

# Annual Report

## 2025



Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
Unitarian Universalist  
11 Orange Street  
Nantucket, MA 02554

January, 2026

## Board of Trustees at end of 2025

	<u>Term Ends</u>
Barbara Elder, <i>President</i> .....	January 2026
Jan Ellsworth, VP.....	January 2027
Deirdre Duffy, <i>Clerk</i> .....	January 2027
Kathy Stevens, <i>Treasurer</i> .....	January 2026
Randi Allfather.....	January 2028
Carol Benchley .....	January 2026
Rosemary McLaughlin (completing Chris Hanson's term) .....	January 2027
Suse Robinson .....	January 2026
Rev. Erin Splaine.....	ex officio, non-voting

Elected Trustee terms are three years, except for the Treasurer whose term is one year.

Elected Trustees, including the Treasurer, are elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The Board elects its other officers annually from among its members.

See page 34 for a recent history of Trustees.

## Staff at end of 2025

Rev. Erin Splaine, *Minister*

Nigel Goss, *Music Director*

Leyah Jensen, *Children & Youth Program Director*

Alison Forsgren, *Office Administrator*

Mercia Batista, *Sexton*

Linda Ferrantella, *Bookkeeper*

Rosemary McLaughlin, *Zoom Tech*

$$\leq \leftarrow_{\mathcal{Y}} = \bigcirc \text{_____} +$$

July 4, 2025 at 9:09 AM



## Table of Contents

Board of Trustees at end of 2025 .....	2
Staff at end of 2025 .....	2
1/26/2025 Annual Meeting Minutes .....	4
Minister's Report.....	5
President's Report.....	6
Clerk's Report .....	9
Music Director's Report .....	9
Religious Education/World Explorers .....	12
Ministerial Search Task Force.....	12
Buildings and Grounds Committee .....	14
Parsonage Committee .....	16
Parsonage Rental Committee.....	16
Remembrance Garden Committee .....	16
Cell Lessee Oversight Committee .....	17
Milestones.....	17
Groups sharing our space.....	17
Lay Led Service Committee .....	18
Social Justice.....	18
Animal Ministry .....	18
Immigrant Resource Center .....	18
Committee on Ministry .....	20
Website Committee .....	20
Membership Committee.....	21
Pledge Campaign Committee .....	22
South Church Preservation Fund .....	23
Treasurer's Report .....	28
Finance Committee Report .....	28
Five Year Income Increase Plan .....	33
Recent Trustees .....	34
Board-approved Revised Committee Structure .....	35
Call to 2026 Annual Meeting .....	43
Nominating Committee .....	44
2026 Annual Meeting Agenda .....	45
Obituary, Rev. Ted Anderson, 1934-2025 .....	46



# 1/26/2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

## **Second Congregational Meeting House Society, Unitarian Universalist Minutes of the Annual Meeting Sunday January 26, 2025**

Trustees present in Hendrix Hall: Deirdre Duffy, Carol Benchley, Jan Ellsworth, Barbara Elder, Paul Stewart, Suse Robinson, Chris Hanson, Rev. Althea Smith (non-voting)

Trustees on Zoom: Randi Allfather

- 1) Meeting Called to Order by President Barbara Elder at 11:32.
- 2) Invocation by Rev. Dr. Althea Smith
- 3) Clerk Deirdre Duffy confirmed that there was a quorum of 34 voting members. (11:33)
- 4) Deirdre Duffy moved that we approve the minutes of the prior Congregational Meeting which took place on January 28, 2024/1/28/2024. The motion was seconded by Paul Stewart and unanimously approved. (11:34)
- 5) Paul Stewart explained the 2024 Treasurer's Report. He gave a brief history of the church's finances during his tenure as Treasurer. (11:36)
- 6) President Barbara Elder thanked the outgoing Trustee and Treasurer, Paul Stewart for his many years of service. She thanked Anne Perkins for her many years on the Nominating Committee and Rev. Althea for all the guidance and help she has given the congregation since she has been our minister. (11:45)
  - a) Susan Richard moved that Randi Allfathers be approved for another term as a member of the board of trustees. Peter Richards seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
  - b) Susan Richards as a member of the nominating committee nominated Kathy Stevens as Treasurer who also will serve as a trustee. The motion was seconded by Polly Miller and was passed unanimously.
  - c) Christine Sanford nominated Christine Sanford, David Barham, Nick Miller, and Matt Maryanski To be Directors of the South Church Preservation Fund. The motion was seconded by Carol Benchley and passed unanimously.
  - d) Susan Richards then made a motion to recommend Loretta Middleton, Susan Richards, and Kat Grieder to the nominating committee for one year. The motion was seconded by Sue Mynttinen and passed unanimously.
- 7) Jim Sulzer gave a brief history of the budget as it has evolved over the last 10 years. Kathy Stevens and Bob Middleton added their advice and comments. Jim Sulzer moved we follow the unanimous recommendations of our Finance Committee and Board of Trustees and approve the 2025 Recommended Budget in Column L of the Budget Summary in our 2024 Annual Report, which includes the use of \$4,000 from the restricted Sabbatical Provision Fund to help pay for relocating a new minister in 2025. The motion was seconded by Alison Forsgren and passed unanimously. (12:07)
- 8) Jan Ellsworth summarized the work of the Ministerial Search Task Force so far. The goal is to conduct interviews with 8 potential minister candidates over the next 2-3 weeks and to identify the top 3 minister candidates by March 17th. The congregation was encouraged to read the Congregational Record and draft minister contract that was submitted to the UUA. (12:29)

9) There was a Questions and Answers segment. Jim Sulzer was asked if members of the nominating committee would travel to see potential ministers in their current congregations and Jim replied that we no longer needed to do this. Currently all candidates have video recording available of their work.

10) President Barbara Elder adjourned the meeting at 12:43

*Deirdre Duffy*  
2024 Clerk, Board of Trustees

## Minister's Report

What a difference six months makes! Our journey together started last August and now here at our first Annual Meeting together I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to be your minister — awe at the depth of your care, connection, and commitment you all have for your beloved community and hope for our years ahead.

At the close of my first newsletter column last August, I wrote: "...our paths have brought us together again. We come together at a hinge point in the life of this congregation, our beloved island, and our country. One thing I know for sure is that we are stronger together. It is with profound joy, great humility and an abiding sense of hope for our future together that I anticipate our building our ministry together."

I dare say that none of us could ever have imagined just how much of a pivot point the last several months would be for our individual and collective lives. Yet, in the midst of the swirl you all have shown up for each other and our larger community in such wonderful ways. I am grateful for each and every one of you.

A large focus of my work these last few months has been to continue the great foundational work you all were able to do with Rev. Althea. Namely, to a) get to know you all and you me; b) reestablish the committee structure – with emphasis on restructuring the Worship and Care Cttee; c) co-create and solidify our Sunday morning worship as the heart of our community life; and d) streamline and systematize personnel.

Of course, I have done none of that work alone. You are so well served by amazing lay-leaders. While no one person is more important to the life of a congregation than another — I do want to lift up Barbara Elder as she transitions off the Board. Her leadership, vision, and patience has been inspiring and as you all very well know has served this congregation so well for so long.

You all are also blessed with a hard-working and committed staff. Alison Forsgren, Nigel Goss, Leyah Jensen, and I have created a collegial staff model. One that allows for each of us to collaborate and connect about all aspects of our work. I am thankful to have such amazing colleagues with whom to work and vision.

As we near the end of our first six month together I am so very grateful to be with you — to be one small part of such an amazingly caring, kind, engaged and otherwise remarkable group of people. Thank you for the many ways you share your hearts, spirits, gifts, time and selves to make this congregation the special place that it is.

Peace,  
*Erin*

## President's Report

Dear Members and Friends of UU Nantucket,

As we gather for the annual meeting, marking the close of 2025, I wish to express my profound gratitude for the place we now occupy. This moment has been reached through the dedicated efforts of many, and such collective commitment stands as a testament to the vitality and engagement of our congregation. It is a true reflection of our shared purpose and communal spirit.

Our work together is really just beginning. We learned a great deal during our time with our contract interim minister, Rev. Althea Smith, and we now carry those lessons forward with our new minister, Rev. Erin Splaine. How fortunate we are to do so together.

- In this past year, we have also held space for the losses within our congregation. We remember with deep gratitude our minister emeritus, Rev. Ted Anderson, who passed away on February 18, 2025, at the age of 90. Ted served as minister of our church from 1972 to 2000 and continued to be part of our island community, living at Two Sheds Farm with his wife, Gretchen. His memorial service, held in our church on June 14, brought together a remarkable gathering of friends from near and far to celebrate his life and legacy. The service was led by Rev. Althea Smith and featured a beautiful piece composed in Ted's honor by organist and former music director Marcia Hempel, performed on the Goodrich organ.
- We also mourn the loss of beloved member Alison Levine (Van Fleet), who died on March 20, 2025. Alison, the wife of Tyler Levine, was remembered at a celebration of life held in our church on July 2. The sanctuary was filled with her family and many of her young friends, who shared heartfelt remembrances of Alison and the many lives she touched with her kindness, warmth, and vibrant spirit.
- In January, a Ministerial Search Task Force was charged by the Board of Trustees, to open a formal search for a new minister. This Task Force was chaired by Jan Ellsworth and included Carol Benchley, Alison Forsgren, Polly Miller, Susan Robinson, and Susan Richards. As a small congregation (under 125 members), we were informed by the UUA that our search would be for a contract minister and that we had flexibility in defining our needs. After meeting some demanding deadlines, we were fortunate to find a good group of candidates.
- We were fortunate that Rev. Erin Splaine was one of the applicants for minister of our church. Our Task Force carried through on multiple interviews and as the process continued, it became very clear that Rev. Splaine was our best candidate. She said yes and agreed to begin on August 1, 2025.
- In June, we said farewell for now to congregants moving away from the island. Chris Hanson and his three children have returned to Oakland, CA where Chris is resuming his teaching. Chris was a very active congregant, a member of the Board of Trustees, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, and on the South Church Preservation Fund. Deirdre Duffy has moved to Chicago. Deirdre stayed on the Board of Trustees as clerk until this annual meeting. Deirdre was our Zoom tech for the first half of the year, making our Sunday services available for those who could not join us in person.
- Continuing a cherished tradition, the Fourth of July reading of the Declaration of Independence in our church was once again well attended and deeply meaningful. Hearing these words read aloud together offers a powerful reminder of our shared ideals and responsibilities as a community. Now in its 26th year, we are especially grateful to Cynthia Csabay, the director, and to Arlene Hogan and Rob Baxter for their dedication in making this important event possible.
- In July, we said good-bye to Rev. Dr. Althea Smith, our two-year interim contract minister, who first joined us in October 2023 with the beloved Animal Blessing service. During her time

with us, Althea helped deepen our understanding of congregational polity, reviewed church operations, and strengthened our connection to the UUA. She also invited us into meaningful shared learning through a “common read,” fostering thoughtful conversation around works by Octavia E. Butler, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, James Baldwin, Paulo Freire, and Susan J. Ritchie. Among her lasting contributions was her collaboration with local historian Barbara White and Jim Sulzer on *High Moral Courage*, a pamphlet now available on our website that explores the historic relationship between Nantucket Unitarian Universalists and the island’s Black community.

