

**First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
(board@auburnuu.org)
Meeting Agenda - Bonnie Soper Room
November 12, 2025**

Present:

Angela Foss
Mary Kay Weisenberger
Linda Greathouse
Holly Cooney
Jane Pentheny
Chip Gustavson
Rev. DC Fortune

Excused:

Ed Bell

Guests:

Anne Perron
Maureen Owen
Claire Hebert

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words - Angela built the chalice explaining the significance of the three legs, old apple wood, and people carvings.



Opening Words - Angela offered words from the First Universalist Church of Auburn, Unitarian Universalist's Mission and Vision Statements.

Brief Sharing - was done by all.

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Gratefulness - Notes of gratitude will be sent to Paula Spruill for organizing and coordinating the "New to UU" member classes, Emma's Revolution / Women in Harmony for their musical offerings on the Thursday concert night held 10/23.

Board Welcome Sign-ups - Holly, Mary Kay, Jane, Chip, Linda signed up for upcoming Sundays.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Angela

[Board] Tasks and Projects Tracker

- 9 items closed
- 29 items in progress
- 23 items not started

Monthly Activity Highlights

- Ongoing challenges with building insurance company
- Incident reports and follow up from congregant injuries in building
- Assisting with sorting out a couple financial issues (payroll, retirement, etc.)
- UUA Congregational Property and Casualty (P&C) Insurance Update (10/29/25)
- NER Joint Leadership Retreat (11/1/25)
- Sanctuary lobby bulletin board refresh
- Draft of Board monthly calendar/tasks
- New to UU classes – governance/church operations session

Info to Share

- Added to FY26 UUA NER Presidents Listserv
- UUA Health Plan Premium increase for CY26 (info sent to treasurer)

Congregational life is full and active – so many folks leading and participating in all kinds of activities. Scheduling can occasionally be challenging, but what a fantastic problem to have!

Submitted in love,
Angela Foss
President, Board of Directors

MINISTER'S REPORT – Rev. DC

Overview, with highlights: the fall season churns along as normal. First snow this week. Linda and I interviewed our first applicant for the administrator position and were pleased with what we learned.

Committee on Ministry: not yet

Money: also not yet

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Action and comments in specific areas of ministry:

Leading Worship: I led worship three times since the last board meeting and have fully recovered from my blood infection from October.

Officiating at Rites of Passage: None yet. New members ceremony coming in December.

Providing pastoral care and presence: There have been a number of pastoral care concerns this month, and I have made several phone calls to check on people and had three individual pastoral appointments in my office.

Encouraging spiritual development: I continue to make little tweaks in the worship service to encourage people to engage in spiritual practice. While it is never easy to determine how effective these efforts are, I do receive feedback fairly regularly that people seem to appreciate my efforts.

Witnessing social justice in the public square: I participated in the anniversary memorial service for the victims of the 2023 mass shooting in Lewiston. It was a multifaith event, and I was one of several clergy who participated and spoke at the service. An organization supporting gun safety held a press conference outside the church before the service, but the other clergy and I all agreed that our role that day was pastoral, not political, so we refrained from appearing or making any statements. If there had been a rally or demonstration separate from the memorial service, I might have been inclined to participate and speak publicly about gun safety, but lacking that preferred to remain in a pastoral role.

Leading administration: I have been meeting electronically with Samantha McCune and checking in weekly with Pam and Phil after worship.

Pursuing personal renewal and professional development: I attended a workshop hosted by the Allen Avenue UU Church in Portland that explored communication, conflicts, and covenants in congregational settings. Five others from Auburn UU also attended and we all seemed to get a lot out of the training.

At home, I continue to settle into my home. Fearing that I may not be providing ample sustenance to myself, my orange cat Hammy has taken to providing a fresh mouse to me each morning. He seems offended when I do not eat his gift, but continues to hunt lest I starve during his tenure as my keeper.

Serving the larger Unitarian Universalist faith: I continue to serve on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, which met most recently in September, and will meet again in early December. I have also been invited to serve as a grant reader by the UUA Funding Program, which I accepted. The time commitment is minimal – two meetings a year, each lasting less than five hours, with a moderate amount of prep time ahead of each meeting. It seems like a good way to give back to the denomination as well as a way to get an idea about what projects are getting funded that we might be able to adopt.

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Leading the faith into the future: I continue to serve as a regular host on the Church of the Larger Fellowship's weekly web broadcast program "Voices of the Unitarian Universalism" as well as serving on the moderating teams on several online clergy discussion groups.

In Shared Ministry to our faith,
Rev. DC Fortune

BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

There have been reports of reimbursement delays. Perhaps in the future there can be a "petty cash" fund available through the office, or we can have the office administrator manage purchases through billings with certain vendors. It is advised that chairpersons/leaders not put themselves in a personal financial shortage when making purchases for committees.

