



## **The Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York**

Reverend Samuel Trumbore, Interim Minister

Carol McLoughlin, President

James Saslow, Vice President

### **Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda and Minutes Wednesday, April 08, 2026**

**Board Members Present:** Carol McLoughlin; James Saslow; Liz Wolfe; Monica Diaz McMillan; Cora Jane Pares, Brian Kramer, Jillian Ashley

**Staff Present:** Rev. Samuel Trumbore, Interim Minister; Sheila Powers, Executive Director

#### **Others Present:**

Danielle Abushanab, Trustee Candidate

Search Committee Members: Bob McMillan, Erin White, William Artis, Will Ashley, Doug Geogorian. Karen Frojen Chamberlain,  
Arnie Weintraub, Nominating Committee Chair:

#### **2025-2026 Interim Goals**

- Select a Settled Minister
- Increase our membership
- Increase our donations from members and friends
- Improve worship practices
- Improve communication between ministers and the congregation

|                                                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>I. Ingathering</b>                                   | <b>1</b> |
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## I. Ingathering

7:00 pm

- A. Reflection / Chalice Lighting : Jim
- B. Unison Reading of Mission Statement
  - a. *Our mission is to build an inclusive, welcoming community that connects us to our spiritual centers and to one another, works to end systems of racism and other oppressions, and is grounded in reason, service, and love.*

## II. Check-In:

7:04 pm

**A Members and guests share joys and transitions.**

**V Old Business: (this topic done first)**

**A. Settled Minister Search: Bob and Carol**

**a. Vote to Call:**

- i. Preparation Letter to Members; mailed and emailed on 4/7.
- ii. Candidate Week Schedule is shared, reviewed and coordinated on
- iii. Preparation for Vote:
  - 1. Attendance Tracking Sheet: Assignments to Board, Search Committee, Nominating Committee; 6 members each
  - 2. Followup; check for "yes" responses first. Include yourself
  - 3. 2nd email sent by 4/11. Text by 4/14; more texts/phone calls starting 4/16 until 4/26
  - 4. Speak to assigned members after service on 4/12 and 4/19

**b. Meaning of the Vote to Call:**

**7:47pm**

- i. Explain to members the reasons why they need to vote and vote to affirm
- ii. Email sent by me explaining the Vote to Call after a member confirms attendance. Draft email to be sent out for review first.

**c. Day of the Vote 4/26:**

- i. Establish quorum. Secretary counts the votes - Monica will not be present
- ii. Liz and Jim will count physical votes, the virtual ballot process is accounted for; Melanie will be on zoom.
- iii. Consider adding information about Sara Green on our website
- iv. Rev. Sara taken to lunch
- v. 4 volunteers for sign in sheets and ballots given out
- vi. Short agenda; Bob makes motion for the vote. Votes counted
- vii. Rev. Sara was notified of the count and called back. President's congratulations.
- viii. Ministerial Agreement signed by Rev. Sara and Carol
- ix. Cake!
- x. Notice of Ministerial Call form; upload contract soon after vote

**d. Candidate Week 4/18-4/26: Schedule**

- Will stay in condo
- i. 4/18; Arrival & welcome
- ii. 4/19; Service & Community Hour. Discussion with Congregation;  
12:30pm Young Adult Group; 2:00pm
- iii. 4/20: Worship Team (online) noon; Finance Meeting with Bob Jones:  
6:00pm  
4/21: Justice Team Gathering: 6:00pm
- iv. 4/22: Board & Finance Committee Gathering 6:00-8:00pm
- v. 4/23: Staff: Group and Individual Meetings
- vi. 4/24: off
- vii. 4/25: Game Night: 5:00-8:00pm
- viii. 4/26: Youth; Choir meetings; Service; Vote to Call. Celebrate!

### III. Approval of Minutes [\(March 11, 2026\)](#)

7:54 pm

Motion to approve the minutes, Cora Jane, Jim seconds. All in Favor.

### IV. Board Reports

7:57 pm

- A. [President's Report](#)
  - a. Expresses gratitude to Rob for his musical contributions, and all he did for the No Kings March. She is glad the ministerial search committee was successful and is proud of all their efforts.
- B. [Executive Director's Report](#)
  - a. Sheila submitted the order for the screen today, and is so happy. Stewardship committee pledge reminders have been very successful. The latest membership class had about 10 people, and that hasn't happened in years.
- C. [Treasurer's Report](#)
  - a. We're at about 72%, close to target to meeting our annual budget at this time of year.
  - b. Event rentals are in progress, and we may meet or exceed our target. We have a few signed agreements pending approval.
  - c. Building expenses are at 95% during spring break, given we slot a lot of work to be done at this time.
  - d. Finance committee has made a recommendation for what to do with the money:
    - i. Immediate term:
      - 1. Chase CD: 2 month CD, guaranteed return at 4%, after that can roll over. @\$600k.
    - ii. Vote to approve investment in CD account, with Jillian and Sheila as financial representatives that will notify if rates change against our favor:
      - 1. Liz Wolfe motions to approve, Brian seconds. All in favor.
- D. [Minister's Report](#)

- a. Reverend Sam is pleased to hear of the new selected minister. The Covenant team is almost completing their mission and will soon gather feedback from members.

## **V. New Business**

0:00 pm

### **A. NA**

## **VI. Old Business**

8:12 pm

### **B.Budget 2026-2027: Jillian (Send out before meeting)**

- a. Review and Board vote:
  - i. Board reviewed proposals and updates to the FY2026-2027 budget
- b. Budget Town Hall 5/3
- c. Annual Meeting 6/7: Vote by congregation
- d. Draft Budget approved to be shared with members, Brian votes to approve, Monica seconds, all in favor.
- e. Sheila will share a template for the Clerk to send out.

### **C.Congregational Covenant Update; Rev. Sam & Jim**

8:34 pm

- a. Review and comment on draft to be sent out before meeting
- b. Covenant Meeting on 4/12 at 12:30pm; in-person and online

### **D.Membership Update: Brian & Rev. Sam**

- f. Follow up with attendees of Membership Exploration Session
- g. Membership Ceremony on 5/17
- h. Exploration Info Session was held on 3/22/26; 12 signed up, 11 attended
- i. Started using a really nice program named "Planning Center" for Visitor/Member tracking and CRM (Customer Relationship Management).

### **E.Stewardship Campaign: Jillian & Sheila**

- j. Number of pledges and amount to date
- k. Follow up with members by Stewardship Committee

### **F.Delegates for GA: Carol**

- a. We have 2, not 3 delegates for GA.; Erin White & Elizabeth Ann Terry
- b. A few members were approached but were not available to be a third delegate

## **VII. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business**

8:40 pm

- A. Next Board Meeting 5/13/2026 7:00-9:00pm (online)

- B. Covenant Review Meeting 4/12 12:30pm (in-person & online)
- C. Budget Town Hall 5/3 12:30pm (in person & online)
- D. Special Congregational Meeting 4/26 12:30pm (in person & online)

## **VIII. Acknowledgements and Appreciations**

8:48pm

Gratitude shared for our to be elected Board Member, Danielle Abushnabab. LGBTQ activism interest from other NY UU congregations.

## **IX. Executive Session:**

N/A

8:##pm

## **X. Closing Words and Adjournment: Jim**

8:52 pm

- A. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm
- B. Motion to adjourn by Liz Wolfe.