- This year brought a number of changes in our programming. We did not hold a silent auction, and instead were grateful for a successful yard sale hosted at Paul Stewart’s home on Madaket Road and thoughtfully organized by Loretta Middleton, with all proceeds donated to the church. We also paused summer docenting and did not offer a regular Thursday Noonday Concert series. Still, we were fortunate to enjoy a special musical highlight when organist extraordinaire Carson Cooman presented a beautiful program on our Goodrich organ on Thursday, August 14. As we look ahead, we are hopeful and energized about renewing and strengthening these programs in the coming year.
- For much of the first half of this year, a great deal of our energy and attention has been devoted to essential behind-the-scenes work, especially around ministerial transition, planning, and preparation for the future. This season has required us to be flexible and quick to adapt as circumstances evolved, and our congregation has met those changes with care and resilience.
- The parsonage is now rented to a year-round tenant, an important step in supporting the ongoing life and sustainability of our church. Preparing the parsonage for rental included significant repairs, including the replacement of a 16-foot sill on the south side of the house and plastering a second-floor ceiling. We are especially grateful to Andy Bennett, whose skilled and timely work made these improvements possible. The Parsonage Rental Task Force consisted of Kathy Stevens, Jim Sulzer, Susan Richards, and Bob Middleton.
- The archives stored in the attic of the parsonage also needed to be moved. They now reside in a storage unit and are accessible. Joanne Polster is our archivist and we are thankful for her organizing skills.
- With Rev. Erin’s arrival in August, we began introducing some meaningful changes to our worship services. We now start with a welcome from a Board member, while announcements are submitted in advance to the office and included in the order of service rather than spoken aloud, creating a more focused and reflective space. Nigel enriches the service with “gathering music” before the welcome, followed by a prelude at the official start, helping set a spiritual tone and minimize personal distractions. We have also begun recognizing the Wampanoag tribe as the original stewards of the land on which we gather.
- Nigel, Rev. Erin, and Leyah have built a strong, professional, and reliable working relationship, supported by the excellent coordination of our office administrator, Alison Forsgren.
- October brought welcome and exciting news as we reached a new agreement with Congregation Shirat HaYam to return to our building this year. This partnership reflects the best of shared community and mutual care. Jan Ellsworth, Barbara Elder, and Alison Forsgren worked closely with three members of the Shirat HaYam synagogue over the course of a year, listening carefully to one another and thoughtfully exploring how their needs could be met within our shared space. Through patience, openness, and collaboration, we arrived at an agreement that honors everyone involved and affirms our commitment to sharing this historic building in a spirit of respect and cooperation.

- With the architectural guidance of Nancy Mack, we are thrilled to be creating a new office for the minister in our Activities Room. This dedicated space will provide a private, welcoming place for meetings, pastoral sessions, and daily work—something that has not been possible in the parsonage, which is now rented to a year-round tenant. By bringing the minister’s office into the heart of our church building, we hope to strengthen connections, increase accessibility, and make this ministry more visible to the whole congregation. We are deeply grateful to Caleb Kardell, who plans to complete the project by February, and we look forward to the energy, collaboration, and community that this new space will foster for years to come.
- Our committees are entering a promising period of reinvention. We invite congregants to participate, as serving on a committee is a meaningful way to contribute, build teamwork, and help keep our congregation strong and vibrant. The Board of Trustees has carefully reviewed all committees, and the Board’s approved revised committee structure is on page 35 of this report. You will see that some committees have been merged, others redefined, and gaps clarified. We hope each committee will take time to review these updates and work collaboratively with the Board to make any additional adjustments needed, so that together we can continue strengthening our congregation and its mission.
- Some of the most detailed and important work of the year has taken place in the area of church finances. This year marked a transition in our treasurer role: Paul Stewart, who served with dedication for ten years, stepped down, and we are deeply grateful for his long-standing service. Kathy Stevens became our new treasurer last January and, together with our bookkeeper, Linda Ferrantella, has worked tirelessly to strengthen the congregation’s understanding of our finances in partnership with the Board of Trustees.
- Kathy Stevens and Linda Ferrantella have guided the church’s finances with patience, collaboration, and expertise. Their thoughtful teamwork has helped the congregation develop greater financial knowledge and confidence, while ensuring deliberate steps toward long-term sustainability. With Paul Stewart’s institutional memory providing valuable context and perspective, we have been fortunate to benefit from their combined experience and dedication. As we continue to expand our use of tools such as QuickBooks for accounting and Breeze for our membership database, the church’s financial foundation grows stronger each day. Looking ahead, reporting and reviewing our investments will remain important priorities for the Finance Committee including Kathy Stevens, Bob Middleton, and Jim Sulzer.
- The Pledge Committee consisting of Randi Allfather, Susan and Peter Richards, and Barbara Elder encouraged pledges to be given by December 31st to meet a matching grant goal. Our pledges for 2026 have successfully reached the goal so that our new year’s budget can successfully be implemented.
- It is truly wonderful that we have a South Church Preservation Fund, guided with dedication by Christine Sanford as president. For two years, Christine poured her energy and care into restoring our beloved bell, and now, thanks to her unwavering commitment, we are once again blessed with the joy of hearing it toll each day. Its clear, ringing voice is more than just a sound—it is a cherished part of island life and a symbol of the heart, history, and spirit of our church community. Every toll reminds us of the connections we share, the traditions we honor, and the beauty of being part of this special congregation.

In this tumultuous moment in our country, marked by deep political divisions, we stand united as a Unitarian Universalist congregation, grounded in and upholding the shared values of our faith.

In spirit, love, and commitment,  
*Barbara Elder, President, Board of Trustees*

## Clerk's Report

Our hybrid services are still offered for all our Sunday services except the Animal Blessing and an occasional service. The number of people attending the zoom this year is about the same as last year. We have on average about 5-11 people attending our zoom meeting with a high of 23 one service. The number of Sunday service in person attendees has gone up this year with an average of 32 and highs of 42-71.

*Deirdre Duffy, Clerk*

## Music Director's Report

To the members, congregation, and Board of Trustees  
of the Second Congregational Meetinghouse Nantucket, Unitarian Universalist.

Happy New Year! It's January of 2026, and as I sit down to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the year to come, I feel quite proud of what our Meetinghouse has been able to accomplish. We said goodbye to our interim minister, the Rev Dr Althea Smith in July of 2025, and our two year long search for a settled minister resulted in finding Rev. Erin Splaine, a longtime Nantucketer with many years experience in professional ministry. Erin joined our staff team for the first time on Aug 3, 2025, and it's been a very rewarding working relationship since, with lots of new ideas, and much laughter and humor along the way. I've thoroughly enjoyed our collaborations so far, and look forward to more this year. In the music department, we've been very busy all year.

First and foremost, a huge and resounding thank you is owed to our Meetinghouse Choir. Without their steady commitment to rehearsals and services, the UU Nantucket music program would not exist in the same way. The choir featured 18 members this year. Regular singers included Cheryl Fuller, Polly Miller, Susan Robinson, Nancy Tobias, Tina Lorenzen, Amanda Torchia, Joanne Polster, and Nancy Adrian. Our summer and occasional singers included Cynthia Csabay, Tom Peppard, Sarah Todd, Sandy MacDonald, Priscilla Roosevelt, Kathy Tyrer, Jessica Sanseverino, Nicole Miller, and Jisun Reiner, Elliot Levine.

Also thanks to our members Susan Berman and Ray Saunders, Cynthia Csabay, Jim Sulzer, Chris Hanson, Bob Middleton, Sandy MacDonald, Elliot Levine, Amanda Torchia, Rob Dunbar, and Jen Dunbar for lending their musical gifts to us at various points throughout the year.

Services also featured the talents of many musicians from the wider community and the world, with local musicians Libby Veilleux, Nicole Miller, Jephte Elisca, Colin Harrington, Tom Peppard, Caleb Cressman, Graeme Durovich, Stephen Lambe, Joe Hammer, Sarah Todd, Floyd Kellogg, Molly Glazer all visited at least once, some two or three times. Adam Nie, Anthony Healy, Carson Cooman, Jessica Sanseverino, Larry Unger and Victoria Horner all joined us from Boston, Marthas Vineyard, Philadelphia, and Minnesota.

This year I've tried a slightly different format for the Music Report. Below you'll find two different ways of looking at the year. For a brief overview we have the year in bullets. If you like a narrative, skip the bullets and find a narrative. For a complete picture of the year, take a look at both!

### **2025 UU Music in bullets:**

- Service was held on 50 Sundays this year, and one extra service on Christmas Eve.
- We took two Sundays off to move from winter to summer sanctuaries, on 5/18 and 10/19.
- Of the 51 services held, I was present to lead music on 45

- we had no music on 12/28, the Quaker service, and on 6/22 we live streamed the service from General Assembly, and had minimal music that day.
- We had substitute music leadership at 4 services, with thanks to Isaiah Williams, Barbara Elder, and Tina Lorenzen for stepping in and covering the services.
- The choir sang at 37 services, and over the year featured 18 singers.
- The choir sang 39 offerings at 36 different services. 18 were new, learned this year, and 21 were from our existing library.
- We had extra musicians - members, friends of the church, or guests - augmenting service music for 24 services.
- The church hosted 4 wedding that contracted music in house. I played 3 solo, and had a guest violinist on the fourth.
- The church hosted 4 memorials, including our own beloved Minister Emeritus Ted Anderson. We also held service for member Alison Levine, longtime friend of the church Russell Morash, and David White
- We sang 88 different hymns with a number of repeat hymns, and 7 songs outside the hymnal.
- I played 67 piano solos - 21 were new to my repertoire, and 46 were recycled from previous services
- Guest musicians played or collaborated with the choir and I on 65 different pieces of music - preludes, postludes, interludes, offerings (not including supporting hymns).
- The Goodrich organ was played on 3 out of the 20 Sunday services held upstairs. It was also played at two other events this summer.

### **2025 UU music as a narrative:**

2025 began quietly, with a service featuring Elizabeth Veilleux and Amanda Torchia. The choir supported service for the rest of January, with a small but steady group. In February, we had a service featuring a full band with Colin Harrington on drums, Jepheth Elisca on piano, and Nicole Miller singing. Susan Berman and Ray Saunders gave some musical offerings in February as well.

In March, due to many members traveling, the choir took a month off. We had services featuring Cynthia Csabay, and Susan and Ray, as well as a bluegrass service with Rob Dunbar, Caleb Cressman and Chris Hanson, an Irish music service with Graeme Durovich and Stephen Lambe, and a service of piano only music. Cynthia and Chris collaborated on a service as well.

While the choir was off, I was on the choir recruitment phone, and starting in April we came back with a full choir featuring some extra members, which supported service through May. On May 18, we took our traditional moving day Sunday off, and I set up our tech system upstairs along with some help from Barbara Elder, Alison Forsgren, and a few others. On May 25, we opened our upstairs sanctuary with a Memorial Day service featuring Joe Hammer on the Goodrich Organ, and Tom Peppard on trumpet.

On June 14, UU Nantucket hosted the memorial service for the legendary Reverend Ted Anderson. The music for this service included a 16 person choir with many singers travelling from off island. Special rehearsals were held for three weeks to prepare the Mariners Anthem by William Billings, some members attending via zoom, and some in person. Marcia Hempel, who had been the organist and music director for many years during Ted's ministry, came over from her home on Cape Cod to play for the service, and wrote a piece for the service called Benefactor. All in all the music was excellent, and it was an honor to help give Ted a send off.