Social Justice (SJ) has a lot going on right now. It seems many activities could land on SJ and Diane was assured that she has support from the Board, if needed. Last week the group decided to participate in the community meals at High Street for the month of December. It was suggested we write SJ updates and opportunities on a dry erase board at the back of the sanctuary for people to see as they leave the service, with additional information available in the vestry during coffee hours.

CONSENT AGENDA

The September 10, 2025 Board minutes were distributed prior to the meeting for approval. Motion to approve by Jane, Mary Kay seconded. All in favor and minutes approved.

OPEN SESSION

Anne Perron reported Building and Grounds is working hard. Recently the drains on the lobby roof have been cleaned, cement is sealed, the washer and dryer have been removed, the library painted, bookshelves rearranged, the hallway to the library has been painted, and the bathroom has been renovated. All are advised to please keep food and beverages covered.

The piano was recently damaged, and Anne has been given permission from Phil and Pam to repair it. There are plans to caulk the stained-glass windows, and there is a window that needs to be covered with plywood. Curtains for the stage front will be replacing the plywood that is there. The calendaring process has been good; people have been notifying Anne of events.

DISCUSSION & DELEGATION

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1. 150th Anniversary Task Force Update

Chip volunteered to be the Board representative on the 150th Anniversary Task Force. Angela will notify the task force.

2. Treasurer's Report

Deferred at this time, awaiting adjustments to reports from the treasurer. Mary Kay volunteered to take point on the format/getting each month's report piece, Rev. DC and Linda offered to assist as needed.

3. Board Welcome

We elected to defer this discussion until the next meeting.

4. UUA/NER Communications – deferred until the next meeting.

5. UUA/NER Communication Workshop Review – was attended by five board members and Rev. DC. See the minister's report section for additional information.

6. Auburn UU Use of Square (for Credit Cards) Payment Proposal

Maureen Owen attended representing the Finance Committee about the ability to receive payments via credit card instead of just checks or cash. She provided the board with a detailed report on the current state and a proposed solution that involves using an app called Square.

Initially it was thought we could use PayPal, but it is very cumbersome as a process. When Emma's Revolution was here, Maureen assisted them at their merchandise booth and was able to see how use of the Square App works. The fee is 2.6% and \$0.15 per transaction. You can use Apple Pay or Tap to Pay to initiate payment. Finance would like to trial this the Gingerbread Fair and reassess afterwards.

There was a motion by Jane to approve the proposal to use Square for a trial to accept credit card payments at the Gingerbread Fair. Discussion – For this trial, Ellen O'Brien will be the designated "treasurer" of the Square app. There will be an assessment by the finance committee after the Gingerbread Fair and their assessment brought back to the board. Chip seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

7. Equality Maine/Network of Older Adults (EQ/NOA) Rental

Claire, Maureen, Michelle, and Mary Kay have been dialoguing with EM/NOA about having a monthly luncheon in the Lewiston/Auburn area for the past year. Izzy from

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EQ/NOA has agreed to a monthly meeting/luncheon at Auburn UU. As a Welcoming Congregation, it is thought that this is a safe place for the queer community. EQ/NOA is a non-profit organization, they provide meals in some cases, but in our case, they will provide sandwiches, drinks and desserts and others will bring food as a potluck. The group would like to offer the space to EM/NOA at the one-half price. They do pay other places, and specifically they pay \$90 to Ellsworth. A tentative date for December 5th was proposed for the initial luncheon, with future luncheons scheduled for the first Friday of every month from 12 noon – 2 PM.

Motion by Jane, that we commit to developing new/updated policies regarding rental of all spaces, and we revisit all the existing contracts. In the meantime, we will provide the EQ/NOA organization with the vestry rental space for the half price rate of \$90 through the end of the church fiscal year. In the meantime, Auburn UU will revisit rental policies that are in place. Chip seconded, Mary Kay abstained, all other Board members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS UPDATE FROM OCTOBER MEETING:

The template for the board welcome at the beginning of service still needs to be reviewed by the board.

Finance report to the board format still pending review due to additional adjustments needed.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

Angela will notify the 150th Anniversary task force of Chip being involved as the board liaison.

Explore options for committees to get timely funds for purchases.

Mary Kay to work with Ellen/Maureen on the format of the information to be presented to the board on a monthly basis. Rev. DC and Linda to support as needed.

Explore methods of communicating social justice activities/opportunities to the entire congregation.

Evaluate the use of the Square application for receiving credit card payments.

Review/revise all building rental pricing, contracts, policies, and procedures and update by June 30, 2026.

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ADJOURNED at 7:50 PM. Jane made a motion to adjourn, Chip seconded, all in favor, motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Wednesday, December 9, 2025, 5:30 PM, Bonnie Soper Room
All are welcome to attend!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Greathouse
Board Clerk