

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church

Board Meeting - July 22, 2026

Attending: Reverend Chip Roush, Diane McMahan (President), Jan Spooner (Treasurer), Tom Heisler (Trustee), Katy Upperman (Administrator)

Absent: Patty Wright (Trustee)

Minutes Recorded: Katy Upperman

- **Minutes Review/Approval:** June 23, 2026 Minutes Approved Unanimously
- **Future Meetings:** Master Planning Meeting - August 12th, Board Meeting - September 16th
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Checks will be reissued with the church name, rather than a person's name.
 - The 2025-2026 budget was reviewed at the July 21, 2026 Finance Meeting. The budget was found to be accurate.
 - New banks are being researched due to concerns about PNC, as well as a new financial home for the endowment account.
 - At the July 21, 2026 Finance meeting, a "hole" in the budget was discussed. Pledging is down and other sources of previous income (ie: a Covid grant) have ceased. Prairie needs to bring in more revenue. Jan suggested that Members (particularly newer Members) be encouraged to make pledges that are realistic, and that they can keep.
 - Paddle Raise ideas for the upcoming Auction were brainstormed, including allocating the funds to the SOL building, increasing the general budget, various trainings, marketing efforts (increased Google ads), and more paid speakers.
- **Old Business**
 - Deferred revenue of \$4272.86 still needs to be moved to the Minister Search account.
- **New Business**
 - The Board discussed ways to allow for Iris's (accomplianist) prelude music to be better heard. It was decided that the service's Board Moderator will ring the bell pre- and post-prelude.
 - The Board discussed eliminating daycare services, noting that they haven't been needed for 6-8 months. The decision was reached to stop advertising daycare but create a backup plan in case children unexpectedly arrive. Also considered options including using materials already created, potentially using the children's library area, or reserving the Loft, though they expressed concerns about new families being comfortable with their children being taken to different areas by strangers.

- The Board discussed the return of Service Sundays, which will now occur every other month instead of monthly. Patty is organizing these events and should work with Claudia to find appropriate service activities. The group explored potential volunteer opportunities including helping at therapeutic riding ranches, stuffing backpacks with school donations, and aiding a medical supply nonprofit that refurbishes equipment for overseas hospitals.
- A need for a landscape project plan for the Spirit of Life property was discussed, which has been stalled due to lack of this required documentation. Diane explained that multiple professionals have been approached but are unavailable due to high demand, and Rev. Chip suggested reaching out to nearby UU congregations for recommendations. The group agreed to explore contacting other UU congregations and potentially sending out a broader request for landscape design recommendations, with the understanding that they would be willing to pay for the service.
- The Board discussed the challenges of providing religious education (RE) services, particularly given that only one or two children regularly attend services. It was decided to discontinue advertising RE services and instead offer it on an as-needed basis, with Christina providing the service. The group also agreed to remove RE from the website and order of service, and will play the Reeb Benediction only when children are present to be dismissed. It was agreed that background checks for adults who work with children should remain current.
- The Board discussed its basket contribution for the upcoming Auction, with Jan suggesting that the Board and Finance Committee combine baskets, since there is so much overlap in members of the two groups.

- **Next Meeting:** Master Planning Meeting - August 12th, 6PM @ SOL or on Zoom

Action Items

- DIANE
 - Send out the edited action items list for review.
 - Notify Claudia about the proposed change to ring the bell before the prelude.
 - Create an action item to develop a backup plan for daycare/childcare.
 - Contact other UU congregations or groups to find a landscape designer for the Spirit of Life project.
 - Get statistics and explore options for Google Ads marketing.
- JAN
 - Explore potential bank change options..
 - Cross-reference the "deferred revenue" line item with Renee to ensure accuracy.
- TOM
 - Help Jan with researching new banks and investment companies for the organization's accounts.
- KATY
 - Remove the childcare advertisement from the newsletter and website.
 - Start advertising the new member ceremony for September 27th.

Committees Status Report
July 2026

Audio/Visual: Brian here this Sunday 7/19, and Tristan will be 7/26. Liliana can set up and tear down but needs a ride. Diane will provide.

Book Club: No book club meeting 7/19/26. Will review the quarterly plan of reads. Still meeting third Sundays after the service.

August: *Braiding Sweet Grass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

September: *Caste - The Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson

October: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson

Building Construction: Waiting on landscape plan for plan submittal to Douglas County.

Breakfast Club: Breakfast club met at The Perfect Time Cafe 08:30 on 7/15/26. The next scheduled event is September 30th at the Stonegate Cafe when Rev. Roush is in town.

Caring Circle: ongoing support underway

Circle Lunch/Suppers: Sandie Smith is our new coordinator starting in September. Brenda P will organize August.

CUUPS Update: no news

Endowment: Contributions coming in but not being posted to investment firm.

Auction: gearing up! Looking for donations!

Sent reminders once again for remaining balances from last year!! almost \$2000 still owed.

Hospitality: no news

Marketing: Mailers are waiting for postage purchase by Treasurer.

Membership: Welcome email sent to Tristan, Iris, Ladd and Sandie. I'll be working to touch base with some of our other regular visitors, some who were out of town for the last Membership Sunday.

Checking on Breeze access for the 4 new members. Each has a selected volunteer task and is being queried about their pledge.
Cindy Quan would like to be a greeter.

Music: no news

Pledge Drive: New members being queried about their pledge for 2027.

Youth Religious Education: no news

Adult Religious Education: no news

Social Justice: Another Food Drive is ramping up in August.
Habitat Interfaith alliance had another service date this past weekend.
Considering the League of Women Voters presentation request in August.
Service Sunday update. Douglas County Libraries and Humane Colorado were contacted about service projects. Stay tuned!
Reviewing Colorado Together for possible service events.

Worship: We will substitute GA service for Ladd May's service. Bailey Holm has agreed to speak 8/2, 8/9.