Otherwise, June was a quieter month, supported by the choir, but sadly we said goodbye to our dear friend Chris Hanson. Chris was a very active member of the musical world of both our Church and the broader island music scene, and we were sad to see him go, but wish him well in his new home in California. He played one final service with us on June 8. On June 15, we said goodbye yet again to our interim minister Rev Dr Althea Smith. Rev Althea had been with us almost 2

years, and had seen us through some major transitions. I enjoyed working with her, as she cared deeply about the music at our Meetinghouse, and was a strong and supportive colleague.

She did not leave however, before we had done our 4th annual July 4 Jazz Sunday, featuring the choir and two local musicians, Anthony Healy and Colin Harrington. Other music in July had a folk service led by Susan Richards, and featured Bob Middleton, Susan Berman, Ray Saunders, and the Meetinghouse choir.

On August 3, we welcomed our new minister, Rev Erin Splaine. Erin right away jumped in with both feet, and we immediately started working to create some different structures and rhythms in the service. We added two pieces of music, including shifting the prelude 'til after the welcome, and created a "musical response" which goes after the meditation. This musical response is usually one of the shorter hymns in the book, often tied with the themes of the service. Rev Erin has also changed the way we plan our services as a team - we now have a long term plan for themes that can be referenced as needed for planning music, lay led services, readings, etc.

On August 10, I felt it prudent to pull out all the stops with the music program, and invited anyone I could think of to do a service with us. We did a second jazz service with the band, Carson Cooman joined us on organ for two dates, we had a classical service featuring violin and voice, a water service featuring local singers, a service featuring Sarah Todd on singing bowls, a Sunday with Isaiah Williams on organ, our longtime UU friend Elliot Levine joined us from Shirat Hiyam for a Sunday and we wrapped up October with blessing of the animals, featuring Rob and Jen Dunbar, Susan and Ray, and Jim Sulzer. Whew!

November was a little calmer, but not before we had a wild time at our Budget Sunday with visiting musicians Larry Unger, legendary trad composer and his duo partner Victoria Horner, who tour New England and the US playing concerts, festivals, and dance events. Also in November, Tina Lorenzen served as a sub musician on Sunday and supported the entire service on Ukulele.

Which brings us to December, the last month of the year, and the time for Holiday Music! Rev Erin had some interesting new service formats for us, and was game to collaborate on my own service theme, the Charlie Brown Service of Dec 7, featuring the jazz band again, this time with Anthony Healy and Nantucket's own Floyd Kellogg who in addition to playing the UU church has also played world class venues and festivals such as Bonnaroo, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, SXSW, the Fillmore and many others. We did a carol sing on December 21, which was a new and fun way to celebrate the Sunday before Christmas, and then on Christmas Eve we held a beautiful candlelit service at 7pm. This featured music from the choir, Molly Glazer, and myself. I look forward to continuing this as an annual tradition.

And that, as they say, is a wrap to 2025! Looking back it's really hard to believe that all that happened in one year, especially since 2025 started and ended in such different places. For 2026, I look forward to building on the momentum gained in 2025. The future has many possibilities, and it's only what we make it. But with a steady team and a good foundation, I think there's many possibilities. A few of my goals for next year include continuing to grow the choir, bringing rich and diverse Sunday musical offerings, and having the organ played on more Sunday services while we are upstairs. As always, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the congregation and provide creative and interesting music for our meetinghouse.

Happy new year,  
*Nigel Goss, Music Director*

## Religious Education/World Explorers

It's been a year of exciting discovery in the children's arena of Nantucket UU: from outreach projects to bake-off extravaganzas, the fun kept pace with our energetic youth. We began the year by delving into the traditions of Kwanzaa, in a multi-week exploration of stories as well as art forms that ranged from Mkeka mat-making to stenciled cards for the congregation to bless the New Year in January's theme of "joy." Valentine's Day brought young friends old and new to RE, as we enjoyed the winter festivities of Scandinavia by making traditional Danish "honey cookies" (...with special thanks, to a generous contribution from the congregation's official bee keeper!) Then as we denned in the Activities Room for the coldest months of winter, the coziest of projects hit the table: felting, of course! Our rule of "one to give, one to keep" was maintained in our play with colorful wools: first, we made slippers for Our Island Home Residents with "retired" cashmere sweaters donated from our adult congregants. Then as "one to keep," each child got to create a plush-toy in felt of their own design...right down to hand-painted glass eyes!

With our three core children being fish-enthusiasts, Springtime was rung-in with the theme of fishing around the world. We made our own Japanese tenkara rods from bamboo, and even tied our own flies with everything "sparkly" to be found in the recycling bin. Success it was, when we hit the pond—the turtles had great fun chasing our paper-clip lures! Summer brought a time of change, as we said goodbye to our Interim Minister Althea; as well as, to the the 10th and 11th of core-kids that were raised among us from an early age to youthhood during Leyah's happy 8-years. They left us a parting gift, however, made to last: their inspired drawings fill the UU-activities book, that summer children will be able to enjoy for years to come.

A Minister more brilliant than hoped for joined the next chapter, inspiring us toward social justice in our world and bringing fresh ideas and energy. Every child's favorite service—the Animal Blessing—was a smash-success. Next we created our first intergenerational play, of Eric Carle's "Tiny Seed." And topping off the special Family Service, Reverend Erin indulged our love of cookies with a smorgasbord of decorations never seen before! There was even a second round to share, when the kid's created their first-ever Coffee Hour. With four kitchen-savvy kids, our holiday bake-fest continued into November with cupcakes and carefully-sculpted fondant. December was more memorable than ever, thanks to special intergenerational services that filled the hall with song and laughter. What a joy it has been, to be together!

*Leyah Jensen*

## Ministerial Search Task Force

The Ministerial Task Force was convened January 13, 2025, by vote of the Board of Trustees. The members of the task force were: Jan Ellsworth, Chair, Alison Forsgren, Carol Benchley, Polly Miller, Suse Robinson, and Susan Richards.

The Mission of the task force was: By Recommendation of the BOT at its 1/13/2025 meeting, using the UUA 2025 Ministry Search Handbook and the UUA Ministry Search online system, develop a timeline for the ministerial search, review CVs and interview all interested candidates, and finally, make a recommendation to the BOT of possible candidate(s) for approval.

The search timeline set by the BOT was:

- By 2/3/25: Review candidates expressing interest in our ministry; prioritize, and set up an interview schedule
- By 2/17/25: Interview all candidates
- By 3/3/25: Based on review of applications and interviews, present top 3 candidates to the BOT
- By 3/17/25: Following second interviews of top 3 candidates, present top selection to the BOT

On March 10, 2025, the task force made their final recommendation, Rev Erin Splaine. The BOT voted in the affirmative to hire Rev Splaine as a contract minister. On 3/11/2025, Rev Splaine accepted our offer as a full time, contract minister. The congregation was notified at Sunday services of the task force progress and the BOT's final decision.

The BOT formed a contract team, Jim Sulzer, Jan Ellsworth, and Susan Richards, to develop a contract with Rev Splaine (using the UUA Template).

Rev Splaine signed her contract on 3/24/25.

### Resources:

Recommendations from Congregational Transitions Director and the Ministry Search Handbook (2025) stated in part:

1. “.....the UUA now exclusively recommends the contract ministry search process for small congregations.”
2. Types of transitional ministry search:
  - **Contract:** the simplest and most flexible type of ministry search. While this is a transitional ministry, **and begins with a board hire**, it may lead to a congregational call if a good match is made. This is the type of ministry search which is recommended for congregations with fewer than 125 members. These positions may be part- or full-time.

*Jan Ellsworth*



## Buildings and Grounds Committee

For 2025 the Buildings and Grounds Committee (B&G) was divided into several separate sections:

1. The Meeting House
2. The Parsonage ..... (reports follow)
3. The Remembrance Garden ..... (report follows)
4. The rest of our grounds (our Annual Budgets anticipate hiring an “Outside” or “outdoor” Sexton to manage “the rest of our grounds”, but that has not been implemented these past years. We appreciate the various people who have pitched in to clear snow or manage ice or whatever.)

This report mainly focuses on Meeting House work.

In 2024 and the first half of 2025 Chris Hanson chaired B&G, and he called a couple of meetings to discuss the list of what needed to be done. Working with him were an irregular group including Joanne Polster, David Hall, Paul Stewart, Jim Sulzer, Ray Saunders, and Rob Baxter. Since Chris moved to California mid-2025, B&G has had neither a Chair nor any B&G meetings. Paul Stewart, Barbara Elder, and Alison Forsgren have been on-call for various issues, and have completed a number of necessary tasks.

In December 2024 the Building Inspector and Fire Inspector conducted their annual 2025 inspection of our Meeting House and made several suggestions for improvements (due to the building’s age it is “grandfathered in” and they cannot *require* changes except as part of a significant renovation project.)

In May 2025 David Barham visited Nantucket for a couple of weeks and he and Paul Stewart toured the Meeting House and grounds to develop a new list of things that needed attention.

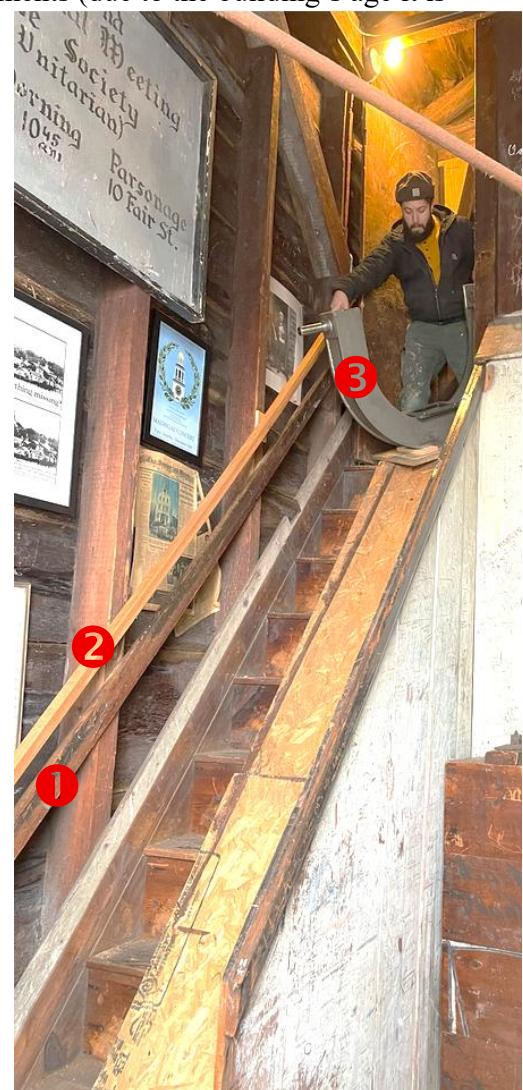
Subsequently, the South Church Preservation Fund (SCPF) took responsibility for some of those to-do items.

That list, with statuses for each item and responsibilities for most, follows.

Office Administrator Alison Forsgren helped with getting some of those recommended items done during 2025. Some others were completed by Paul, a few are in-process, and a number await further action or a final decision not to undertake them (the list was intended to be inclusive of everything that anyone thought might be desirable, but B&G and the Board make the decision on which projects to actually undertake.)

