

APPROVED MINUTES
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2026

Founder's Hall

Convened at 11:47 a.m. Adjourned at 12:49 p.m.
69 members in attendance in person; 14 on Zoom

The meeting began with an introduction of the 2025-26 Board. The President thanked all the folks who provided the vegan/vegetarian potluck lunch.

The congregation had a moment of silence to remember members and past members who passed away during 2025:

- Barbara Barnett
- Cindy Dankberg
- Roger Harmon
- Roger Parker
- Ken Schultz
- Norma Showalter
- Gus Thorburn

Linda Pratt lit the chalice.

Rev. Heather reviewed the State of the Congregation

The last 6 months have been full of transition, which has been handled with grace and flexibility.

- Sunday Service Attendance & Membership have been on the rise despite parking lot challenges and being in FH all the time.
 - Average attendance in December was 93 in person; 14 on Zoom*
 - Nearly 170 members, 50 friends
 - NOTE: She has received lots of positive feedback regarding Worship Services, with visitors commenting on the especially warm welcome they experience
- There is a great team mentality among staff and volunteers. New staff – Emily, Ashley, Rev. Heather have been working to create sustainable systems. Training staff has been a lot of Heather's time. Doing great despite facilities transitions.
- RE staff have been hired and trained; Emily completed OWL training. There are 13 regularly attending children. Average weekly attendance in December was 7 children.* Emily is also working on space allocation and organization.
 - AV Kiosk has been cleaned and is free of mice.
 - AV equipment will be moved back to prepare for 1/25 Homecoming and return to the amphitheater.
- Leadership Council development – up and running with new P&P. Committee handbook prepared.
- Committee on Ministry created
- TO COME:
 - Finish organizational work on spaces. Tours available after homecoming

- Publications & Website – website awaiting approval of LC and Board – should be available in March and will include a new members-only portal

In summary, the future is really bright – new spaces, new staff, consistent attendance, membership development. We're on the right track.

Linda Pratt, Board President, gave her report. She thanked members and staff who make our Fellowship successful, and highlighted some progress and prospects. We have all pulled together during some transitional times, including recovering from the isolation of COVID.

The Committee on Ministry has been created. We have a Compassionate Care Committee, and renewed membership and connections programs.

On Sunday, March 1st there will be a congregational forum to revisit UUFSD Campus Master Plan. On Saturday, March 28th the UUA will lead a Minister and Congregation Meeting as part of our welcoming a new minister.

President Pratt also explained that the UUA has designated UUFSD as a UUA Special Care Congregation, which gives us access to supportive services from the UUA as we prepare for our future. We attracted the attention of the UUA because of ministerial turnover, but it really is an opportunity for us to consider our culture, roles, and congregational expectations, so we can engage in meaningful ministry together. While we can't use the UUA settled ministry process until we achieve certain milestones, we can continue to have a contract minister as we have with Rev. Heather.

Jan. 25 is our homecoming. People are encouraged to reach out to former members and prospective members so we can celebrate our achievements and return to the amphitheater.

Treasurer Susan Hahm reported that, at the halfway mark of the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year, the operating Fund is in good health with no surprises. Our budget is on track; we have collected approximately 66% of our annual pledges.

Even though we made adjustments to staff hours and pay rates consistent with UUA fair compensation standards; the budget impact was minimal. The Capital Fund remains in the black after newly renovated Administration Building and the Master Plan Phase II work.

Sarah Miller has stepped back to an assistant treasurer role. Both Susan and Sarah are accessible at Treasurer@uufsd.org.

Angie Knappenberger gave a report on Capital Improvements. What we can do with our property is governed by the City of Solana Beach with a conditional use permit, for our phased Master Plan. Phases 1 and 2 are almost complete and paid for.

