UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026 - Time: 7:00 PM Central Time

Meeting Conducted Virtually Via Zoom

MINUTES APPROVED AT MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2026

In attendance: David Mrazek (President), Eric Haas (Vice President), Dave May (Treasurer), Marian Honel-Wilson (Secretary) and Trustees-at-Large Susan Stephens, Zia Karim, and Beth Fahey; and Pam Fodor (Director of Programs). Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson was on vacation.

NOTE: The minutes refers to members by first name. To avoid confusion, "David" refers to David Mrazek; "Dave" refers to Dave May; Rev. Beth refers to Minister Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson, and "Beth" refers to Beth Fahey.

Board Covenant: We covenant to: respect time by following an agenda, review meeting materials prior to arrival, respect differing opinions, listen without interrupting, make space for all, remember the big picture, speak with one voice once a decision has been made, refrain from micromanagement, and work within the context of the UUA.

UCH Mission Statement**: Love boldly. Grow deeply. Act justly. Together.**

A. Call to Order/Welcome Visitors

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Feathers/Check In

Members reported on their "feathers" (positive happenings).

C. Minutes

Minutes from the 6/18/26 meeting were approved by consensus as amended.

D. Finance Discussion

a. Dave indicated he has transferred the donated stock from Computershare to the Schwab investment account.
b. Dave submitted a report on the end-of-year finances in News and Notes for the congregation's review. The report shows a deficit of $21,000, due to the non-receipt of $21,000 in pledges promised but not yet received. Dave expects that Rev. Beth will make a decision as to how to contact these people when she returns. Normally we do collect nearly 100% of pledges, but there may be people who died, moved, or for some reason aren't able to keep their pledge.

E. Staff Reports

a. No Minister's Report this month as Rev. Beth is on vacation.

b. Director of Programs Report – Pam indicated the summer program is going well. There are four to six kids each week. The young adults running the program are doing a great job. The children's playlot has been refurbished thanks to Charlie Fischer clearing weeds, removing rotted tree stumps and spreading mulch, which he paid for out of his own pocket. There will be a fundraiser for the living room carpet advertised in this week's News and Notes. Carpet squares cost $70.00 each and the staff are hoping that 75 congregation members will buy one, two or more squares to raise the funds necessary to replace the carpet. The Jay Fodor Memorial Fund will contribute the $1,650.00 it collected to the fundraiser.

F. New Business

a. Online Marketplace: David reported that Darren and Leo are pursuing Leo's idea of having the church sell fair trade goods through an online marketplace. They are interested in running the "store" and would like to make a presentation to the board about the idea. David will let Darren and Leo know that the idea needs further research. Some of the questions raised about the plan include:
    1) How does Deb Daniel-Wayman feel about the idea (she runs the current in-person fair-trade store for the congregation).
    2) Will there be a start-up cost required from the church budget?
    3) What are the tax implications for a non-profit church selling items unrelated to its mission?
    4) Are other UU churches doing this sort of thing? Perhaps check with our MidAmerica Region liaison, Rev. Matt Johnson.

b. Strategic Direction Update: David reported that the Strategic Direction Team will be meeting with consultant Rev. David Miller in August.

c. Board Retreat: David will work with Rev. Beth on an agenda for the September 12 board retreat.

d. "Parking Lot": There was discussion about creating a structure in the board agenda, such as a "parking lot," where items of recurring concern can be placed so their status is reviewed monthly. Another suggestion was to create lists of both short-term and long-term issues to be reviewed regularly. Dave has compiled a list of long-term issues and he'll send it to David.

G. Write-Ins

a. Internal Church Audit: David will talk to Deb and Linda and let them know we are considering having a couple of members conduct an internal church audit using the template provided by the MidAmerica Region liaison, Rev. Matt Johnson.

b. Bylaws Amendment: A question was raised as to what the process is for updating the website version of the bylaws when an amendment is voted on and passed during the annual meeting.

H. Executive Session

The board met in executive session from 7:34 p.m. to 8:14 p.m.

I. Motion to Adjourn

Beth motioned and Susan seconded a motion to adjourn; the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.