julia Field-McGhee

Attendance taken by Wes Kalbus at 7:18pm.

Present: Julia Field-McGhee (President), Krista Schneider (Vice-President), Geoff Slawson (Treasurer), Wes Kalbus (Secretary), Phil Zepp (Member), Joanne Hartough (Member)

Also Present were incoming board members: Sue Childers, Wendy Debord, and Kathy Crowder

Absent – Tim Barger (minister), Ginny Washing (member)

Opening words by Joanne Hartough at 7:20pm – Grace Meets Us Where We Are, Gretchen Haley:

There is nothing you need to bring with you to be welcome here
no right beliefs or proof of citizenship
no eternal optimism or clarity of conviction
no boundless courage or endless expertise

You do not need to know what brought you here
Or how you will solve that problem you are turning over and over and over in your mind
Your bills do not need to be paid and your checkbook can be a mess
your children may have been up half the night
your hearing aids may not be working & your knees may be creaking

You do not need to be already perfect—or even half-way—
to belong in this circle where grace meets us where we are
but does not leave us as it found us*

where love resides in each of us yet is somehow more than all
where life still pulses and rages and heals and transforms
creating us and this day anew once again.
Come, let us worship together.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of May 2025 Minutes

- Geoff Moves, Phil seconds
 - Passes unanimously

Floor given to Stasia Hanson for Insurance Renewal Form

- Changed last year to Goodville Insurance Company and bought Cyberinsurance from Cowbell, bought through Stapleton insurance agency.
- Premium History for the last 3 years is 13,700, 9,329, 10,542
- Renewal price is 10,542
- Covered Property Insurance – building is valued at 4.9 mil and policy will pay out 90% in event of total loss of building
- Personal Property of church insured for around 700k. In the case of any personal property loss, please let any committee member know
- Also covered casualty/liability insurance, only 600 a year and insures 3 million for general liability
- Cyber liabilities protect up to 500k in coverage for data loss, premium is \$944.

ACTION ITEM: To approve this insurance plan for the next year (7/01/2025 – 6/30/2026) for \$10,542

- Joanne moves, Phil seconded
 - Unanimous approval

Treasurer's Report

See attached Treasurer's Report for full details

Geoff touched on, among other things:

- TEALL account, headed by Jarvis Gamble, and of which Phil and Wendy are members, doing well.
 - TEALL is a separate fund with the purpose to promote Toledo Unitarian
- Geoff is unsure what restricted fund is for
- Church had realized gain of about 46k, about 26k more than expected. Huzzah!

- Counters count money twice a month
- About 20k at any time in the checking account for the pay of employees etc.
- Amalya had to resign, replaced by Luanne Flick who is a part of the choir!
- AEP energy continues as our electric provider for the next 24 months
 - .08872 per kw/h
- Pledge offerings higher than budgeted, woohoo!
- Trust offerings

- Savings this year as we had budgeted bookkeeper increase in salary, but Luanne agreed to old rate.

Minister's Report

See attached Minister's Report for full details

- Tim was not in attendance, Minister's Report was emailed to the board and read by Julia Field-McGhee.
- Meeting with CER (Central East Region) committee via Zoom on Monday.
- KRISTA wanted it acknowledged for the minutes that the sign in Fellowship Hall asking for donations and providing the Venmo link/QR code during Sunday was Tim's idea. It seemed to have worked well, we got more donations last month than in the last 6-8 months.
- Jeffrey Maxie promoted to Office Administrator, since unfortunately Jesse Underwood was let go due to not meeting the criteria of his employment probationary contract.

President's Report

See attached President's Report for full details

It is Julia Field-McGhee's last month as president! We are so grateful for all her time and grace and kindness as president and we all learned so much together and grew as a community!

- Opened with quote from Christopher Hitchens
- Reiterated CER meeting at 7:30 on Monday via Zoom.
- Gave a nice speech about what being a Trustee means, and that we should be happy when we can be, grateful as often as we can be, and sad when we need to be.
- We are on a ball in infinite space, and it is not worth sweating the stupid stuff. Chill!
- Krista asked the new board members to think a bit about 3 goals they have and about which committees they might want to be a liaison for.

New Business:

- Social Justice Committee has placed its display in Fellowship Hall, feel free to contribute ideas!

Future business:

- Board members figure out which committees we may want to liase with

Closing words by Joanne Hartough at 8:10

- Thanked Julia McGhee for her emergency leadership and stepping up last minute. We were all appreciative!
- Joanne read “Our work has just begun” by Emily Richards:

Please take a moment to become present; to pause and to notice how you are in this moment.