Our annual inspection for 2026 was performed on 12/12/2025. The Building Inspector expressed approval for the results of the various items he had recommended in the previous year and had no new items to recommend this year.

An example of the Building Inspector’s recommendations installed in 2025 is new handrails up the tower stairs. This picture shows both the old① and new② railings and the new bell yoke③ being sledged up to the belfry by Zoltan Zuberecz, Jr. ➔



Summary of Meeting House To-Do Items		Paul Stewart	Updated:	8/27/2025	1/5/2026
David Barham and I met on 5/28/2025 and 5/30/2025 and toured the Meeting House and and discussed to-do items.					
I took notes and photos and added his photos and started this to-do list. Not all these are "must-be-done" or even "good-to-do", but I wanted a complete list.					
I continue to add items based on Inspections and my observations, and also incorporated Chris Hanson's list.					
There is a more detailed and explanatory WORD document with pictures and details, but this is a summary of those to-do items:					
Items highlighted green are completed or OK as-is		Subsequent duplicates are greyed out.			
# To Do Item		Priority	Difficulty	Status	Responsibility
1 Dimmer for light over sanctuary podium best set on Medium		Low	Low	Done	PPS
2 Secure (27) sanctuary windows that fall down		Medium	High		SCPF
3 Remove white plywood beside sanctuary stage		Low	Low	Done	PPS
4 Inform all users that the sanctuary wall fixture shades are irreplaceable		High	Low		Administrator?
5 Aide mémoire to ATC about \$\$ help repaint ceiling stain		Low	Medium		PPS
6 Some rugs on South side of sanctuary are wearing out		Low	High	info only	
7 Water alarm under kitchen sink		Low	Low	Done	PPS
9 Paint issues in Southeast corner of sanctuary - Jack and CH18		Low	Medium		SCPF
10 Clean scuff marks in sanctuary		Low	Low	Done	PPS
11 Change mounts of three fire extinguishers in sanctuary		Do Not Do	Medium	Do Not Do	PPS
12 Add felt bumpers to all movable stuff in sanctuary		Low	Low	Done	PPS
13 Check paint in parsonage basement		Low	Low	??	Christine/SCPF
14 Pew 18 and four others need ribbons reattached		Low	Low	Done	PPS
15 Lighting brass tarnishing: wash dust off wall fixtures regularly?		Medium	High		SCPF
16 Sanctuary clock needs repair		Low	Low	Done	PPS
17 Some windows in tower are losing putty		High	High	OK as-is	SCPF
18 Hat Rack needs a replacement spindle		Low	High		part not available
19 South East downspout clogged at bottom		Medium	Low	Done	PPS
20 South trees over our roof, clogging our gutters and downspouts.		Medium	High	Done	SCPF
21 South gutter is clogged		High	High		SCPF
22 Southwest middle downspout appears to be clogged at the top		High	High		SCPF
24 Gutter cleaning		High	High		SCPF
25 Clean up the tower: remove all junk (lumber, dirt, etc.)		Low	Medium	in process	PPS
26 Various security issues (doors and windows left unlocked, ...)		High	Medium	ongoing	
27 Cell Equipment A/C not working, getting too hot		High	High	Done	PPS (via ATC)
28 Cap all screw holes on rear railing structure		Low	Low	Done	PPS
29 Rear railing structure needs a final finish coat of paint. Balusters????		Medium	Medium	use MH Paint?	
30 Organ/Choir Loft combination lock is misbehaving		Medium	Low	Done	PPS
31 Building Inspector: Sturdy handrails up steeple		Medium	Medium	Done	PPS
32 Building Inspector: Repair any unsteady treads up steeple		Low	Medium	OK as-is?	PPS
33 Fire Department: Better safety signage at entrance to steeple		Medium	High		ATC + PPS
34 Fire Department: Fire information by Hendrix Hall entrance		Medium	High		Administrator+PPS
35 Fire Department: Detectors under front foyer stairs		Medium	Medium	in process	Administrator+PPS
36 List all able-bodied people who can help with cleanup #25 above		Low	Low		Administrator
37 Clean and oil ramp railings		Low	Low	Done	PPS
38 Some ramp balusters need repair		Low	Low	Done	PPS
39 Whole ramp railing getting punky		Medium	High		SCPF???
40 Ceiling over chor loft stairs is stained - leak??		High	Medium	Done	PPS
41 Ramp downspouts are wood and some are starting to deteriorate		Low	High		SCPF???
42 Apparent white lines on photo of sanctuary ceiling		Medium	Low	Done	PPS
Chris1 Fire info panel by HH door		?	High		Working with Wayne Alarm
Chris2 Handicap access signs near ramp and HH doors		Low	Low	Done	PPS
Chris3 New trash receptacles for Parsonage and Meeting House		High	Medium	Done	PPS
Chris4 Tower railing - same as #31 above		-	-	-	-
Chris5 Locate indoor water shutoff - we know exterior shutoff		Low	Medium		PPS
Chris6 Install balusters on rear handrailing - duplicate of #29		-	-	-	
Chris7 Kill weeds around Meeting House		Medium	Low		
A. New bell-ringing rope		Low	Low	Done	SCPF
B. Rain-in prevention on bell-ringing rope		Low	Low		SCPF
F. Clean inside windows in HH		Low	Low		
J. Tabs on HH picture window are stripped		Low	Low	Done	PPS
K. Replace mechanical timer on steeple lights with light sensor		Low	Medium		PPS
L. Repair/replace tall rectangular sash on bell-ringing level		Low	Medium		ask David Hall
N. Permanent front minister sign					Board
O. Brass railing up to sanctuary podium		Medium	High	materials in hand	PPS
R. Trim River Birch away from Meeting House		High	Medium	Done	PPS
S. Trim other birch for headroom (in December-February only)				Done	PPS
T. Trim all organic materials away from Parsonage				Remembrance Garden and/or Parsonage Committees	
U. Fix loose hook eye on front of MH		Medium	Low	Done	PPS
V. Automate HH dehumidifier emptying		High	Medium		PPS
W. Thresholds on main front doors are rotting		Medium	High		SCPF
X. Wayne klaxon in tower by detector		High	Medium	in process	PPS
					Wayne Alarm to do

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stewart

## Parsonage Committee

This summer we oversaw two projects, both done expertly by carpenter/builder Andy Bennett. We replaced the 16-foot long rotten sill (or structural beam) on the side of the house facing the Episcopal Church, and we replaced the compromised ceiling in the small (spare) bedroom on the second floor.

Members of the Parsonage Committee: Nancy Mack, Jim Sulzer (co-chairs), Paul Stewart, Rob Dunbar

*Jim Sulzer*

## Parsonage Rental Committee

Because of Rev Erin's decision to live elsewhere on the island, the Board directed this committee to find a tenant for the parsonage and to seek to understand how this change would affect the status of the parsonage, especially regarding taxes. With the help of attorney Sarah Alger, we learned that we would not be required to pay income tax on the rental income, but that we would need to begin paying property tax on the parsonage unless we rented to a non-profit.

After reaching out to non-profits and not finding any definite interest, we were very fortunate through the help of realtor Robert Young to set a rental figure and then find a possible tenant: the Nantucket Hotel, which was looking to rent a home for their general manager, Carlos Castrello, and his wife Fulya. As of September 1, 2025 we began renting to the Castrellos via a signed contract with Nantucket Hotel.

As part of the agreement, the Nantucket Hotel upgraded the furniture and interior painting, thus helping to restore and preserve the building. The rental agreement is for two years with an option for a third year.

One consequence of the rental of the parsonage was that the church archives needed to be moved from the attic of the parsonage to a rental space, which Kathy Stevens found after extensive research. Through the extraordinary oversight and organizational skills of Joanne Polster, that move took place late in August, and the church archives are now safely and accessible stored at GoStoreIt, a storage facility near the airport.

Members of the Parsonage Rental Committee: Kathy Stevens, Bob Middleton, Susan Richards, Jim Sulzer

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Sulzer*

## Remembrance Garden Committee

- Overall, the plantings in the garden are doing well. The garden is maturing and coming into its own.
- However, the dahlias did not all come up this year and those that did were eaten by rabbits.
- The border between the walk and the lawn was widened and colorful annuals were added.
- Several varieties of Cyclamen were planted under the Japanese maple.
- The tall hedge on the south side of the garden belongs to the neighbors and must be pruned annually as it shades out the flower bed. Again, this year the neighbor's gardeners did an excellent job pruning it.
- A railing was installed at the steps going down to the Activities Room from the garden.
- A shed was installed to hold garden tools and supplies.
- Necessary annual pruning was accomplished. One trunk of the River Birch was removed.
- Holly McGowen cared for the pots of Japanese maples at the front of the church with lovely seasonal underplantings. Thank you, Holly
- To solve the garden maintenance issue Mark Delay was engaged to assist with the pruning, weeding, mulching, spring and fall cleanup, etc.
- In addition, Mark took over the Building and Grounds Committee job of mowing, edging and maintaining the lawn. He is very competent and doing a good job.

Very few remembrance bricks and stones have been added to the garden this year. We feel that it is time to find ways to create greater awareness of the garden among the general public and visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Mack & Joanne Polster*

## Cell Lessee Oversight Committee

The Cell Lessee Oversight Committee represents our congregation in working with American Tower Corp (ATC) and its sublessees Verizon and T-Mobile. This committee was formed in 2015 in response to requests by ATC to do significant structural work on our steeple. Since then it has included at various times Craig Spery, Jack Weinhold, Paul Stewart, and Carl Borchert.

Whenever ATC requests approval of changes to its use of our tower, this committee does the clarification and negotiating and then brings the issue to our Board of Trustees for final approval. This committee also oversees and approves the projects when they are complete.

Current projects include the replacement of the Verizon generator outside the church office window and updates and additions to various cell antennas and electronics.

This committee needs another one or two people to carry this responsibility into the future. Good candidates would be detail-oriented, have engineering and electrical knowledge, and be good at negotiating with large corporations.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paul Stewart*

## Milestones

May 27, 2025	Wedding Service	Cora Stover and Socrates Garcia
May 31, 2025	Wedding Service	Sarah Kinard and David Wierzbicki
June 7, 2025	Wedding Service	Kelly McCarthy and Jackson Carmack
June 14, 2025	Wedding Service	Megan Moseley and Matthew Corcoran
June 14, 2025	Memorial Service	Rev. Ted Anderson
June 28, 2025	Wedding Service	Catherine Kelly and Kellen Rikhoff
July 2, 2025	Memorial Service	Alison Levine
October 11, 2025	Memorial Service	Russel Morash
November 15, 2025	Memorial Service	David White

Respectfully submitted,

*Alison K. Forsgren*, Office Administrator

## Groups sharing our space

Our Church shares Hendrix Hall, the Activities Room, the Kitchen and bathrooms with four Nantucket prayer groups, and the Adult Children of Alcoholics. The prayer groups have remained the same but there have been some name changes.

We have held meetings on an intermittent basis for The Warming Place, Indivisible:Nantucket, and Immigration Resource Center.

Regular renters include:

- Masjid Al-Bahr (Mosque of the Ocean) meets Friday afternoons from late June through August. They have been with us the longest of the groups.
- Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life) are here Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evenings. They have been with us the second longest
- Inglesia Nantucket (Nantucket Church) meets Tuesday and Saturday evenings. They have been here the third longest and is the largest of the groups.
- Abundant Grace Ministries – FourSquare Church are here on Sunday evenings and are the newest prayer group to use our space.

- ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) met in the AR Monday and Wednesday in 2025. They are changing one of their programs and will be meeting here on Wednesday only in 2026.

They all are thankful and appreciative to us for providing a place for them to worship. Now that I have been working with them for over a year it is great to know them better and see them around town. I am still working on getting photos of their congregation for the bulletin board.

As of January 1, 2026, we welcome Shirat HaYam back to our meeting house. They will be holding regular services from Memorial Day until the High Holidays in Hendrix Hall and through the High Holidays upstairs in the Sanctuary. They are very happy to return.

*Alison K. Forsgren - Office Administrator*

### Lay Led Service Committee

In 2025, the congregation held a total of fifty Sunday services. Two Sundays—designated as “Move Up” Day and “Move Down” Day—were observed without services. Of the services held, sixteen were lay-led, sixteen were led by Rev. Althea Smith, and eighteen were led by Rev. Erin Splaine, together offering a well-balanced and meaningful worship life throughout the year.

The Lay Led Service Committee, consisting of Susan Richards, Kat Robinson Grieder, and Paul Stewart, met regularly to discern, design, plan, and implement one lay-led service each month. Topics were selected from a broad range of interests and perspectives, and these services often included contributions from congregants and guest speakers. Together, they reflected the depth of talent, insight, and spiritual engagement within both the congregation and the wider island community. Susan Berman also contributed a lay-led service during the year.

The congregation extends its sincere appreciation to Susan Richards, Kat Robinson Grieder, Paul Stewart, and Susan Berman for their dedication and leadership in providing thoughtful and meaningful lay-led services in 2025.

Thanks so much,

*Barbara Elder*

### Social Justice

#### Animal Ministry

If you are interested in being a part of our ministry, or have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at [susanoncobble@gmail.com](mailto:susanoncobble@gmail.com) . If you'd like to learn more about the National UUAnimal Ministry, here's the link: <https://www.uuam.org/>



With respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every being, this report is submitted by *Susan Richards*

### Immigrant Resource Center

Unfortunately, as many of you know, there was an ICE raid on Nantucket on May 27. Of the twelve we tried to track, one young woman was eventually forced to self deport after months of incarceration in a Texas prison but she is safe at the moment in Brazil and trying for asylum in

Canada. We were able to find funding for outstanding rent owed to her landlord and her friends pitched in for a lawyer and money for supplementary sundries and food while incarcerated.

The other young family we found help for is still waiting for their asylum case to be heard in March. The mother and young son's cases have been tied to the husband which helps, but their situation is tenuous. Funds were found for his bail bond and transportation back to Nantucket from a Texas prison. About two months ago, with a sudden change of plans from ICE, he was told to report to a check-in in Framingham for the GPS ankle tracker every detainee must wear. With little notice, LUCE volunteers from the Cape jumped in their cars and safely escorted him and made sure he was not followed. Many are being arrested at this check point, so he was extremely lucky and we are hoping they do not suddenly demand another check-in before March.

We have had several other people reach out for help throughout the year and have directed them to resources and hopefully good conclusions. We have worked with the LUCE neighborhood alert system and with Indivisible Nantucket to get information out if anyone sees federal agents getting on ferries or arresting people on Nantucket. Agents continue to come from time to time with warrants for specific individuals who have been arrested for crimes and that has been and continues to be accepted policy. Attached please find some information about LUCE as well as our mission statement that Reverend Splaine has read and the list of IRC Members.

Our new program to hold educational workshops for employers and their employees headed by Holly McGowan is going well. We have had two thus far with four on hold until after the holidays. In addition, we have held several workshops with church groups and have been well received.

To date, our bank balance is stable thanks to a generous donation of \$2,000.00 from the Sconset Chapel Outreach Committee on September 5, 2025. This money covers educational materials and monthly telephone. The IRC account balance will be on your Treasurer's Annual Report. It is not available as of today as there is a check outstanding to be paid from the IRC to the church for printing charged to the church by the IRC to avoid tax.

We do not have the money or the charter to do anything other than educate. However, if these raids do continue and get worse, we will have to look at ways to expand our ability to help those in need; specifically for families torn apart and needing financial assistance if the main caregiver is arrested for things like back rent, utilities, transportation back to Nantucket, repatriation fees if the rest of family left behind is forced to self-deport, etc. We have two people currently in "the wings" who have come forward with promises to help if needed. Any monies given would not pass through the IRC bank account, we would act as an intermediary.

Note: Under the new administration, judges cannot offer bail bonding so that need has disappeared. The judge may only hold the case open which means the detainee has only two options – to stay in prison or self deport.

*Polly Miller*

### **Vision:**

The Immigration Resource Center (IRC) is a committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church that envisions a welcoming and inclusive Nantucket where immigrants are empowered with knowledge, connected to essential support services, and embraced as vital members of the community. We strive to be a trusted hub, guiding individuals and families through immigration challenges by linking them with compassionate assistance both on the island and beyond, fostering dignity, understanding, and hope for all.

## **Misson:**

The Immigration Resource Center (IRC) at the Unitarian Universalist Church is dedicated to supporting immigrants on Nantucket by providing reliable information, guidance, and connections to vital services both locally and on the mainland. We strive to empower individuals and families navigating immigration issues, fostering a sense of belonging and community through advocacy, education, and compassionate support.

## **Members**

### Committee (Members of the Church)

Polly Miller, Chair

Holly McGowan

Reverend Erin Splaine, ex-officio

### Board Associate/Community Liaisons

Maria Partida, IRC Phone and Email

Manager

Cindy Garrison, former IRC committee

### Board Advisors (Members of the Church)

Alison Forsgren

Carol Benchley (Board of Trustees)

### Community Advisory Board Members

Amanda Cross

Flora Medawar

Daniel Sulliva

## Committee on Ministry

Under Article 5 of the Constitution, the Committee on Ministry is the liaison between the Minister and the congregation. Its responsibility is to oversee the quality of ministry provided by the Minister and by the congregation as a whole. It serves as a communication channel between the congregation and the Minister in furtherance of the Minister's role, and consults with the Minister about the ministry of the congregation as a whole. The Committee's broad goal is to maintain a positive congregational environment, facilitating the reconciliation of people who desire to remain in relationship with one another. The Committee discourages anonymous submission of a concern, although discussion may begin with identities undisclosed. Members or friends of the congregation are encouraged to discuss any concerns they might have with regard to ministry first with the Minister and then if needed with a member of the committee.

In 2025, the COM members who worked with Rev Dr. Althea Smith (January through July) were Carol Benchley, Loretta Middleton and Jim Sulzer. They met with Rev Althea over Zoom, hearing concerns and giving feedback and advice. The COM received Rev. Althea's self-evaluation and evaluated her performance in accordance with UUA guidelines. It was an honor to support Rev Dr. Althea Smith's ministry to our congregation.

The Committee on Ministry for Rev Erin Splaine is in the process of being formed.

--Jim Sulzer for the Committee on Ministry

## Website Committee

At the start of 2025, the website group created an updated document showing each page of the website and suggestions on changes to those pages. Several months later, Barbara Elder explained which changes she wanted to see initially to the website. The initial work was done during the months of March – June and included two major themes: updating webpages with current content and photos and following UUA guidelines for safer websites.

For the first theme, the website group deleted webpages which were old, no longer relevant, or needed more extensive work for which we did not have time. They updated several major webpages including the COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCE TEAMS page and the CONGREGATIONAL DOCUMENTS page. They added a rewritten SOCIAL JUSTICE page and

included information about the red cards for immigrants in 2 additional languages. In addition, many photos were updated on the site.

For the second theme, different types of photos were used to identify church personnel. Instead of portraits of church employees, photos of those employees with other people from a distance were used instead. In addition, all previous functionality to automatically send emails to church email addresses through the website were replaced with supplying the email addresses instead.

On an ongoing basis during 2025, edits, document additions, and highlights to congregational information were promoted and available on the website. This was generally in the form of changes for example on the home page the “Happenings” boxes 1,2, and 3 were modified for relevance. Special announcements for events and services were featured, such as July 4<sup>th</sup>, our new ministers first service, a candlelight service and others.

In other tech news, Zoom access continues to be available for those interested with each Sunday Service. This tech was and is administer by Deidre prior to her departure from Nantucket, Alison, and Rosemary. A new tech administrator Keeley has started. Keely continues to work on sharing her availability which was limited during the holidays and due to other work commitments. Sound issues intermittently plague this work particularly in the upstairs space with Hendricks Hall seemingly more zoom tech friendly. The tech team with assistance from Nigel and others act to improve and fix as issues arise. Recordings are made of each week’s service but no longer posted on the YouTube channel due to concerns regarding legal and copyright matters.

The team recommends that in the coming year a decision be made on a more complete website revision to update to align to current standards. Depending on the scope of this project, expertise and corresponding funding may be required to accomplish. Additionally, the technology used for zoom and amplification should be evaluated by a professional for recommendations at which time a determination could be made by the board any next steps which may include hardware and software options.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Deirdre Duffy*

*Rosemary McLaughlin*

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is adjusting to change in our church. As our congregation transformed over the past few years with losses in our congregation and interim ministry, we look to create new structure and ideas for this committee. We had a few events for membership over this year that required some good work on the part of a small group of members. These included a dinner to recognize outgoing treasurer Paul Stewart in February, a farewell brunch for Rev Althea in June, and a welcome brunch for Rev Erin Splaine in August. We also held a reception following the memorial service for Rev Ted Anderson, our minister emeritus, in June, which was well attended by new and old members. This fall, we introduced the concept of Circle dinners. Paul Stewart hosted the first in November. We hope to have more this coming year.

Beginning in 2026, the Membership and Pledge Committee are merged into the Membership & Stewardship Committee. We believe this will help to facilitate for more aligned and clear goals.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Elder*

Susan Richards & Barbara Elder, Membership Committee

## Pledge Campaign Committee

**2025–2026 Pledges (as of 12/25)**

**52 pledge units pledging \$90,125**

**plus a pledged matching grant of \$25,000**

Group	Annual Pledge Range	# of Units	Total Pledged
<b>Gloria Circle</b>	\$9,000+	2	\$20,000
<b>Spirit Circle</b>	\$4,000–\$8,900	6	\$34,785
<b>Devotion Circle</b>	\$2,000–\$3,900	5	\$13,320
<b>Creation Circle</b>	\$960–\$1,900	8	\$9,640
<b>Chalice Circle</b>	\$100–\$950	31	\$12,430

The pledges made to our church in the fall informs the Finance Committee for our next year's budget. Since the work by the two committees is done simultaneously, we look to the previous year for our best guesstimates.

The Pledge Committee included Barbara Elder, Randi Allfather, Susan and Peter Richards, and Jan Ellsworth. With the desire to use the software programs, Tithely (which receives our online donations, offerings, and pledges) and Breeze (which is an integrated communication program with Tithely), we needed assistance from Kat Robinson to get things operational. Kat Robinson and Alison Forsgren worked to update membership information in the program. Barbara, Alison and Kat worked together to produce a digital pledge and also a paper letter pledge to be mailed using the Breeze system. The Pledge Committee wrote handwritten notes to members encouraging them to help meet the matching grant goals. It wasn't perfect but we are learning as we go. Our goal is to be able to use the Breeze platform to execute our Pledge Campaign and all of our records of pledges.

