

Minutes from the Committee Council Meeting

February 11, 2026

1. Chalice lighting & moment of silence
2. Brief check in
3. Church upcoming events
 - i) Gina Norstedt has agreed to be nominated for Board President for the 27-28 & 28-29 FY.
 - ii) We will begin our next 5 year plan next FY.
4. Discussion: Does your committee have a written mission? If so, what is it? What is your committee responsible for? What's new?

Aesthetics Ministry Team - Celia Ortenberg

To beautify the church. Beauty is a part of spirituality.

Work with other committees inside & outside to improve the aesthetics.

Still working on the chancel, green room has just been updated.

Building & Grounds Committee - Shirin Anderson/Geoffrey Dann

Responsible for written

Infrastructure is important because we serve the church & wider community.

Need new volunteers.

Caring Congregation Coordinator - Joyce Sattler/Pam Waldron

Helps family put on reception after memorial service

Sends greeting cards for members who are ill

Deliver meal to those who need it.

Works with other groups as well.

Possibly add setting up meal trains for those that need it. Jen can send it out but the Caring committee can identify people who need it.

Connecting Committee - Tony Porter

Not available to attend.

Covenant Groups - Don Henniger

Eager to start up again. Looking for facilitators with mental health background to shorten the training. More to come for the next meeting.

Send Don if you know of someone who might be a good facilitator, participants or if you are interested

Environmental Action Group Mark Mendelson

Not available to attend. Sent the following"

Does your committee have a written mission? If so, what is it?

Investigate. Educate. Act.

What is your committee responsible for?

Investigate, Educate, and Act for the future and for the interdependent web of all existence. We live with a deep awareness of our climate crisis and the extensive environmental injustices of our time, working together as a congregation, team, and as individuals, in cooperation with environmental and social justice groups in the community, state, and nation.

What's new?

In our most recent meeting (with our beloved Jim Merrill, and the folks copied on this email), we coalesced on the notion that we can have our biggest impact this year through collaboration with other environmental organizations and educating our congregation with films and speakers, for example.

Finance Committee - Joe Osborne

Not available to attend. Sent the following:

"The finance committee, in putting together the budget for 2026-2027, has decided to freeze the budgeted expense accounts. If a committee leader needs more than what has been allotted to them in this years budget they should contact Joe Osborne at joss1952@gmail.com."

Health and Safety Ministry Team- Yukio Okano

Reorganized during the pandemic. Never created a mission statement. Covers a lot of things over the entire church.

Currently working on:

Entry room safety team. Monitoring the entry room when service starts. Helping late comers as well as monitoring if ICE shows up. Need more volunteers for this.

Holding a fire drill with everyone near the end of the service. In process.

Trespassing on our grounds. Will make recommendations to the Board.

Brought up couple camping on our property.

Inreach/Outreach - Kent Brinkmeyer

Not available to attend. Sent the following:

Our church Inreach/Outreach Program is the process for giving away our offering from each Sunday service.

Description – Once in each four month period, members and pledging friends or representatives of charitable organizations submit nominations for organizations to receive our offerings and then the congregation votes. The organizations that received the most votes get two or three offerings; others get one or none, depending on the vote outcome. A story telling what the organization does and how the money helps is shared at the time the offering is taken up during the service.

Participation – Organizations, members and pledging friends may submit key information about the organizations they would like to see on our ballot, but only members and pledging friends may vote. When church met in person, approximately 100 members and pledging friends voted. Since we have been on zoom, even with reminders, we have received somewhere around 70 votes.

Meeting Location – The Inreach/Outreach committee has been meeting via email or Zoom to interpret the meaning of the congregation's vote. When we met in person, voting was conducted at said meeting. Since we have been doing virtual and hybrid church, voting has been via email.

Duration of the Program – The program has been in existence for more than 10 years and was initiated by a vote of the congregation. Voting happens once every four months.

Days and Times – Meetings have been virtual and scheduled at the convenience of committee members.

Program Leader – Kent Brinkmeyer

Annual Report 2025 - Inreach/Outreach Committee

The Inreach/Outreach program operated this year as it has since 2012, with the congregation nominating and then voting each four months to choose our offering recipients for that quarter from among the nominated 501(c)(3) organizations. This church year, offering amounts ranged from \$668 to \$1,578 with the average offering providing \$925 to the recipient organization. That average was \$157 higher than the average offering in the previous church year. =====By the end of the year, if the average holds, we will have awarded over \$48,000 to 26 different organizations.

The Inreach/Outreach Committee was chaired by Sue Brinkmeyer. Members included Bob Newman, Diane Wamsley, Pam Waldron, George Naugles, Kent Brinkmeyer, Mary Kay Lambert, Stephanie Tiffany, Teresa Zdanowich, and Tessa Weeks.

Annual Report -2017-18 Inreach/Outreach Program

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura has continued this year to give away its entire offering from each church service. As of this date in the church year, there have been 41 church services, and we have given away \$32,391.72. With their having been a total of 6,593 people in attendance at these 41 services, that is an average of \$4.91 per person per offering, and an average of \$790.04 per offering. Given that there are 13 additional church services remaining in this church year, we are on pace to give away approximately \$42,600 during the entire church year.

Thirty two different causes were chosen by the congregation through a voting process conducted three times during the year. Recipients included the ACLU Summer Institute; Bread of Life (All Saints' Episcopal Church); Caregivers; CAUSE; City Center Transitional Living; Camp de Benneville Pines ; Dig Deep Water; Family Promise of West Ventura County; Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County; Heart 2 Heart; Humane Society of Ventura County; The Innocence Project; Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP); NAMI Ventura County; National Center for Science Education; No More Deaths (Immigration work through the UU Church of Tucson); Planned Parenthood of the Central Coast; SMART Recovery; Southern Poverty Law Center; Step Up Ventura, Inc.; and Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund.

