



## Minutes of the Membership Meeting of the First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn 11.17.24

Congregational Approval vote 02.23.25

### Speakers

Role	Name
Moderator	James Goward
Senior Interim Minister	Micah Ma
Co-president	Beth Evans
Co-president	Jake Powell
Trustee	Vicki Antonini
Treasurer	Lee Pardee
Facilities Comm. Chair	Daniel Walter

### Attachments to the Minutes

Available at: <https://www.fuub.org/home/about-us/members/meeting-documents/>

### Agenda

Welcome Congregational Meeting November 17, 2024 (Presentation)

### Call to Order

The meeting was held in the sanctuary of the First Unitarian Congregation of Brooklyn. As provided in the Society Bylaws, Moderator James Goward called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. He verified the presence of a quorum of 40 voting members.

Rev. Ma lit the chalice and offered opening words.

### Preliminary Procedural Matters

#### Appointment of a Parliamentarian and a Timekeeper

The Moderator appointed Liz Davis as Parliamentarian and Mary Most as Timekeeper.

## Review of the Agenda and Meeting Rules

The Moderator reviewed the Meeting Rules and Right Relations Covenant adopted by the Society. He noted that this was his first meeting as Moderator and requested forbearance from the attendees.

He drew attention to changes to the Agenda for today's meeting versus the version published on the web site on 11.13.24. See slide #2. The Board had exercised its prerogative to change the order of business; ie, that the Withdrawal motion and the Motion to Affirm be moved up on today's Agenda. The change in the order of business involved no substantive change in either matter.

The Moderator reviewed the procedure approved by the Board of Trustees for the discussion of the Motion to Affirm to facilitate an open and thorough discussion of the issues. He described the procedures for conducting the vote by anonymous paper ballot for those present in the sanctuary and an anonymized voting procedure for those members attending the Meeting remotely. By the procedure, the votes are counted by the Inspectors of Election and the results announced after the Agenda had been completed.

### Election of the Inspectors of Election

The Moderator called for a vote on a slate of 5 members who had indicated willingness to serve in the capacity of Inspector of Election for this meeting. Approval of this slate was moved and seconded. Approval was unanimous by a show of voting cards and an online procedure for those attending remotely. The Moderator declared Edwin Lord, Andrew Bongiorno, Charlotte Hoogenboom, and Justin Parkinson for the in-person voting and Yvonne Garrett for online voting as Inspectors of Election for this Meeting.

## Motion for Withdrawal

Taylor Murray, representing the Young Adult Ministry, took the podium to introduce the Motion to Withdraw the Resolution on Gaza proposed by the YAM at the Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) of 05.19.24. That motion was tabled to the present Meeting. She noted that the Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) that was approved at the UUA General Assembly in June 2024 was similar in intent and wider in scope. For purposes of clarity and unity of vision, she requested to withdraw the YAM resolution. The Moderator asked for objections and, seeing none, called the question. All members voting in the sanctuary and online approved the Motion for Withdrawal.

## Motion to Affirm

The 3 members of the Standing Committee of the Trustees took the podium to review orally the information related to the Motion to Affirm in the Presentation (see Attachment slides # 7 to 15). They outlined the thoughtful process by which the AIW and the RR were developed and approved within the UUA. They explained the activities of the First U Board of Trustees since the AMM, including sponsoring numerous listening sessions and other activities to allow congregants to

develop and express their opinions on how First U should respond; and how the Board reached its consensus decision to support the Motion to Affirm.

### Motion to Affirm the UUA Resolutions

Be it resolved that the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn affirms the “Action of Immediate Witness: Solidarity with Palestinians” and the “Responsive Resolution: UUA General Assembly Support for October 7 Hostages” as adopted by delegates at the June 2024 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly.

Moved by Jake, seconded.

Voting was conducted by the procedure mentioned above. The outcome of the vote was announced at the completion of the Agenda. See below.

## Treasurer’s Report

The Moderator announced that the Treasurer’s Report was to be moved ahead of the Co-Presidents’ Report due to scheduling issues. Treasurer Lee Pardee had submitted a written report in the form of slides #23 to 41, which had been published on the web site by the date required. The slides were displayed on the screen in the sanctuary and online during her oral report. She presented first a succinct summary of the finances for the completed year (FY23-24); followed by a similar summary for FY24-25 to date. For last year, Lee enlivened her presentation by linking some of the data in the slides to notable events in our congregational life that year, such as the receipt of the Landmark Committee Grant. The attendees offered applause.

Lee next covered the FY24-25 financial picture to date (July through October). She explained the effect of current conditions in the money market on the Board’s decisions regarding access and repayment for the expenses of the façade repair project.

There were no questions at the end of the Treasurer’s Report.

## Co-Presidents’ Report

Co-Presidents Jake and Beth reviewed their brief written report on activity and development within the congregation (slides #16 to 22) since the start of FY24-25 and including planning for events to come later in the year.

## Facilities Committee Report

Daniel Walters, who had joined the congregation in 2024, introduced himself as a member and as the Chair of the Facilities Committee. He updated the status of Facilities Committee projects, beginning with the Façade Repair Project, referencing text and photos on slides # 42 to 51. Other projects in progress included building the fire-suppression system, which is required to maintain the contract with the daycare tenants. Member Nancy Wolf rose to thank all those who have been actively involved in the Façade Project. She noted with satisfaction that the sanctuary roof that had been installed several years previously had been found to be in good condition.

## Report on the Transition

Rev Micah announced that the Transition Team is in place (slide #54) and has begun working through the “assessing” phase of the transition agenda. He intends to have a fuller report for the Membership Meeting scheduled for 02.23.25.

## Results of the vote on the Motion to Affirm

Yes votes on the Motion to Affirm exceeded 51% of the votes cast. The Motion passed.

## Adjournment

The Moderator adjourned the Meeting at 1:45 pm.