Our work here tonight is at an end
And our work has just begun:
The work of holding one another and this community in love.
The work of trusting that we are on the right path.
The work of believing that what connects us is stronger than what separates us.
The work of engaging in that which makes us whole.
The work of deeper understanding and commitment.
The work of letting go of that which does not serve us.
The work of radical inclusion.
The work of collective liberation.
The work of this beloved community.
A beloved community of which we are all part.
A place where we are welcomed, respected, valued, cherished.
A place where we belong.
Go in peace. Amen. And blessed be.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 by Julia Field McGhee

Treasurer's Report

Treasurers Report

June 24, 2025

First Unitarian Church of Toledo

General Operating checking 8113	\$ 37,055.72
TEAL Acct 0069	\$ 2,743.13
Capital Campaign 6407	\$106,412.18
FEMA checking 7687	\$ 85.00
Total assets as of Monday June 23, 2025	\$146,296.03
The Trust Company as of Monday June 23, 2025	
Acct 000. Operating reserve	\$346,688.58
Acct 003. Restricted funds	\$ 36,074.64
Total Assets	\$382,763.04
Realized Gain for year to date	\$46,938

We are coming to the end of the fiscal year for 24-25 and new still have some pledges out there. I have asked that our counters, who normally count today, also count next Tuesday July 1 to make sure we have all the numbers correct. I have been contacted by some people who have checks on the way and they want them to be included in their tally with their pledge for the year. As you can see by the numbers above we do have ample amounts to meet our regular bills and with year end pledges coming in I feel we will be in good shape for July.

The big change is of course the resignation of our bookkeeper Amalya as of May 31st and the start of our new bookkeeper Lou Ann Flick. She is a very experienced accountant and is semi retired. You will also recognize her from the music performances as she plays flute and sometimes joins the choir. Reports included.

The monthly Balance sheet

Profit and Loss statement

The regular budget comparison was not available as of Monday and will be included next month. However the Profit and Loss statement will show expenses and incomes.

Respectfully submitted

Geoff Slawson

Treasurer

First Unitarian Church of Toledo

June 24, 2025

MINISTER'S REPORT

June 2025

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

I regret that I have to miss the final meeting of this board. On Tuesday morning I have a medical test that requires anesthesia, and it will take the full day to recover.

Acting President Julia McGhee, thanks for your willingness to serve despite not wanting the responsibility; you did well and I appreciate that we could be in continuing conversation. Joanne Hartough, your taking up the monthly assignment of opening and closing readings has been good and I always looked forward to what you would bring. Ginny Washing, you've been a member of First Unitarian for so long that it was difficult to realize that this was your first go-round on the board; I have much gratitude for your attention to our church and its people. And Phil Zepp, adding a board seat to your duties as chair of the social justice committee shows the dedication you have to our congregation within its walls and beyond. Thank you all for your board service.

Since our last board meeting, I've taken some vacation time, traveling to Sewanee, Tennessee, for my 50th-anniversary high school reunion, then to Dollywood for Jewel's and my 12th wedding anniversary, with a long drive through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on our way back to Toledo.

The schedule of summer services has solidified. With the exception of this past Sunday's livestream of the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly Sunday service, which we screened in Fellowship Hall, all of the First Unitarian summer services will be led by members or staff. I will return as service leader for the September 7 Ingathering, which will include a water ceremony and, I hope, a song or two by our new ukulele ensemble. We don't have all the sermon titles and service topics yet, but we have people to lead. Here's the full schedule, including the Sundays already preached, since the service when I spoke on "Before We Were First Unitarian" prior to our May 18 annual meeting:

May 25, Keith Rasey, "Deity Optional Mysticism: Immersion, Introjection, Imagination"

June 1, Minister in Formation Melissa Jeter, "Religion or Politics: What Is Essential?"

June 8, President-elect Krista Schneider, "Ten Commandments for a Unitarian Universalist"

June 15, Commissioned Lay Minister David Strickler, "Civil Disobedience as Spiritual Action"

June 22, Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk, "Revolution Begins with a Dream," a livestream of the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly Sunday service (livestreamed in Fellowship Hall)

June 29, Rebecca Phillips, "U, U, and UU Women: Making Our Voices Heard Since 1694"

July 6, Director of Lifelong Learning Gini Gottman

July 13, Phil Park-Thomas, "Pagans in the Promised Land"

July 20, Andy Gottman

July 27, Bonnie Olson, "Signals on the Underground Railroad: Quilts, Spirituals, and Tap Dancing?"

