

**Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**May 18, 2025**

Recording of the meeting: <https://youtu.be/6tKEKxyh100>

Complete Annual Report: <https://bbuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Annual-Report-2024-2025-cover.pdf>

**Call to Order**

The annual meeting of Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church was held on May 18, 2025. It began at 12:00 pm and was presided over by Board President Cindi Jorgensen, with Kristina Altes as Secretary.

**Review Safety Plan**

Cindi Jorgensen reviewed the church's fire escape plan and where the fire extinguishers are. She also pointed out where the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device is. The PA system will not work when fire alarms are going off, so it is important to know where the exits are. If children are in RE classes, their teachers will escort them outside so any parents/caregivers of the children will meet them outside rather than going into classrooms to get them. Cindi also reviewed recent safety updates, including the locking of doors during Sunday service, security cameras with displays in the AV room, and door locks, door jams, and magnetic strip window screens in each classroom.

**Establish Quorum**

There are 141 Members. The quorum for this meeting is 25%, or 36 Members. There were 13 proxies submitted and 54 Members in attendance. The quorum was met with a total of 67.

**Chalice Lighting Reading** by Diane Freeman (chalice lit by Kris Kines)

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the May 19, 2024, meeting was distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice. The floor was open for any Member to offer corrections. Since there were no corrections proposed, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

**President's Report** presented by Cindi Jorgensen, Board President

Cindi reviewed recent Board activities, including updates to safety protocols. She highlighted the work of the Grounds CRUU team, which has updated the campus landscaping and procured new outdoor picnic tables. Cindi gave kudos to the Worship Committee for addressing the needs of the BBUUC community amid the current political and social climate. Recent social events have been a success largely due to Beth Curtis. InvestFest successfully affirmed the BBUUC community due to the efforts of several volunteers. The Facilities Committee is working to

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construct a new retaining wall. Cindi also thanked Diane Freeman for her service as Vice President.

Diane thanked this year's Council members and gifted potted plants to the committee chairs.

**Nominating Committee nominations**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Cindi Jorgensen noted that most members of the Board of Directors are entering their second term, and Nominating Committee members are running unopposed. The position of Vice President has one candidate. Therefore, the submitted Board of Directors for 2025-2026 are:

- President – Cindi Jorgensen
- Vice President – Robert Clark
- Treasurer – David Prohofsky
- Secretary – Kristina Altes
- Trustees – Elizabeth DeCoux and Don DeStephano (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2-year term) and Nathaniel Samuels (1<sup>st</sup> of new 2-year term)

The Nominating Committee submitted Adele DeSavio and Chuck Smithers to serve on the Nominating Committee for a 2-year term while Helen Meatte will complete the second year of her elected 2-year term this upcoming fiscal year.

**Treasurer's Report** presented by David Prohofsky, Board Treasurer

David reported that revenues are ahead of projections while expenses are below projections, which places BBUUC in a stable financial position. The biggest change over the past year is the movement of funds from bank accounts to the Vanguard money market fund to take advantage of market conditions as interest rates improve or bolster our position in mutual funds. Fixed assets have not changed and we have no current liabilities. The Board has worked to maintain operating reserves with a target of \$150,000 in the capital reserve in case of future needs that may not be covered by insurance, such as roof repair. Revenues that exceed anticipated amounts are placed in the congregational growth fund. The emergency caring fund reduced but remains a resource, and the endowment fund has grown. Payroll increased due to the hiring of employees or contractors for roles that could not be filled by volunteers (e.g., bookkeeper), but the total expenses are down.

**Budget**

- The proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 was distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice.
- The Finance Committee Acting Chair, Peg Christenson, presented the proposed budget. Peg thanked all members who pledged. She reported that the proposed budget includes a total of \$157,000. Peg noted that some budgeted committee

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expenses have decreased due to a shift in funds to the new Technology Committee, which has taken on some of the responsibilities that previously fell under other committees. Expenses have also been budgeted to pay for the new bookkeeper and childcare workers. The property liability insurance quote is anticipated in mid- to late June.

- Peg called for a vote to approve the budget, which was seconded by Kris Kines. Voting was done by raising voting cards. The budget was approved.

**Presentation on Proposed By-Law Changes**

David Christenson explained the procedure to amend the bylaws, which require an 80% vote to pass. The proposed updates to Article II and Article III were distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice.

Article III: David Christenson explained that the proposed amendment would update the name of the UUA to reflect its current designation. David moved to accept the proposed update. Seconded by Kris Kines. The motion was approved unanimously.

Article II: David Christenson explained that the proposed amendment is the result of a compromise between three petitions that were drafted earlier this year, and which was approved by the Board to present for a vote at the annual meeting. David moved to accept the proposed update. Seconded by Elizabeth DeCoux. The motion was approved with 40 votes in favor, 2 votes opposed.

**Words from the Floor**

Valerie Bouffard asked if the 7 principles were being removed from BBUUC documentation. David Prohovsky explained BBUUC is transitioning its presentation of UU values. Lynn Wadley stated that she felt the vote for the Article II update was rushed. David Christenson indicated that the bylaws will now reflect the recent update. Marilyn Smart expressed appreciation for the 7 principles as an educational tool. Linda Mowers indicated there is a children's version of the principles that can be used. Beth Curtis reminded that the UUA website includes resources with both the 7 principles and the 6 values with love in the center, and that it is up to each congregation to decide whether and how to use those as communication tools. Don DeStephano stated that BBUUC is an independent congregation and is not bound to abide by governance recommendations from the UUA but the current update does not threaten BBUUC governance. Mike Ludwick expressed appreciation for the 7 principles as well as the updated language. Carole Hawkins stated that the 7 principles can be used to communicate the UU values and covenant. David Christenson pointed out that Section 2.5 (Freedom of Belief) of the bylaws gives us flexibility in how we pursue our faith.

**Closing words** by Don DeStephano (chalice extinguished by Kris Kines)

**Meeting adjourned** at 1:00 pm