Borderlands Unitarian Universalist
Board of Directors Minutes
September 15, 2026, 11 a.m.

Board Attendance: Mary Arrigoni, Beth Dingman, Diana King, Jim Lund, Sheila Stewart Glover, Denise Lund-Smith; Staff: Jermain Lowe,
Others: Kathy Clark, Lorelei Schober, Jeanne MacCauley, Larry Parker, Jan Lathrop
Special Visitor: Kristen Wisnewski-Blum with Amado Youth Center
Meeting Chair: Mary *Meeting Scribe: Diana*

Welcome – Mary: The board meeting began with introductions and a quorum check.

Chalice Lighting - Diana

President's Report – Mary

The President's report highlighted updates on facility rentals for Valley Assistance Services, building maintenance, and hospitality coordination changes, including Susan Ammons' resignation as hospitality coordinator effective November 1st and Robert Eland stepping up to help. The meeting also covered technology updates, including Larry's replacement of the old Owl system with a new one named Oliver, and discussed vacant positions that need to be filled, with plans to address this at next month's in-person meeting.

Secretary's Report – Diana

The board reviewed meeting minutes and action items. The minutes were approved with a motion from Jim and a second from Denise.

Treasurer's Report - Diana

Diana reported on her treasurer's responsibilities, noting the amount for salaries will be over budget and workers' compensation is at 170% of the budgeted amount due to an underestimated budget and increasing rates. The report was approved with a motion from Jim and a second from Sheila.

Coordinating Council Report – Beth

- Coordinating Council Mission – The group discussed the role and structure of the Coordinating Council, with Beth expressing confusion about which groups should be included and seeking a clearer definition of the council's purpose. Lorelei read a previous mission statement and will send that with other documentation to Beth. Jim suggested that the council should set annual or quarterly themes for the congregation, noting a gap in communication between different groups like the membership committee and Worship Arts. The discussion highlighted uncertainty about which group should determine overall church programming and themes, with Jim proposing this might be a matter for the board to address.
- Community Engagement Strategy Discussion – The board discussed how to involve the congregation more in community activities, with Jim suggesting quarterly meetings focused on community building. They agreed this responsibility should involve more than just the board, potentially through existing committees like Membership, Worship Arts, Buildings and Grounds, and Social Justice. The group decided to further contemplate these ideas and discuss them more thoroughly in October when more people would be present, with Jim emphasizing the need to assess how well the congregation is building community since this was previously identified as a top priority.

Old Business

- **Valley Assistance Event October 2026** - Mary
  - The group reviewed a facilities use agreement for a Valley Assistant event, noting that Jermain would work on fixing the contract to remove charging fees. Beth will be present on the Friday, October 23 for setup. Diana will be present on Saturday, October 24 during the event from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.
  - They confirmed that volunteers would handle the event rather than Jesus, who was initially considered. The group agreed to change the contract terminology from "sexton fee" to "building facilitator fee" at $21 per hour, with expected hours ranging from 10 or more. The discussion also covered practical details like generators for food trucks and the need for audio/video equipment, which was confirmed as not needed.
- **Continuation of work with Reverend Sam** – Beth
  - Task Force with input to Project Proposal – Beth: The task force explored various ideas including support for the Board, the Worship Arts Committee, Lay Pastoral Care, and individual counseling sessions, though it was clarified that no decisions have been made about making counseling available to the general congregation. Jim raised concerns about low male participation in conflict discussions, and Reverend Sam agreed to address this in her proposal by developing strategies to increase male involvement.
  - Reverend Sam Interim Consultation Agreement – Mary: The board discussed the continuation of work with Reverend Sam, reviewing a temporary Interim Consultation Agreement for August and September at $150 per hour, with a reduced rate of $100 once a full contract is established.
- **Funding**
  - Auction – Diana: The online auction will kickoff on Sunday, January 3 and the dinner event scheduled for the evening of Thursday, February 4. Deanna Brooks has recruited some planning team members for October meetings.
  - Finance Committee – Diana reported that Tobe Jensen has joined the Finance Committee along with Kathy Clark. The Board clarified that the Finance Committee would report to the Board rather than the Coordinating Council.
  - Pledge Campaign – Mary reported that David Doyle, Riki Renfro and Tobe Jensen will work together as a group.
- **Beyond the Pew** – Mary met with staff producing a PBS documentary opportunity featuring the church that focused on alternative religious organizations

New Business

- **Chili Cook Off November 2027** – Kristin Wisniewski-Blum with Amado Youth
  - Kristen presented a proposal to host the 16th annual Amado Chili Cook-Off at Borderlands UU on November 13, 2027, explaining the event would require use of the parking lot, office for money counting, and kitchen facilities, with an estimated 2,000 attendees. The Arizona Rangers will assist with parking logistics. Set up will be done on Friday, November 12th.
  - Kristen provided updates on the center's expanded staffing and new partnerships.
  - Last year's event was postponed and hosted in March 2026 which is delaying the next event until November 2027. The event is called the Betty Schuler Amado Youth Chili Cook Off and Motorcycle Show.
- **Town Hall Meeting Planning Discussion** – Mary

  The group discussed plans for a town hall meeting targeted for October 17th (third Sunday) after service, with Mary and Sheila leading an open-format discussion. They clarified that the meeting would not follow an agenda and would focus on addressing concerns and gathering feedback from attendees.

- **Event Scheduling** – The group also discussed scheduling considerations for future events, including postcard writing for voter engagement. The procedure is to get on the church calendar. The administrator notifies those who attempt to schedule conflicting events.
- **OWL Technology *(Oliver)*** – Larry provided technical suggestions for improving the Oliver presentation system's color and lighting issues.

Next meeting: October 20, 2026

Chalice extinguishing – Diana *(the closing was delivered to those on-line after an accidental disconnection with those in person.)*

Next month's Chalice Lighter - Sheila

** https://zoom.us/j/94493452028?pwd=IP0d1HKHnRQXOrY6teg4VgN1KmD9eY.1

Follow up Actions

Mary

- Send out the Interim Consultation Agreement with Reverend Sam via email to the board.
- With Sheila, organize and hold a town hall meeting on after the service.
- With Jermain, revise the Valley Assistance event contract to remove the "sexton fee" terminology and replace it with "building facilitator fee" or similar, and send the corrected contract to Kathy S.

Diana

- Send the Treasurer's report to Jermain and any other board members who did not receive it.
- Recruit an auction team and act as technical co-chair for the auction.

Beth

- Attempt to contact will attempt to contact Richard for the task force.

Jan

- Propose and schedule a date for a postcard writing day on the BUU calendar, between now and mid-October.

Kathy Clark

- Write a brief announcement for the Order of Service to recruit volunteers for the Finance Committee.

Lorelei

- Send Beth and others a copy of the earlier mission statement for the Coordinating Council.

Sheila

- Serve as the chalice lighter for the October 20th board meeting.

Larry

- With Diana or before, adjust Oliver (the OWL) settings and position to improve video quality.