



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, May 13, 2026

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

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

Others Present: Danielle Abushnabab, Trustee Candidate

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

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I. Ingathering

7:02 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:

7:03 pm

- A. Attendees and guests share their respective updates on life and ongoing experiences.

III. Approval of Minutes [\(April 08, 2026\)](#)

7:09 pm

- A. Jim motions to approve minutes, Brian seconds, all in favor.

IV. Board Reports

7:10 pm

- A. [President's Report](#)
 - a. Gratitude for the positive voting for the new minister; expresses gratitude for the membership and stewardship committee. Carol expresses gratitude for the Covenant team, and Zach for the youth coming of Age and their Credos shared with the congregation.
- B. [Executive Director's Report](#)
 - a. The screen has been ordered, due to arrive June 8. We are considering different options for the curtain selection. We want to consider colors, pleats and other characteristics (we currently have a pleated design). No need to re-order a track.
 - b. Group to help make a decision: Barbara Woods, Loretta Howard, Jim Saslow, Liz Wolfe, Monica DM.
- C. [Treasurer's Report](#)
 - a. We are at budget for the event business line item, the most we've ever brought in. The event business has grown, and it presents a need for staff to help out with the events that are scheduled. Zach and Rob have helped to step in.
 - b. Pledges are on track, but some larger ones are due in lump sums in May and June
- D. [Minister's Report](#)
 - a. Rev. Sam is supporting Rev. Sara in her move in August
 - b. Meditation is in question for Sunday mornings in particular, Rev Sam's meditation sessions have been extraordinarily successful.
 - c. Expresses gratitude for the Covenant team
 - d. He has his summer services planned out, and is completing a spiritual course soon.

V. New Business

7:39 pm

- A. Ministerial Transition:** Carol & Rev. Sam
 - a. Rev. Sara starts 8/1, and we want to support her in the process
 - b. Contacts with Rev. Sara: Rev. Sam, Sheila and Bob
 - c. Start Up: Rev. Lyn Cox, our primary contact, to get back to Carol end of May
- B. Annual Meeting on 6/7:** Carol
 - a. Reports due 5/29
 - b. We need a quorum at this meeting (30 members)
 - c. Votes on: Budget, Board of Trustees slate, Nominating Committee slate, and Covenant
 - d. Jillian on zoom from Concord
- C. Acknowledging the Search Committee:** 6/7 during service: Rev. Sam & Carol
- D. Annual Retreat 6/12-6/14:** Sheila & Carol
 - a. How can the board & members help to prepare? - Sheila and Melanie email people closer to the date
 - b. Deadline is this Sunday May 17th, but we have at least 30 people signed up
- E. Board Transition Meeting:** Carol
 - a. Possible Dates for new board member introduction: 6/17, 6/18, 6/24? (Virtual)
 - b. Carol will send an email with dates
- F. 6/28 Service:** Rev. Sam, Carol & Jim
 - a. Very jam packed service on this day:
 - i. Pride service
 - ii. Pass the Pulpit
 - iii. Rev. Sam's last service
 - iv. Carol's last Sunday; Brian starts 7/1
 - v. Pride Parade- 4th U contingent with all 5 New York City UU congregations
- G. Safe Congregation Policy Update & Next Steps:** Carol
 - a. Training & Education (staff & RE volunteers)
 - b. Evacuation Policy & Fire Drills: Implement
 - c. Safety Committee: a Board member needs to replace Carol, the committee reports to the Board
 - d. For the future::
 - i. Community Readiness & Response Action Plan; needs to be developed into a policy (i.e. entry procedures, de-escalation techniques, Active Shooter/Shelter in Place Procedures & Drills.)

VI. Old Business

8:05 pm

- A. New Covenant:** Rev. Sam & Jim
 - a.. Sent to board before the meeting for review.and vote at the meeting.

- b. It is beautiful!
 - c. We are voting on this at the annual meeting, and we can check in on it as needed in the future
- B. **Membership Update:** Brian & Rev. Sam
 - a. 7 interested, 4 In Process. Being tracked.
 - b.. New Member Ceremony 5/17 - should have 6 or 7, two postponed for next one
- C. **Stewardship Campaign Update:** Jillian & Sheila
 - a. We have 34 remaining pledging units, if all units pledge we will meet and exceed our budget.
 - b. Consider adding a deadline for future campaigns.
- D. **Youth Survey:** Monica
 - a. 7 Respondents, Ages 11 to 16.
 - b. . What would help: all respondents (100%) said talking directly with church leaders would be valuable. Having a youth representative at congregational meetings ranked second (86%), followed by holding youth forums or discussion circles (57%), participating in voting when eligible (57%), and sharing feedback through surveys or written statements (43%).
 - c. On youth voting specifically, most respondents expressed some level of openness or enthusiasm, one offered a notably thoughtful caution: youth often lack the context for informed voting
 - d..Could we have a youth position on the board as a representative?
 - i. NY state law prohibits youth from voting on substantive issues at a congregation (such as financial, budget or liability issues), but not on being a representative.
 - ii. Once Rev Sara joins, ask her about implementing this

VII. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

8:37 pm

- A. Clothing Swap (by Environment Justice Committee): Sun. May 17, 2026
- B. Next Board Meeting: Wed. June 10, 2026, 7:00-9:00pm (online)
- C. Annual Meeting: Sun. June 7, 2026 12:30pm (hybrid)
- D. Annual Retreat: June 12-14, 2026
- E. Rev. Sara's first day: August 1, 2026
- F. Open Circle with Rev. Michael Crumpler: 5/21 7:00-8:30pm (online);
UUA LGBTQ & Multicultural Programs Director

VIII. Acknowledgements and Appreciations

8:39 pm

Acknowledgement to Jim and the Covenant team; Carol McLoughlin for all her dedication as Board President; Appreciation for the youth and the Cremos shared at the last session

IX. Executive Session:

8:42 pm

- A. Motion to go into executive session by Jim, seconded by Brian, all in favor to move into Executive session.
- B. Board Covenant
 - a. Review the document again
- C. Cora motions to move out of executive session, Jim seconds, all in favor

X. Closing Words and Adjournment: Jim

9:15 pm

- A. Meeting Adjourned