

**First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Policy Board Meeting**  
**Monday, February 9, 2026, 6:30-8:00 pm via Zoom**  
**Minutes**

**President Kathy Wilke called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.**

**Others in attendance:** Margaret Weck, Treasurer; Mike Bray, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Betty Neill, Chris Peterson, Lisa Ross, Trustees

**Absent:** Chris Kocher, Vice President; Sidney Watson, Secretary; Carl Bassi, Trustee

**Church Council:** Cathy Rauch.

Erin Milligan and Kathy Wire attended the discussion on Transgender Inclusion in Congregations and stayed for the canvass discussion.

**Staff:** Lynn Hunt, Rev. Kim Mason

**Other:** Emily Jaycox, Canvass Co-Chair

**Opening Words & Chalice Lighting:** Margaret Weck read “The Willingness to Work for Solutions”, an essay by Newt Gingrich from NPR’s “This I Believe” series.

**Discussion of Transgender Inclusion in Congregations:** Transgender Inclusion in Congregations is a six-session online course focused on culture shift and radical welcome. This month, Board and Council members viewed and discussed Session 5: The Role of Culture in Trans Exclusion. Participants focused on characteristics of our church at the top of the iceberg and what’s hidden beneath the surface.

**Canvass News:** Emily Jaycox attended a portion of the meeting to discuss the upcoming Church Canvass. She is hopeful that enthusiasm from the successful Funding Our Field of Dreams capital campaign will carry over to this year’s canvass. Though she has recruited help for the effort, Emily is still looking for a co-chair. Canvass Kickoff Sunday in March features special music as well as a luncheon. Circle suppers will be held in connection with this year’s effort, and canvass results will again determine how the annual budget is set. Meeting attendees were reminded that while a solid Church facility supports our goals, so does the Church budget. Board members were encouraged to submit pledges at the beginning of the canvass and help with contacting folks at canvass end.

**Board Covenant Reading:** Kathy Wilke

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cBWTB1BODfNv4Xks6vuDCH0RmnF5brnV/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=105183447557092303738&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cBWTB1BODfNv4Xks6vuDCH0RmnF5brnV/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=105183447557092303738&rtpof=true&sd=true)

**Process Observer:** Lisa Ross

## **Consent Agenda**

- Minutes of January 12, 2026 Board meeting, Sidney Watson
- Report of the Minister, Rev. Kim Mason
- Report of the Minister of Congregational Life, Rev. Sabrina Trupia
- Report of the Administration, Lynn Hunt
- Report from the President, Kathy Wilke
- Church Council Notes, Grace Munie
- Financials from the Treasurer, Margaret Weck

Rev. Kim shared additional information about an interfaith dialogue between students and clergy hosted by Washington University on February 4. She also noted that UUs will now have a position on the Interfaith Council, and it will rotate amongst local UU ministers.

**Motion to approve January 12, 2026 Minutes.** Lisa Ross moved. Margaret Weck seconded.  
**Motion passed.**

## **Updates & Board Insights**

- ICE response – revisiting our policy, Rev. Kim

It's important that all Board members, especially Sunday greeters, are familiar with our current ICE policy. This policy assumes that ICE is following the rules, which may not necessarily be true. Changes to our policy may be needed to address how we handle certain situations. Do we risk informing potential targets of ICE presence? Should we revisit our designation of public vs. private areas, or prevent ICE from entering at all? We need to re-engage Sidney Watson when reviewing the policy. The congregation also needs to be educated on the policy; a potential date has been set for March 8 after the service in Hope Chapel.

- A question was raised as to whether it is necessary to increase our Church security.
  - 3-year Rolling Strategic Planning – next steps, Rev. Kim
- A brainstorming session for congregants who were unable to attend the Midwinter Meeting will be scheduled soon.

## **Executive Session**

- Betty Neill

## **New Business**

- Liaison for Nominating Committee – Chris Peterson

## **Here's what we need to do before the next meeting**

- Determine whether changes to the Church's ICE policy are needed. Prepare for ICE policy discussion with the congregation

- Assess the need for additional Church security
- Watch Session 6, Transgender Inclusion for Congregations

**Observations from Process Observer**

Lisa observed that meeting attendees listened and participated well but wonders if we try to cover too many things in a single meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Neill, Trustee