August 3, Joe Moran, "War, What Is It Good For? A Vietnam Retrospective"

August 10, Walter McGhee, "Facing Death: My Experience"

August 17, Music Director Jeffrey Maxie

August 24, Terry McCauley

August 31, Susan Spiegel

September 7 Ingathering, Rev. Tim "One Thing I Can Tell You Is You Got to Be Free"

I mentioned a ukulele ensemble above. After Cindy Gilmore returned from the Hawaii trip that she and Sue Childers took with Judy Trautman, Cindy started ukulele lessons at a local music school. Her report inspired me to bring some uke into our UU church. A ukulele orchestra might not be as grand as a handbell choir, but a group of strummers can have joy, and there's plenty of room for those of us who aren't musically proficient. The goal is to have fun, perhaps with a bit of silliness mixed in. I consulted with our music director, Jeffrey Maxie; our director of lifelong

learning who schedules the Spiritual Forums, Gini Gottman; and our commissioned lay minister who also plays some stringed instruments, David Strickler; and we chose to schedule six Sundays through the summer to learn some of the basics—a few chords which will lead to one or two songs that we can play at Ingathering on September 7. David, who is also learning uke, is the leader for five of the Sundays; I led last Sunday, not moving us forward but encouraging all to practice.

I was the subject of the June 15 Spiritual Forum, an “Ask the Minister,” which Gini and I are trying to schedule quarterly. It went fine—no hard questions this time around.

On June 12, we held a memorial service for Betsy Ford, a legacy member who died at age 101. I had met with the family earlier, and the service and reception in Fellowship Hall were well-attended. I’m honored to have known Betsy.

On June 14, I attended the No Kings rally in Promenade Park, seeing several Toledo Unitarians there. I’m attentive to our activities in social and racial justice, and keeping attentive to the boundaries of nonprofit organizations’ involvement in political activities. With that in mind, I try for us to have awareness of activities as best we can without partisan association. On June 25, I plan to be part of a group traveling to the corrections center in Stryker to have a meeting raising awareness about ICE incarceration there, and I will be representing First Unitarian and wearing clergy garb.

Throughout the month of June, I have given pastoral care to church members with calls and some visiting.

I have continued to attend selected meetings of committees, groups, and teams. Especially active this month have been the Committee on Shared Ministry, for its regular meeting and planning for a follow-up to the meeting almost a year ago which addressed church conflict; and personnel, in changes for our administrative staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Tim

President’s Report

It will happen to all of us that at some point you’ll get tapped on the shoulder and told, not just that the party is over, but slightly worse: the party’s going on but you have to leave. And it’s going on without you.

Somehow Christopher Hitchens’ words about Spirit leaving this Earth (that is, death) can be inversely applied to being a Trustee, something which at this

moment of writing my final President's Report applies. Tapped on the shoulder and relieved of the office by the ByLaws. My party is over. But the party still goes on in the hands and hearts of new board members. And in truth, I do not have to leave. I can hang around and make "good trouble." So the party does go on with me. At least until that day when there is no sunset and no dawning.

OTHER STUFF from hard copy emails tossed into a file folder so I will have something to include in the President's Report:

Remember the important in-person and Zoom meeting this coming Monday, June 30, at 7:30 probably in Fellowship Hall; invitation to current Trustees, incoming Board Members, Reverend Tim, past Board Presidents, and Committee on Shared Ministry members. This is the meeting to meet our new CER representative Cassandra Montenegro. P.S Remind me, what does CER stand for?.

Hey, how about those of us who drink coffee throw a buck into the Fellowship Hall basket each week? **A good habit.** Thanks.

Looks like Jeffrey Maxie, First Unitarian's music director, will become **Office Administrator** on July 1. Double duty for sure. We wish Jesse well.

Membership Packets. What a great old idea! Where does this project stand in the mixture of membership and stewardship? How soon can the Packets happen?

And **Welcome to the Incoming Board**, Krista, Sue, Stasia, Kathy, and Wendy. Thanks for joining in the festivities tonight!

Bears repeating again from a previous month's Acting President's Report: *Our church is finding many opportunities to grow. New faces and new members and the return of some old members give me great hope that the Toledo Community will come to know more of First Unitarian as a valued faith organization. What will this retiring Board (except you, Geoff and Wes) do in the future to help the Congregation be All That It Can Be? Especially as the USA winds its way through the complicated hurdles against current governmental personalities and pricks. How much will or can Love take command of the Situation?*

Submitted with a loud Amen by Julia Ann Field McGhee, Tuesday, June 24, 2025