We are in Year 2 out of our Five-Year plan. An anonymous donor continues to offer a dollar for dollar pledge matching campaign once we exceeded \$55,000 up to \$25,000. The floor of the match rises each year to help us become more self-sustainable. Last year, the floor was \$50,000 before the match began, and this year it is \$55,000. Next year, it will be \$60,000.

As of 1/10/2026, we have received 52 pledges for 2026 totaling \$90,175

In January 2024, we received 45 pledges for 2025 totaling \$55,675

In January 2023, we had received 30 pledges for 2024 totaling \$44,731

For pledges this year, we made the totals for a full matching grant of \$25,000. This year we set the date of December 31, 2025, as the cut off for the matching grant and leaned into encouraging pledges to be made in time to be eligible for the full match. That helps to establish that the funds will be there to implement of new year's budget. In both 2024 and 2025, the totals increased throughout the year.

We will likely continue to receive a few of pledges as we move into this new year. If you have already sent in your pledge, we thank you for your generous support! It takes all of us to support the Meeting House, our fine staff, the work within our congregation, and our work in the wider community. If you have not yet turned in your 2025 pledge, we ask that you do so by notifying Alison Forsgren, our office administrator, at [office@unitartianchurchnantucket.org](mailto:office@unitartianchurchnantucket.org) .

Your commitment and pledge each add up to make a difference and are very much appreciated.



Respectful submitted,  
*Barbara Elder* on behalf of the Pledge Committee  
 Randi Allfather, Susan and Peter Richards, Jan Ellsworth

## South Church Preservation Fund

### (end of) 2025 SCPF Board of Directors

Christine Sanford, Chair	<a href="mailto:ccsanford48@gmail.com">ccsanford48@gmail.com</a>	UU member
Nick Miller, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:gnicholasmiller@gmail.com">gnicholasmiller@gmail.com</a>	Independent
Polly Miller, Clerk	<a href="mailto:polymiller1@comcast.net">polymiller1@comcast.net</a>	UU member
Susan Hochwald	<a href="mailto:seas527@comcast.net">seas527@comcast.net</a>	Shirat HaYam member
Mary Bergman	<a href="mailto:mbergman@nantucketpreservation.org">mbergman@nantucketpreservation.org</a>	Independent
Bob Middleton	<a href="mailto:Robert.j.middleton.jr@gmail.com">Robert.j.middleton.jr@gmail.com</a>	UU member
David Barham	<a href="mailto:david@wading-bird.com">david@wading-bird.com</a>	UU member
Matt Maryinski	<a href="mailto:mattmski65@gmail.com">mattmski65@gmail.com</a>	Independent

1. Chris Hanson retired mid-year as SCPF treasurer after 2 years. In the late winter Chris & Nick worked together transferring all the information and responsibilities of the SCPF treasurer. In July Chris moved to California with his family. Chris was an active member of the UU Congregation, volunteering on many levels for the Meeting House, including being on Buildings & Ground and playing music with Nigel at many Sunday services. The SCPF Board of Directors are grateful for all his efforts and wish him well in his new life in CA with his boys.
2. SCPF is so pleased that Nick Miller has kindly volunteered to be the next SCPF treasurer. Nick's professionalism and attention to detail is a great asset for the SCPF. Thank you so much Nick!
3. Bob Middleton is retiring from the Board in January 2026. SCPF is grateful for all the work he has done over his years on the Board in creating a UU/SCPF spread sheet that helps to identify maintenance projects and responsibilities for the Meeting House. We will miss his positive participation in effective decision making for the well-being of the Meeting House.
4. Polly, Susan, and Mary have agreed to serve another 3 year term. The 3 year terms for Nick Miller and Matt Maryanski expire in 2028. Christine will stay on as chair for one more year retiring in 2027.

## **2025 SCPF Financial Accounting & Building Maintenance Projects**

1. Balance as of 12/2025 at The Nantucket Bank account: \$78,994.76
2. Attached is the FYI 7/31/24-8/01/25 Treasurer Report
3. Donations: Craig & Linda Sperry \$500.

4. SCPF coordinated and split the cost with UU for window washing the exterior Sanctuary windows in May. \$250.
5. SCPF coordinated and paid to have the north exterior wall of the Meeting House powerwashed in July. \$1,400.
6. Bell Hanger Project Completed 01/06/26  
Highclimbers, Inc. Zoltan Zuberecz & Son, & Chimemasters, Inc. & Paul Berard,Jr. Town clock  
Funded by a \$55,000.00 grant approved in May, 2024 by the Town CPC  
The new bell rope was donated by Madaket Marine
7. Gutter & Downspout Cleaning & Inspection Project  
T&T Roofing, Inc. Trevor Smith  
To be completed early January 2026. SCPF BoD approved estimate \$1,500.00  
Hopefully the gutters & downspouts are ok, but if not they will need to be repaired.
8. Threshold Replacement Project  
Andrew Bennett carpenter. SCPF BoD approved estimate of \$3,000. Andrew is currently working on the project.
9. Andrew Zannelli took a look at the Meeting House Orange Street facing windows. For now they are ok, but to keep a watch for the potential need for repair.
10. A SCPF fundraising letter will be mailed out in February/March 2026.

**SCPF Board of Directors recommendations for new board members to be approved at the UU Annual Meeting January 25, 2026**

Joyce Van Vorst has been a member of the Second Congregational Meeting House Society since 1974. She lives in Polpis year-round since 1976 with her husband Nils where they raised their family. Joyce worked in the Nantucket Public School for 15 years and volunteered for many years. She is an exceptional knitter and member of an island craft circle for over 30 years. She loves to garden and bird watch.

Jim Sulzer and his family have lived year-round on Nantucket since 1982. He taught English for 30 years (public schools and Nantucket New School) and has been a member of the Second Congregational Meeting House Society since 1982. He's served as president of the Board of Trustees of the church and also served on the Short- Term Rental workgroup for the Town of Nantucket. He is married to Barbara Elder. His newest novel, released in December of 2025, is *All That Smolders: A Mystery*.

Ben Moore moved to Nantucket in 1986 and has since lived here year-round raising his family and working as a well-respected island carpenter. In 2002 he started his own company, Moore Woodworking, Inc. with a focus on restoration of historically relevant buildings. With his carpentry knowledge, hands on professional experience and commitment to restoration of island historic buildings, Ben would be a great asset as a member of the board of director for SCPF, Inc.

Larry Levine has held a variety of strategic and business development positions specializing in the entertainment and telecommunications industries. He is currently the Director of Finance at the Nantucket Dreamland Foundation, Inc.. He was a director of Strategic Planning & Development for one of the largest Internet service providers in the U.S. Prior to that Dr. Levine was a strategic marketing executive for US West, a spinoff created as a result of the break-up of AT&T. Dr. Levine holds a MA in Communications from the University of Wisconsin and a PH.D. in Political Science from M.I.T.

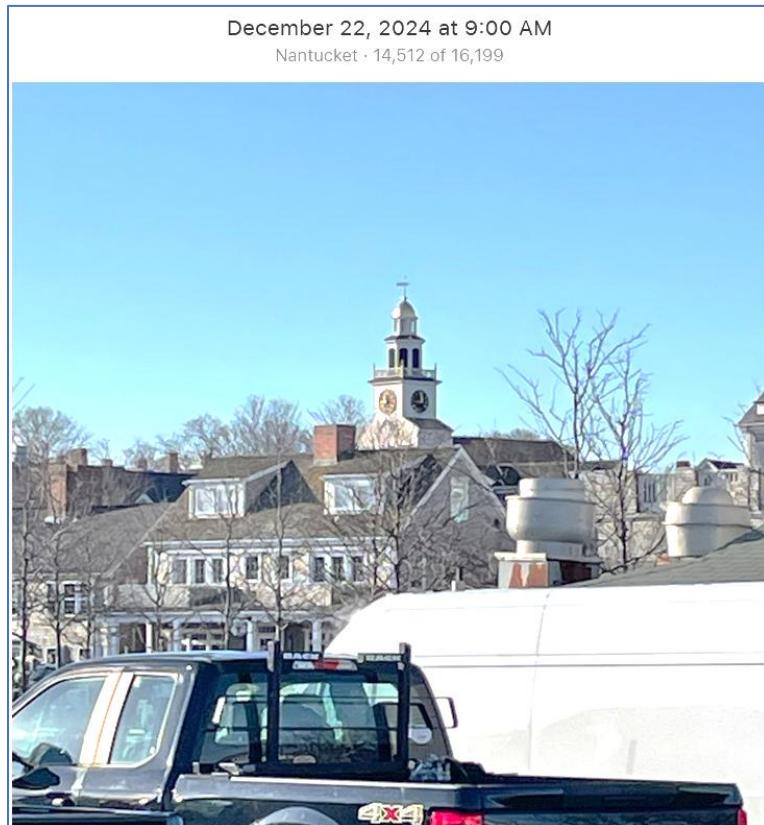
Alison Forsgren has been a member of the Second Congregational Meeting House Society since 1994. She has been a real estate broker on Nantucket since 1981, now semi-retired. She was a founding member of both Indivisible:Nantucket and Friends of Our Island Home, still keeping her busy.

**Article 2**  
***Board of Directors***

The board of trustees of the Society shall nominate a board of directors of the Fund, who shall then be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Society at a called meeting. The board of directors shall consist of no fewer than seven (7) and no more than eleven (11) members, of whom a minority may be nonmembers of the Society. The directors shall be elected for staggered terms of three years. Vacancies occurring on the board of directors due to an uncompleted term may be filled by the board of trustees of the Society at any of its meetings. .

<b><u>Nominees for SCPF Director for three year terms</u></b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>term ending</b>
Polly Miller.....	UU member	2029
Susan Hochwald.....	Shirat HaYam member	2029
Mary Bergman.....	Independent	2029
Joyce Van Vorst .....	UU Member	2029
Jim Sulzer .....	UU member	2029
Ben Moore.....	Independent	2029
Larry Levine .....	Shirat HaYam member	2029
<b><u>And to fill the rest of Matt Maryinski's term</u></b>		
Alison Forsgren .....	UU Member	2028

Election of those nominees would result in 6 Society members and 5 nonmembers, consistent with the SCPF Bylaw as above.



# Profit and Loss

## South Church Preservation Fund

Date Range: Aug 01, 2024 to Jul 31, 2025

Report Type: Cash Basis (Paid)

SCPF

### ACCOUNTS

Aug 01, 2024  
to Jul 31, 2025

#### Income

Donations	\$29,730.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$29,730.00</b>

<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
---------------------------------	---------------

<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$29,730.00</b>
As a percentage of Total Income	100.00%

#### Operating Expenses

Accounting Fees	\$650.00
Advertising & Promotion	\$682.45
Officers Liability Insurance	\$965.27
Postage & Delivery	\$302.00
Professional Fees	\$71.55
Repairs & Maintenance	\$840.98
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,512.25</b>

<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$26,217.75</b>
As a percentage of Total Income	88.19%

# Balance Sheet

## South Church Preservation Fund

As of Jul 31, 2025

Report Type: Cash Basis (Paid)

SCPF

ACCOUNTS	Jul 31, 2025
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Cash and Bank</b>	
Rockland Trust Bank Account	\$80,702.51
<b>Total Cash and Bank</b>	<b>\$80,702.51</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Long-term Assets</b>	
<b>Total Long-term Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$80,702.51</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Long-term Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Beg Bal Equity	\$92,836.97
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	
Profit for all prior years	-\$38,352.21
Profit between Aug 1, 2024 and Jul 31, 2025	\$26,217.75
<b>Total Retained Earnings</b>	<b>-\$12,134.46</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$80,702.51</b>

Respectfully submitted by:  
*Christine Sanford, chair, SCPF*

## Treasurer's Report

Today the congregation is financially stable with a growing level of pledging, a diversified & low-cost investment portfolio of almost two and a half million, and no debt. The Finance Committee report explains this in greater detail. I am excited about our future possibilities.

