

UCOT BOARD MINUTES

November 15, 2025, at 1:30 pm. via Zoom

Meeting ID: 963 8513 7601

<https://zoom.us/j/96385137601>

I. **Opening Words** (Julian)

“Wherever you stand, be the soul of this place.” – Rumi

II. **Minutes of the October Meeting** (Be)

Margo moved that the minutes be accepted; all approved.

III. **Treasurer’s Report** (Be)

a. Margot moved that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted; all approved.

b. Budget/pledge process: We decided to leave the names off the pledge sheet. Julian will remember the two members who passed, Yolanda Rommel and David Vaughn, in a centering prayer after the chalice lighting and before the meeting actually starts.

IV. **Items for Discussion**

a. **Presentation for restructuring fiscal year** (by Rev. Diana)

The board made the decision to follow Rev. Diana’s suggestion of moving our pledge drive to early fall (September) so people can submit their pledges in time for an October or November Annual Meeting. To do this, we will need to make a change in our bylaws stipulating that the required annual meeting will be moved from Q1 to Q4, starting in 2026. Julian will add that vote to the Annual Meeting agenda. Be moved that we make those changes; all approved.

b. **Board membership 2026** (all)

Julian has offered to serve next year as Board President, unless someone else steps up and wants to do it. Don agreed to stay on as board member at large so that he can weigh in on general issues as well as report on Community Outreach.

V. **Newsletter Columns:**

a. **Leadership:** Gael Minton will write the Leadership Column for the January newsletter on Fifth Sundays, mentioning that she will be moving to Maine and that we need to find her replacement. Gael has led the committee, asked for topical input from the congregation, and come up with ideas and speakers for future Fifth Sunday programs, as well as publicizing them. February: Margot (Charitable Giving); March: Mary Gray (Lay Leading)

VI. **What else?**

a. **Recruiting for volunteers 2025/26**

1. Margot will use the directory to email recruit volunteers to greet on service Sundays.

2. Chuck and Margot will take turns counting money after services and circles and will recruit new members every week to help them. This will ensure accuracy of count but also involve newer members.

a. **Successor to Gael**

See V. a.

b. **New Hymnals** were delivered to Lodge storage, do we need them? Evidently there are only gray hymnals, no teal ones. Julian will ask Rachel if we ever run out and need extras. If not, they need to be stored someplace out of the way but we need to remember where we stored them.

- c. **Proposal by Sara Sautter for UUA templates.** In researching a new Wordpress site for UCOT, Sara spent \$100 on some plug-ins for her personal Wordpress site. She would be able to use these upgrades to work on the new theme should we decide to go in that direction, and asked to be reimbursed for the \$100. Comments: The Board voted to pay her half the amount with the caveat that, going forward, she get board approval ahead of time for any monies spent.
- d. **Advertising in Bulletin Board (Be)**
Be suggested that we advertise Rev. Diana's sermons in the Bulletin Board of the December *Taos News Tempo*. This will cost approximately \$30 for the two announcements. Julian suggested we advertise in the BB every service, which would cost roughly \$300/year. It will add to our deficit but may be worth it; we will vote on it next month.
- e. **Bluesky and Facebook**
Diana volunteered to add content to the new social media texting platform Bluesky. She will give that content to Mya to upload to Facebook.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Charitable Giving (Margot):** Margot shared that James Radnor had suggested we donate \$200 to Taos Search & Rescue. Since we still have some money available in the CG fund for this year, she will bring it up at the CGC meeting next week.
- b. **Caring Committee (Marsha Fawns):** Marsha asked for permission to pass around sign-up sheets on clipboards, and Diana suggested she do it during the Dec. 7 service.
 1. Patsy & Dennis Scott could benefit from others in the congregation offering their help, as she has not healed from her surgery that took place a few months ago.
 2. The Schultzes are looking at assisted-living facilities in Denver.
 3. Linda Aubrecht needs support at this time.
 4. Chuck will keep us up-to-date on Terry Surguine's treatments.
- c. **Membership Committee (Be):** Sarah and Ted Reid are the most recent new members.
- d. **Sharing Circles (Don):** Circle facilitator slots are taken for the first half of the year.
- e. **Community Connection (Don):** Don has located several places to post our flyer and/or other materials: the Visitors Center and the Library, plus Mary Shaffer is looking into the TCA. Don will also investigate prices at Mitchell Theaters, the commercial movie theater. Be will send him the pdf for the brochure so he can get more copies printed.

VIII. Closing Words (Julian)

"Be yourself. Unless you can be a unicorn. In that case, you should always be a unicorn."
– Pamela Zagarenski

IX. Next Meeting: Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom, same Zoom ID