

The June 2026 Board Meeting Recap by the President

This recap summarizes the key discussions and decisions from the Board meeting held on June 16, 2026. The official minutes will be posted on the Borderlands UU website after they are approved by the current Board. Members are encouraged to review the approved minutes for additional details.

Treasurer's Monthly Report

Financial Summary: Because the Treasurer was unable to attend in person, Board members reviewed and discussed his written report for May. They noted several positive updates:

- Expenditures slowed in May after above-average spending in April.
- The projected year-end deficit has been reduced to \$22,922, down from the projected \$34,500, with 11 months completed.
- The final 2025–26 fiscal year deficit will not be known until the June end- of-month report is complete.
- Sunday plate receipts have increased to 106% of budget for the first 11 months.

Motion: Judy H. moved to approve the May Treasurer's Report. Susan J. seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Acknowledgment: The Board expressed its appreciation to Charlie Golec for his work as BUU Treasurer.

Connections Project Final Report

Link to Rev. Sam's Final Report: <https://borderlandsuu.org/reverend-sams-connections-project/>

Presentation and Distribution: Rev. Sam presented the report via Zoom to support discussion among the current Board, incoming Board, and other member attendees. The report had been distributed to the current and incoming Board Presidents before the previous week's Board Work Session. It was decided to hold distribution to the whole congregation until after this joint meeting of the current and incoming Board members.

Congregational Identity and Appreciation: Rev. Sam described the congregation as a deeply committed community of people who want to thrive where they are, with both pride of place and pride in one another. She expressed deep appreciation for the congregants who volunteered with the Listening Team and the Connections Team over the past year, offering gratitude to them as well as to the current and incoming Board members.

Key Reflections: Based on the compiled comments from Connections Team participants, Rev. Sam concluded that in-person gatherings are a stronger way for people to work together. She also noted that the

Congregational Patterns

section of the Appendix was especially enlightening.

Rebuilding Trust and Connection: Attendees discussed how to interrupt the disconnection process and rebuild trust within the congregation. Several noted that Town Halls and Sunday services may not be the best settings for vulnerable conversations, especially when people are experiencing mistrust. There was also a call for congregants to participate more actively by attending meetings and reading the Messenger.

Suggested Supports for Difficult Conversations: Participants suggested several possible structures to help people speak honestly and supportively when conflict, misunderstanding, or mistrust arises:

- A Listening Guide or Right Relations Team made up of trusted people who could offer supportive conversations in moments of mistrust.
- A monthly Circle where congregants could share where they are emotionally in a setting designed for understanding.
- A Community Building Circle where people could hear one another's perspectives after misunderstandings arise.
- "Feeling Spaces" where talking about emotions becomes a natural and woven-in part of community life.
- A Compassionate Communication Team, with a facilitator, to support private conflict-resolution conversations.

Accountability, Communication, and Process: Attendees emphasized the importance of acknowledging when harm has been done and being careful not to treat hearsay as fact. They encouraged asking about the source of information, recognizing that it may be confidential or inaccurate, and making space for differences of opinion. While consensus may not always be possible, participants stressed the need to keep finding ways to remain in relationship with one another.

Concerns About Existing Structures: Some attendees expressed concern that Caring Clusters can sometimes create cliques. Others suggested that Town Halls could be reshaped into more open forums where people can speak honestly; they may also need a different name and a more regular schedule. Participants also raised questions about why some congregants mistrust the Board, noting that trust had not always been a concern in the past years.

Pastoral Care and Emotional Support: The group identified a need for stronger support for those experiencing end-of-life issues and noted that the congregation does not currently have a Bereavement Group. Rev. Sam suggested that the Men's and Women's Groups can provide places to process emotions, though not everyone connects through those groups.

Next Steps and Possible Follow-Up: Participants noted that unprocessed breaches of trust can accumulate into a larger “pile of mistrust,” and they emphasized the importance of tending to those concerns rather than ignoring them. One proposed approach was for leaders to begin with a Listening Process: choose a conflict, work through it together, build the practice into the culture, and then introduce it more broadly to the congregation.

Several additional follow-up ideas were raised. Participants observed that the congregation’s Covenant is not fully understood and that everyone needs to take personal responsibility. Rev. Sam also mentioned Transitions Planning, including deep listening with outgoing Board members so they can share from the heart and experience a sense of release. The Connections Team expressed interest in holding a listening circle on trust and mistrust of the Board, possibly in Fall 2026 or early 2027. A Right Relations Team could help people talk through these concerns.

Building & Grounds Report

B&G Chair, Kathy Creten, submitted a detailed Report to the Board highlighting the following:

- A plumbing bid was previously approved by the B&G Committee for \$1,975, but they wouldn’t do the work until they were paid upfront. The President approved the check authorization after B&G had approved the expenditure. Additional electrical work is needed to convert to 220 AMP (cost is unknown)
- 60 Sanctuary Chairs from the shed need to be cleaned after a lengthy storage. A respirator is needed for Jesus to remove them. Steam Concepts will charge \$15/chair.
- There are cremains in the Meditation Garden. They may be honored at this year’s Day of the Dead Commemoration.
- **Acknowledgment:** On behalf of B&G, Lorelei Schober expressed appreciation to Vice President, Martha House for her efforts on behalf of the B&G Committee that included attending HOA meetings.
- B&G did not submit any requests for approvals or funding at this time.

Final Note: As our fiscal year comes to a close, I am writing to you on behalf of the entire Board of Directors to express our deepest gratitude to the BUU community. Thank you for showing up, for speaking up, and for believing in our collective mission. We look forward to building on this year's successes and achieving even greater things together in the new year ahead. Onward with faith and love! Nancy Murphy, BUU Interim President