As Treasurer, I believe my job is to also provide reports for you so that you can assess the financial health of the congregation for yourself. The 2025 Statement of Activities and the comparative Statement of Financial position as of 12/31/2025 and 12/31/2024 including their footnotes are these reports. They are in a separate document available on the website and on paper available from me. If you have any questions, the best way to reach me is by email at [Auntkate73@gmail.com](mailto:Auntkate73@gmail.com)

My primary accomplishment during my first year was transitioning to QuickBooks Online as our primary bookkeeping system. As a result, I was able to produce the 2025 Statement of Activities and the comparative Statement of Financial position as of 12/31/2025 and 12/31/2024. Additional internal management reports will be developed during 2026. Special thanks to Linda Ferrantella, who has served as our bookkeeper.

Transition to the new online accounting system was possible only because of Paul Stewart's meticulous stewardship of our financial data for many years. The ease of the transition to QuickBooks Online is due to the hard work of four people during 2024: Adam Berman, Barbara Elder, Linda Ferrantella, and Paul Stewart. The 2024 Annual Report describes their work.

*Respectfully,  
Kathy Stevens  
Treasurer*

## Finance Committee Report

### Executive Summary

1. Today the congregation is financially strong with a growing level of pledging, a diversified & low-cost investment portfolio of almost two and a half million, and no debt.
2. In 2025 we withdrew from the investment portfolio only income earned last year in support of the operating budget. On December 31, 2025 the Vanguard portfolio balance was \$2,475,850. This is larger than the prior year portfolio balance after being adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.
3. Our five-year income plan begun in 2025 allows us to invest in our staff and our programs in order to grow and achieve our potential. Over the next few years that plan gradually decreases its level of support, challenging our growing congregation to make up the difference.

In 2025 the Finance Committee continued its work in support of our church, our finances, and our budgeting process while living into our UU faith. Working collaboratively over many meetings, the Fin Com addressed a number of issues. Those included:

- ongoing oversight of our investments and spending;
- developing a safe, newly streamlined process for making and recording deposits;
- analyzing the financial implications surrounding the decision by our new minister, the Rev Erin Splaine, to live not in the parsonage but to find housing of her own;

- identifying the funding for a new capital expense project approved by the Board of Trustees—a new office to be built in the Activities Room;
- preparing the 2026 budget.

Some of these issues, such as the rental of the Parsonage, were new to the Fin Com. On this issue, members of the Fin Com stepped forward to research the tax implications of rental, the expected amount of monthly rent, and the overall implications for our budget. The Fin Com also took the lead in finding a storage unit for the Archives, which needed to be moved out of the Parsonage.

Other issues, such as the preparation of a budget, were more familiar, and here the Fin Com, led by Kathy Stevens, worked carefully to discuss just about every detail of this involved document.

Discussions were lively but cordial, and the Fin Com is satisfied with the financial health of our institution.

Members in 2025:

Kathy Stevens (head), Bob Middleton, Jim Sulzer, Jan Ellsworth (Board Member), Barbara Elder (Board President), Rev. Erin Splaine

--submitted by the Finance Committee

-- more Finance Committee report follows –

Second Congregational Meeting House Society Nantucket UU:  
Fin Com Proposed 2026 Operating Budget Approved at Dec 17, 2025 BOT meeting

The 2026 budget is very much like the current 2025 budget. 2/3rds is compensation for people: a full time minister & 5 part time staff. The minister's compensation reflects her annual contract (August 1 to July 31). This budget includes a 3% cost of living increase for all other W-2 staff. 1/3rd is building costs (insurance, utilities, maintenance, repairs, real estate taxes on the parsonage & provisions for future capital costs), computer infrastructure (hardware, licensing fees, & Sunday tech support), office supplies, and annual support for the UUA.

	Proposed	Approved	Difference
Revenue & Operating support	2026	2025	Between
	Budget	Budget	2026 & 2025
Contributions: Annual Commitments/Pledges	110,000	101,500	8,500
Contributions: Sunday Plate & onetime gifts	14,500	14,000	500
Rentals	112,937	85,297	27,640
Fund Raising	3,500	26,800	-23,300
Sanford Trust	8,500	8,500	0
Restricted Funds Earned	1,950	0	1,950
Designated Funds earned	1,500	0	1,500
Operating Support from Investments	120,271	112,962	7,309
Sub-total	373,158	349,059	22,099
Deficit in 2024 Annual Report narrative	0	29391	-29,391
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Operating Support</b>	<b>373,158</b>	<b>378,450</b>	<b>-5,292</b>

**Expenses**

PGRM-Ministry	136,422	135,498	924
PGRM-Music	45,060	43,659	1,401
PGRM-Religious education	16,016	11,959	4,057
PGRM-Parsonage: EXC Capital Maintenance	14,900	21,758	-6,858
PGRM-PAR Capital Maintenance Prov.	7,400	8,541	-1,141
PGRM-Meeting House EXC Cap Main Prov.	64,538	67,213	-2,675
PGRM- MH Capital Maintenance Prov.	3,000		3,000
PGRM: Committees	1,400	1,400	0
PGRM-UUA Dues Contribution	7,875	7,875	0
Support-Admin	76,547	77,047	-500
Contingency	0	3,500	-3,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>373,158</b>	<b>378,450</b>	

Every line item in the summary budget above has a supporting spreadsheet with transactional level detail. If you want more detail, email me at [Auntkate73@gmail.com](mailto:Auntkate73@gmail.com)

Motion: I MOVE we follow the unanimous recommendations of our Finance Committee and Board of Trustees and approve the Proposed 2026 Budget on page 30 of our 2025 Annual Report.

## Notes on Income and Operating Support from Vanguard Investment Portfolio

**Contributions:** *Annual Commitments/Pledges:* Thank you to everyone who generously supported this congregation with a pledge or gift for the 2026 operating budget. This is an area that has been growing, and will need to keep growing vigorously in the future, in order for our congregation to continue its many important programs and initiatives.

**Contributions:** The *Sunday plate collections* have been about \$10,000 last year and this. *One time gifts* vary enormously from year to year. We have been conservative in our estimates.

**Rentals** are up because of two new tenants. Shirat Ha Yam will again be sharing our space starting next summer. The other new tenant is renting the parsonage from which we will net \$38,000 after we pay real estate taxes. Our tenants include 12 with leases plus many weddings and memorial services.

**Fund Raising:** Our expectations for next year are very modest reflecting the actual amount raised in 2025 which was \$2,694. Restarting the Silent Auction again is an opportunity. Fund raising is an area that we may wish to regrow.

**Frederick Sanford Charitable Trust:** We are the beneficiary of a charitable trust managed by BNY Inc., which last year generated about fifteen thousand dollars. Thank you, Frederick Sanford.

**Donor Restricted Funds:** Donors give us funds in advance to support a specific project or purpose. If we do not complete the project, we are legally required to return the unused funds.

**Board Designated Funds:** The board decides that some projects require a longer term perspective such capital repairs & upgrades. Sometimes there is an actual separate bank account or brokerage account. Usually the set aside is only in the accounting records.

**Operating support from Investments:** We are blessed to have a Vanguard investment portfolio currently valued at almost two and a half million dollars. They provide 30% of our operating budget. Because of these funds we can afford a full time minister and support staff.

When we decide how much to transfer from Vanguard investments into the operating account, we balance financial needs today against the financial needs of future boards. We are guided by a legal standard called the Prudent Man Rule. In the nonprofit world, it is considered prudent to keep withdrawal rates between 4% and 5% of a 3 year rolling average of the portfolio market value because this rate is sustainable over long periods of time under varying market environments. Other research shows that sustained withdrawal over 7% leads to a long term decrease in the value of the portfolio.

Our 2026 budget withdrawal is \$ 120,271 which is a 5.6 % withdrawal rate. The finance committee supports this higher than desirable withdrawal rate for this year based on the Five Year Plan for 2025-2029. It would be prudent to reduce the withdrawal rate through either increasing revenues or decreasing expenses.

**Notes on Expenses:** Expenses are organized according to the purpose they serve.

**Ministry:** Our most important activity, supporting our spiritual leader, is also our most expensive. Last year it was difficult to estimate because we were in search. This year we have more certainty. Our actual cost is lower than anticipated because our Minister qualifies for Medicare and her relocation costs were a onetime expense. Ministerial compensation is determined by the terms of an annual contract which is adjusted annually effective August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Buildings:** On net, our building costs have decreased. Our meetinghouse insurance premium for property and casualty decreased in 2025 because of reorganization by Church Mutual Insurance. The parsonage costs decreased because we have a tenant who is paying utilities.

**Administrative Support:** In the aggregate costs stayed about the same. The administrator job is being redesigned and the pay rate increased modestly to reflect additional levels of responsibility.

**Music:** Costs rose a modest 3% reflecting the 3% raise and a small increase in the guest musician fee.

**Faith Formation/Religious Education:** The four thousand dollar increase stems from a 2 hour/week increase in time and a 3% raise in pay rate.

**Committees, UUA Dues, & Contingency:** The first two stayed the same. We eliminated Contingency as a line item. Rather we practiced conservatism throughout the budgeting process.

#### **New information received after 12/17/2025**

Fincom tracks subsequent information. We reserve the right to change the budget before the annual meeting if we feel the information changes the congregation's financial situation materially. Otherwise, we simply track it.

#### **2025 Financial Statements.**

A budget represents a projection of anticipated financial activity for the coming year. Because actual experience may differ from those projections, the Treasurer's Report will include the 2025 Financial Statements—the Statement of Activities and the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025—which document the church's actual financial performance and position. These reports are commonly referred to as “actuals,” as they reflect what in fact occurred during the fiscal year.

## Five Year Income Increase Plan

[copied from our 2024 Annual Report and not updated since then:]

This proposal is designed to generate an increase in our income, from three strands:

- bequests received in 2024 will be divided evenly and used over a 5-year period starting 2025
- the yearly draw from unrestricted reserves, now at 3.5%, will temporarily increase to 4.5%
- a new matching pledge will be offered over 5 years, starting at \$25,000 per year

Here is a detailed summary. These income figures do not include rental income or pledges.