PHASE 1- Administration Building received a permit from the City of Solana Beach (COSB) in November 2023. The original contract for \$281,850 was less than half the cost of other bids. So we sacrificed speed for lower costs. When all is done, the total cost will be approximately \$380k

including changes UUFSD made, as well as furnishings and unexpected developments. It's a beautiful building and worth the wait for the cost savings compared with other bids.

In terms of Phase 2 (parking lot improvements and ADA accessibility work, THANKS to the generosity of our members and the Spirit Level Foundation grants, we raised enough funds to pay for Phases 1 and 2 of the approved Master Plan. In other words, Phases 1 and 2 are basically COMPLETE and there are funds remaining in the Capital Campaign fund. The exact amount remaining in the budget is still being refined.

For Phase 2, because the original bids were so far above our available funding, the project scope was reduced and we undertook an additional capital campaign including a new grant from the Spirit Level Foundation and matching contributions from members.

The Coastal Commission gave approval, as did the City of Solana Beach. The original scope had a few change orders due to unanticipated developments, but this is considered reasonable based on general practices. Total contract cost \$1.326 million. All has gone smoothly.

Thanks to all who donated and the patience of members, we did it!

On Sunday, March 1, there will be a congregational forum to review what's left of the master plan. All of the remaining elements will need to be done together in order to secure an occupancy permit from COSB. We need the new kiosk and bathrooms as well as ADA improvements in the amphitheater in order to meet the city's requirements. The meeting will help members understand what is permitted and where flexibility is possible in the scope of the project.

Palmer Library is being upgraded to provide more lighting, new paint, and better signage. Thanks for your patience and generosity.

Buildings and Grounds focuses on the present: maintenance, landscaping, and problems that arise on our site. Doing lots of this work with volunteers saves the Fellowship up to \$50k/year by not needing to hire contractors. Looking for more volunteers.

Alisa Guralnick, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, reported that there will be two open positions on UUFSD Board of Directors starting in July, for a 3-year term. Pamela Parker and Julia Darling will have completed their terms. Members who are interested in, or curious about, serving in a Board position are invited to contact the committee at NOMCOM@UUFSD.ORG or reach out to Alisa Guralnick, Angela Knappenberger, or Mary Anne Trause. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates, as well as candidates for President and Vice President, for a vote at the June Congregational Meeting.

Endowment Fund- Planned Giving Update: Both the Common Endowment Fund and the Music Fund are in good shape from an investment perspective. UUCEF holds our investments for our fund. (UU Common Endowment Fund). The Endowment Committee is launching its annual grant cycle; watch the UUFSD newsletter for details about how to apply for a grant. Grant

applications will be due no later than April 15, 2026; forms are available on the website under the Giving tab. \$203,728 in the fund, earning interest. \$17,710 in the music fund. Granting \$5500 – 6500 in this cycle, based on a sustainable share of the interest earnings. Grants can be used to supplement things not in the budget as well as outside projects in the community.

UUFSD members and friends are encouraged to consider either a while-living gift, or a legacy pledge (in your will or trust), so that UUFSD will continue to grow its Endowment Fund for the future benefit of all UUFSD members. The Endowment Committee is seeking new members. Contact the committee at ENDOWMENT@UUFSD.ORG It's fun and rewarding.

The congregation then was asked to consider and vote on the question: Shall UUFSD endorse the Apartheid-Free Pledge?

Apartheid-Free Pledge

WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;

WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and

WE DECLARE ourselves an Apartheid-free community and to that end,

WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

After hearing a brief presentation from Jason Folkman in support of signing the pledge, and Jon Host asking for a "no" vote, time was provided for clarifications. The eligible voting members cast ballots.

Pamela and Donna counted the votes. According to our bylaws a motion can pass by a simple majority of the voting members attending the congregational meeting. There were 17 on zoom + 69 in person voting members so 44 yes votes are needed to pass. The votes were 38 in favor, 33 opposed, 9 abstain. Therefore the motion did not pass.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Shaffer, Board Secretary, with assistance from Julia Darling, Board Member

* Clarifications made after the meeting.