

People's Church Board of Trustees Meeting

December 2, 2025

6:30-8:30pm

Minutes

Present: Juli Ginn, Martin Sauter, Tim Kieffer, Amy Meyer, Cindy Pietras, Laura Bultman, Reverend Rachel

Regrets: Elizabeth Huff-Willis, Teresa Klan, Donna Kaye, Tom Hackley

Opening

1. Chalice Lighting and Words: Cindy Pietras
2. Check-in Topic: A brief mention of a favorite gift – given or received.
3. Affirmation of covenant, mission and vision

COVENANT: We convene, bringing our best selves - prepared, listening and open - as we work together to further the Mission and Vision of People's Church.

MISSION: A beloved community embracing and serving our diverse world.

VISION: Aligning with the Principles of the UUA while growing in love, People's Church:

- ☐ Builds a diverse and inclusive loving community
 - ☐ Freely searches for truth and meaning
 - ☐ Provides solace and rejuvenation
 - ☐ Embraces equity and pursues Social Justice
 - ☐ Cares for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things
4. Reviewed and approved minutes of November 2025 meeting
 5. Reviewed and approved agenda of December 2025 meeting

Church and Staff Oversight:

1. Financials Report – deep dive. Rev. Rachel reviewed the budget/financial report provided by Tom Hackley and answered questions. It was reported that this year's Holiday Bazaar was the most successful yet.
2. Staff and Committee Reports – Rev. Rachel reviewed and answered questions. She announced that she has been asked to speak at the UUA General Assembly, held in Louisville KY in June.

Board Business:

1. Voting Policy Revision – approved as amended.
2. Draft plan for unified capital & operating stewardship campaigns for spring 2026 – reviewed by Rachel. She asked the board to contemplate and discuss further at January's meeting. What can we ask the congregation to support in 2026 if not asked again in 2027 and other years, bar an unforeseen catastrophe?
3. Review Policy V.3.2.A Social Justice Position Statements of the Church – no changes needed. It is felt that Rev. Rachel understands the congregation's consensus regarding our shared values and represents them well to the wider community.

4. Review November's Congregational Meeting. A quorum was not required. Having one issue to discuss seemed to go smoothly and efficiently.

5. The board agreed to authorize First National Bank of Michigan to give our bookkeeper, Kristi Montgomery, online access to the People's Church bank accounts for the purpose of moving money between the savings and checking accounts, as necessary for church operations.

Looking Forward:

Laura will participate with Rachel in the Inquirer's Series on December 13, 2025 (second Saturday).

Other

Ongoing Goals:

1. Being a church of justice
2. Being intentional about finances
3. Evaluating the ministry and programs

Closing Words: Cindy

Adjournment

Opening and Closing Words for January's Meeting: Teresa Klan