September 24, 2026 Minutes

Present: Rev. Shelly Thompson, Sue Engels, Donald Stanziano, David Nelson
On Zoom: Barbara Hellier, Pam Arborgreen, Ash Anderson, Alexandra Broughton, Suzanne Seigneur
Absent: Tom Salsabury, Sherry Caisley

There were no changes to the agenda.

Pam A moved to approve the 08-27-2026 Minutes with no changes; Donald S seconded; unanimously approved. DRAFT minutes will now be saved in the folder for the meeting at which they will be approved, instead of the folder of the meeting they're from.

Barbara H will get a "Thank You" card for the Board to sign for the Lay Pastoral Care Team, which will then be given to Rev. Shelly to deliver to Elisabeth B, who will make sure it gets to all the members of the Lay Pastoral Care Team.

The Board discussed the use of reserve funds to meet expenses in September, and what can be done to close that gap in the future. Suzanne will send out an email requesting that committees hold off on spending as much as reasonably possible.

Rev. Shelly reported that things are going well, and she continues meeting with Teams & Committees within UUCP and with groups in the wider community. She is meeting with the Committee on Ministry to work on setting up Listening Circles for the congregation, finding topics/questions, etc.

Ryan is working on getting more help with the building, from the Buildings & Grounds Committee and from other volunteers.

Ginger submitted a written report: all is going well, and the RE Team is coming together. She may be re-evaluating the various family support groups, as attendance has not picked up the way it usually does after the school year starts.

The expedited budget process is on track:

Oct. 29 Board meeting will review a preliminary budget, with a COLA for employees, estimates of things like health insurance that are increasing by unknown amounts, and everything else frozen

Nov. 19 Board meeting will approve the budget

Dec. 12 Budget Q&A with the Finance folks

Dec. 13 Congregational meeting to vote on the budget

Sue E would like to step down as Treasurer as soon as possible, but will be available to help with the transition. There was discussion about exactly what Sue does, and what Summer and Mary (the Bookkeeper) do, and which parts (if any) of the Treasurer job might be moved to

someone else. The biggest immediate need is for more people to be trained to count the Sunday offering and prepare the deposit.

David N will take on the development of an active Finance Committee, and is requesting suggestions of people who would be good in that role from the Board, Ginger, etc.

Sue is planning to open a brokerage account to receive gifts of stock, and is working on a complete list of what she does, all the accounts, etc. and has already been working on getting the automated QuickBooks reports to be what is needed.

Suzanne S requested and the Board agreed to provide updated information from the committees that each Board member is liaising with (charter, names of members, roles, etc.) for the October 29 meeting.

Ash A reported that Social Justice continues to be very active; Palouse Pride and the United in Community Longest Table were both very well attended. They are showing several more movies at the Kenworthy, and also hosting a live “get out the vote” event, “Astronauts for America”. There is a “get out the vote” group that is brainstorming and planning.

Breakfast with the Board is scheduled for 8:30-9:45 am on Sunday November 8; Tom S. will be moderating the discussion again.

Discussion of the Board Retreat is deferred to the next meeting (tentatively planning for January 2027).

Safety Plan/Status is deferred to a future meeting.

A Nominating Committee is needed to identify Board candidates; Elisabeth Berlinger is in charge and Suzanne S is on the Committee.

The next meeting will be October 29, 2026 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall, moved due to conflicts on Oct. 22.

Opening and Closing Words: Tom Salsbury
November Newsletter: Pam Arborgreen

The November meeting will be Nov. 19; moved due to the holiday.