

The January 2026 Board Meeting Recap by the President

The following section presents a summary of the significant actions and decisions taken by the Board during the meeting convened on January 20, 2026. It is important to note that these details serve as an overview and do not constitute the official record of proceedings.

The official minutes of the meeting will be published on the Borderlands UU website following their approval at the upcoming Board meeting scheduled for February 17th. All members are encouraged to consult the official minutes once they are available to obtain further information and detail regarding the matters discussed and decided upon.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- **Monthly Expenditures Report:** The Treasurer presented BUU's financial statements for BUU through December 31, 2025. Net revenue in excess of expenditures for the six months is a positive \$11,248. Spending is at 41.5% of the annual budget for the first half of the fiscal year. Revenue is 55.7% of the annual budget. Pledges are at 53% for the year. Spending is lagging but will change in the next six months due to Building & Grounds improvements that must be undertaken in keeping with the inspection report we received.

- **Endowment Fund Update:** The Endowment Fund is currently under the management of professional investment advisors. As a result of their expertise and oversight, the Funds returns have shown notable improvement. Although there are management fees associated with this professional service, the benefits gained from their experience and diligent attention have proved valuable to Borderlands UU.

Approximately two years ago, the Board made the decision to allocate 4% of the Endowment Funds market value as of December 31 each year for Board- approved projects. This amount is roughly half of the annual increase in the Funds value. The intention behind this program is to provide funding for significant, non-budgeted initiatives that support the congregations needs. Examples of such projects include costs related to consulting services, such as those provided by Rev. Sam.

At the present time, the congregation has completed one full year operating under the 4% program. However, demand for these funds has been relatively low. This may be due to a lack of awareness among members regarding the process of submitting project requests. It is important to note that requests for Endowment Fund allocations should be focused on major expenditures that fall outside the regular budget.

- **Land Sale Fund:** \$40,000 from a past BUU land sale is currently not segregated in a separate account from the Endowment Fund in. It is invested and earning 8% income. This is money that can be used to pay Building & Grounds bills but not to reduce expenditure costs. Paperwork has been created to separate the two funds, but it has been difficult for the Endowment Committee to get this done with Schwab. The Board passed a motion resolving that the Endowment Committee be encouraged to complete the Land Sale money into its own Schwab account. In the meantime, the Treasurer keeps both funds separate in his records.

- **Draft of Proposed 2026-27 Budget:** The first draft of the 2026-27 budget is a proposal based on what is known at this time. It is not the final proposal that BUU members will consider for approval in April. In the past, preparing the draft was normally the responsibility of the Finance Committee, which no longer exists.

The Treasurer generously assumed this responsibility. Committee Chairs and BUU leaders were asked to provide spending expectations. The total expenditures in the first budget draft are \$199,900. Pledge income is the biggest source of revenue. The pledge drive target is \$150,000. Adding in other revenue, the total comes to \$176,500 which is \$22,300 short of what is needed. The Board will be looking at options for making up this shortfall in the months ahead.

UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Proposed Changes to Bylaws: At this time, the Board tabled changes to Article VIII-Minister and Article VI-Board of Directors and Officers and approved changes to Article IX-XII previously suggested by Mary Arrigoni and Diane Farone. The Board will be finalizing a plan for congregational input before voting on the proposals at the Annual Meeting in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building & Grounds Report: The President presented the Building & Grounds (B&G) report prepared by Kathy Creten, Chair of the B&G Committee. During the meeting, Board members reviewed and discussed the specific safety concerns outlined in the recent inspection report. These issues were identified as needing immediate and prioritized attention to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone who enters the BUU building and visits the property.

While the Board emphasized its desire to avoid micro-managing the activities of the B&G Committee, it also reaffirmed its ultimate fiscal responsibility for all BUU expenditures as well as its obligation to maintain a safe environment for the congregation and visitors. Considering these responsibilities, the Board passed a motion requiring the B&G Committee to take the following actions:

1. Provide detailed information and obtain bids for repairs to the Green Valley Cooling & Heating system.
2. Seek bids for replacing the oldest HVAC system on the property.
3. Gather bids for the removal of dead trees identified as safety hazards.
4. Obtain bids for necessary repairs to the shed.

The Board stated that the objective is to secure at least two bids for each project, whenever possible, to ensure a thorough review and responsible stewardship of BUU resources.

Update on January 1st Break-In: The President reported that two sheds behind the main building were broken into sometime on January 1, 2026. Three tools were taken, totaling less than \$500. Rummage sale items were taken from the third shed, but there was no evidence of a break-in to that shed. A deputy from the Santa Cruz Sheriff's office came out to investigate the scene and gather information. We have been given a case number to which information can be added. The deputy recommended that we enhance our security in the area behind the main building. Building & Grounds will be considering security options.

Next Board Meetings:

Work Session: February 12, 2026 (9:30 am) Closed Zoom Session with Rev. Samantha Wilson

Monthly Board Meeting: February 17, 2026 (1:00 pm)
Submitted by Nancy Murphy, Interim Board President