Our system was flexible enough this year to allow the congregation to donate to meet emergency situations, including giving to Direct Relief for Hurricane Harvey; the United Way for the Thomas Fire & Flood; Turning Point for River Haven Tuff Sheds following a fire that burned down 3 homes there and cost a life; and the Ventura DVO to keep the Winter Warming Shelter open through the end of March.

We supported our internal church social justice programs including three from Lift Up Your Voice: Family to Family, Safe Sleep, and Park Outreach.

We donated to support the broader UU movement, making offerings for the PSWD Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, The Guest at Your Table program of UUSC, and the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California.

Finally, we supported directly those in need in our church and local community through donations to our own Inreach/Outreach fund, managed by Rev. Dana.

The Inreach/Outreach Committee was chaired with great dedication and skill by Anne Escobedo, until her death mid-year. Its members during the year have included long-time members Sue Brinkmeyer (now acting chair following Anne's death) Sharon Kufeldt, Suzanne Olsen, Christine Rutter, Diane Wamsley, and Shelah Wilgus, as well as new members who have joined this year: Michelle Murphy, Bob Newman, Sylvia Wikholm, and Teresa Zdanowich.

Kitchen Cabinet Coordinator - Yukio Okano

Noah's shut down for about a month due to fire. Gary Zinik bought bagels in their absence. Could always use more volunteers.

Leadership & Nominating Committee - Gary Zinik

Not available to attend. Sent the following:

As you know, the current focus of the Leadership Development Committee has been on recruiting new members for board positions that will become vacant in June. Our last position to fill is that of board treasure. We are also working with Pastor Erik to offer a "Low Ropes" Team Building and Community Building event that will be offered later in the year.

Membership Ministry Teams - Amy Dobzynski/Ruth Owens/Gudrun Eastham

Path to membership February 21

Working on streamlining the process

Gudrun & Kathy still doing the greeters Gudrun Eastham/Kathy Swift

Asking for more volunteers for greeters

Looking for ways to move people along from the entryway.

Pastoral Associates Ministry - Kent Brinkmeyer

Not available to attend. Sent the following from the website:

The Pastoral Care Associates work in partnership with the minister in helping to create a community of caring and support by responding to pastoral needs that arise within the congregation. A Pastoral Associate is a confidential, compassionate, and listening presence. Our work is based on our Unitarian Universalist Principles which affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, compassion in human relations, and the interdependent web which connects us all.

Our covenant with the congregation is:

- to visit the ill at home or in the hospital,
- to support those in personal transitions or going through a life crisis,
- to maintain contact with those unable to attend church due to illness or physical challenges,
- to support friends and family involved in care giving,
- to comfort the bereaved,
- to provide a compassionate ear and a willingness to enlist the help of others.

FIVE PASTORAL CARE INITIATIVES were created in response to concerns about the needs of church members, especially those who are older and/or who live alone. The following are the five initiatives that address these needs:

- 1. Life Crisis Form:** For members who would like the church to have information on file in case of an emergency; a [Life Crisis Form can be completed online here](#). This information is kept confidential and accessible only by Rev. Dana or her designated assistant. A hard copy of the form may be completed as an option.
- 2. File of Life:** The "File of Life" is a personal medical home file prepared for emergency first responders. It consists of a medical card held in a red magnetized plastic pocket designed to be placed on the outside of a refrigerator. The card lists emergency contacts, insurance & health information, medications, allergies, and other relevant medical data. The File of Life is available to those who would like one.
- 3. Skills Exchange Program:** UUCV members have many skills that can be shared with others. These include computer knowledge, handyman services, tailoring, house and pet sitting skills. This Program seeks to promote the sharing of skills, simple or complex, with members who need them. Church members may list their skills on a bulletin board in Berg Hall as follows:

4. Exchange by barter: members trade skills through negotiation.
5. Exchange for fee: members offer services to other members.
6. **Buddy System:** Church members who live alone may benefit from having a “calling buddy” check in with them on a regular basis to ensure they are safe. Senior members can be vulnerable if they fall and are unable get up. A calling “buddy” who is unable to reach a member can ask a friend or relative who has a key to check on the person. The UUCV Buddy System will help match up mutual buddies who call each other or arrange for a volunteer to make regular calls to those wanting to be contacted.
7. **Warm Line:** The “Warm Line” is a way to connect to a Pastoral Care Associate via email who will receive your message and respond within 24 hours. A Pastoral Associate, in partnership with Rev. Dana, is a church member who attends to pastoral needs and provides a confidential, compassionate, and listening presence. Please feel free to send a message to us at: warmline@uuventura.org *The Warm Line is not for emergency situations (please call 911).*

Personnel Team - David Henkel

Unable to attend.

Working on payroll for employees for the budget for FY 26-27

Programs and Activities Coordinating Team - Xenia Young Todd Collart

Publicity Team - Gina Norstedt

Suggestion that we give yellow t shirts to new remembers.

Wisdom Exploration - TBD

Quite a few people showed up to the meeting & Lily explained quite a bit

Someone brought up an Adult OWL program.

Looking for more people to help with WE Classrooms

B&G, H&S & Ascetics will be working on Classroom 5

Worship Associates Ministry - Celia Ortenberg

WA continue to support Pastor Erik

Making little changes to work together

Will miss Jim. Also Sandy will only be available to be a WA if needed. Dina Olivas adding to WA team. Looking for another male WA

5. Extinguish Chalice