Year	Bequests	Matching Pledge	Draw down from reserves	Total income	Increase over 2024
<b>2024</b>	-	-	\$66,526 (3.5%)	\$ 66,526	-
<b>2025</b>	\$27,535	\$25,000	\$84,884 (4.5%)	\$137,419	\$70,893
<b>2026</b>	\$27,535	\$25,000	\$84,884 (4.5%)	\$137,419	\$70,893
<b>2027</b>	\$27,535	\$20,000	\$75,453 (4%)	\$122,988	\$56,462
<b>2028</b>	\$27,535	\$15,000	\$75,453 (4%)	\$117,988	\$51,462
<b>2029</b>	\$27,535	\$15,000	\$66,021 (3.5%)	\$108,556	\$42,030

Notes:

- The bequests, totaling \$137,677, are from Kathy Duncombe and an anonymous donor. This money was received in 2024 and is being held in a separate account from reserves.
- The matching pledge is from a member of the congregation who wishes to remain anonymous. The amount of the matching pledge will decline in years 3 to 5 as shown above.
- The percentage of draw from unrestricted reserves will decline in years 3 to 5 as shown above—from 4.5% back down to 3.5% in year 5.
- The unrestricted reserves figure used to compute the 3.5% in 2024 was \$1,900,733. For 2025, using Paul's estimates, that figure will be slightly lower: \$1,886,321. For the purposes of these figures, I've estimated that the \$1,886,321 figure will continue to be used during the next several years, though of course it will vary somewhat.

*Jim Sulzer*  
October 6, 2024

## Recent Trustees

Trustee Term:	ends Jan 2015	ends Jan 2016	ends Jan 2017	ends Jan 2018	ends Jan 2019	ends Jan 2020	ends Jan 2021	ends Jan 2022	ends Jan 2023	ends Jan 2024	ends Jan 2025	ends Jan 2026	ends Jan 2027	ends Jan 2028	ends Jan 2029							
1	Brian Lora	Lora Stewart		Kat			Kristina Open			Deirdré Duffy												
2		Joy	Christine	Alison			Lydia	Lora		Jan Ellsworth												
3	Linda S.	Cynthia Csabey		Susan Richards			Susan Richards			Chris Hanson Rosemary McLaughlin												
4	John R.	Joanna Greenfield		#Nancy	Rob			Randi Allfather			Randi Allfather											
5	Jan Ellsworth		Val Hall		Natalie			Kathy	Carol Benchley		Carol Benchley											
6	Stephen Estabrooks	Clay Open		Carl Borchert			Carl Borchert	open														
7	Jim Sulzer		Peter Richards		Loretta			Barbara Elder														
8	Susan Richards		Michelle	Joanne	Susan Berman			Suse Robinson		Suse Robinson												
9 Treasurer	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Jeffrey/Kat	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Kathy	Kathy									
Minister:	Rev. Linda Simmons								Rev. Dr. Althea Smith		Rev. Erin Splaine											
Pink:	Current voting Trustees																					
Yellow:	open (6 - 9 elected trustees)																					
Blue:	to be elected at Annual Meeting??																					
Gold:	Past Trustees																					
# One year term to correct uneven balance of terms ending at same time.																						
Nominating Committee:		Christine	Stephen	Lora	Val	Joanne	Randi	Jim	Jim	SusanR	SusanR											
		David	Jan	Janet	Suse	Anne	Anne	Anne	Anne	Anne	Loretta											
		SusanR	SusanR	Christine	John	Jim	Peter	Peter	Peter	Kat	Kat											
Constitution:	<b>Article 3 Board of Trustees and Officers</b> The Board of Trustees shall be the governing body of the Church and shall have six to nine elected members, each of whom shall serve a three-year term, excepting the treasurer, who is elected annually and may be re-elected for an indefinite number of consecutive terms. There shall be an interval of at least one year after Trustees (other than the treasurer) have completed two full or partial consecutive terms before they shall be eligible for reelection. The Board shall elect a President, a Vice President, and a Clerk from among its members. Church membership is a prerequisite for holding an elected position on the Board of Trustees.																					
	<b>Article 8 Nominating Committee</b> The nominating committee shall be elected at the annual meeting following nominations from the floor. It shall consist of three members who shall serve for one year and shall present to the annual meeting a list of nominees for all vacancies on the Board of Trustees, including individuals filling any unexpired term(s) that may exist. This shall not preclude nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Trustees in the course of the year shall be filled through appointment by the nominating committee.																					

## Board-approved Revised Committee Structure

[See page 8 for a short discussion of this revision.]

This is an outline of the revised committee structure:

### Second Congregational Unitarian Universalist Nantucket Committee and Leadership Structure

#### ❖ Congregation/Membership – Ultimate Authority

- **Board of Trustees (BOT) – Governing Body**
  - Reporting Directly to the BOT
    - Buildings and Grounds Committee
    - Finance Committee
    - Membership and Stewardship Committee
  - **Minister (Pastoral Care/Head of Staff)**
    - Reports Directly to the Minister
      - Lifespan Religious Education
      - Social Justice Committee
      - Caring Committee
        - ◆ Shawl Ministry
      - Worship Committee

#### ❖ Committee on Ministry (Liaison between Minister and Congregation)

#### ❖ Nominating Committee

Je 12/18/25

This will be incorporated into an update of our Congregational Handbook when time permits.

## Committees

### Committees Established by the Constitution

#### *Board of Trustees*

The Board of Trustees consists of 6–9 voting members serving staggered three-year terms (except the Treasurer), plus the Minister as a non-voting member. The Board oversees congregational operations as approved at the annual meeting. (Article 3)

**Officers:** President, Vice President, Clerk, Treasurer.

- **President:** Sets agendas, moderates meetings, and serves ex officio on committees.
- **Vice President:** Assists the President and presides in their absence.
- **Clerk:** Maintains membership rolls, records, pledge statements, minutes, and archives (with the Treasurer).
- **Treasurer:** Serves on the Finance Committee; prepares monthly financial statements; oversees archives with the Clerk.

## ***Committee on Ministry***

The Committee on Ministry serves as liaison between the Minister and congregation, supporting healthy relationships and effective ministry. It consults with the Minister on congregational life, pastoral care needs, professional development, and compensation recommendations, and helps address concerns constructively. Members are encouraged to raise concerns first with the Minister, then with the Committee if needed. (Article 5)

## ***Nominating Committee***

Elected annually, the three-member Nominating Committee serves one-year terms. It presents nominees for Board vacancies and Treasurer at the annual meeting and may appoint interim Board replacements as needed. The Committee attends at least one Board meeting by September to review the Board Covenant and desired skills for nominees. (Article 8)

---

## **Committees Established by the Board of Trustees**

### ***Buildings & Grounds Committee***

The Buildings & Grounds Committee stewards the congregation's physical assets in support of its mission, ministries, and community life. The Committee is responsible for the care, maintenance, safety, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of the Meeting House, Parsonage, and grounds, ensuring that facilities are welcoming, functional, and preserved for future generations.

Working in collaboration with the maintenance sexton (ex officio, non-voting), staff, volunteers, and outside contractors, the Committee provides both day-to-day oversight and long-range planning for congregational facilities.

#### **Responsibilities of the Buildings & Grounds Committee include:**

- **Facilities Oversight:** Monitoring the condition of buildings, grounds, and equipment; coordinating routine maintenance, repairs, and seasonal tasks.
- **Safety and Accessibility:** Addressing issues related to safety, accessibility, code compliance, snow removal, storm preparedness, and risk reduction.
- **Capital Planning:** Anticipating repair, replacement, and improvement needs; recommending capital projects and budget priorities to the Board of Trustees.
- **Project Management:** Reviewing proposals, overseeing contractors, and coordinating larger maintenance or improvement projects, in consultation with the Board as required.
- **Preservation and Stewardship:** Supporting the care of historic structures and grounds, including collaboration with the South Church Preservation Fund on restoration and preservation efforts.
- **Volunteer Coordination:** Enlisting and coordinating volunteers for maintenance, gardening, and improvement projects.
- **Environmental Responsibility:** Encouraging sustainable practices in building operations and grounds care, consistent with UU values and congregational priorities.

Routine repairs and minor expenditures fall within the Committee's authority. Major projects, changes to historic structures, substantial alterations to the grounds, or purchases of capital items or expenditures over \$500 require approval of the Board of Trustees.

Through its work, the Buildings & Grounds Committee helps ensure that congregational facilities remain safe, accessible, sustainable, and supportive of worship, programs, and community engagement.

## ***Finance Committee***

The Finance Committee supports the financial health, integrity, and long-term sustainability of the congregation by advising the Board of Trustees on all matters relating to church finances. Grounded in principles of stewardship, transparency, and fiduciary responsibility, the Committee helps ensure that the congregation's financial resources are aligned with its mission, goals, and ministries. The Finance Committee is not a canvass, pledge, or fundraising committee.

### **Responsibilities of the Finance Committee include, but are not limited to:**

- **Financial Strategy:** Reviewing congregational goals and needs as defined by the Board and articulating these in terms of short- and long-term financial strategies.
- **Budget Development:** Developing the annual operating budget in collaboration with staff, committees, and ministry leaders, within the context of current financial realities and long-term goals; presenting the proposed budget to the Board of Trustees for approval by December 15 and to the congregation at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.
- **Financial Oversight:** Monitoring assets, liabilities, income, and expenses; reviewing monthly and annual financial statements; and providing regular (at least annual) reports to the Board of Trustees and the congregation.
- **Investments and Long-Range Planning:** Advising the Board on investment strategies, reserve policies, and long-term financial planning, including anticipated capital, staffing, and programmatic needs.
- **Audit and Financial Controls:** Arranging for an annual audit or financial review and supporting sound financial controls, policies, and best practices.

**Membership:** The Finance Committee has at least three members, including the Treasurer, who serves as an ex officio member. Members serve one-year renewable terms.

**Chair:** The Finance Committee Chair is appointed by the Board of Trustees for a one-year renewable term. The Chair proposes committee members for Board approval and makes a good-faith effort to ensure that the Committee reflects a broad range of congregational experience, perspective, and involvement.

**Vacancies:** Members who resign during their term may be replaced for the remainder of the year, with replacements proposed by the Chair and approved by the Board.

**Guests:** The Minister and the President of the Board, though not voting members of the Committee, are encouraged to attend Finance Committee meetings and will be notified of all meetings.

**Meetings:** The Finance Committee normally meets monthly and adjusts its schedule as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

The Committee has at least three members, including the Treasurer (ex officio). Members serve one-year renewable terms. The Chair is appointed by the Board.

## ***Membership & Stewardship Committee***

The Membership & Stewardship Committee strengthens congregational vitality by nurturing an engaged, welcoming community and fostering a shared commitment to the financial stewardship of the church. The Committee supports the full arc of congregational involvement—from first-time visitors through long-term membership—while ensuring members understand how their participation and financial contributions sustain the congregation's mission and ministries.

**Core areas of responsibility include:**

- **Hospitality and Welcome:** Designing and maintaining welcoming practices for visitors and newcomers; coordinating greeters, follow-up communications, orientations, and pathways to membership.
- **Membership Care and Engagement:** Supporting current and summer members; encouraging participation in worship, programs, leadership, and governance; recognizing milestones and transitions in congregational life.
- **Community Building:** Planning and supporting social and relational activities such as Seasonal Suppers, the Summer Members' Gathering, and other events that strengthen connection and belonging.
- **Stewardship Education:** Helping members understand the congregation's financial needs, values, and goals; promoting a culture of generosity, gratitude, and shared responsibility throughout the year.
- **Annual Pledge Campaign:** Planning and conducting the annual pledge drive (mid-September–October 31), including developing timelines, materials, communications, canvasser recruitment and training, and campaign events; coordinating with the Finance Committee; and reporting results to the Board in November.
- **Assessment and Improvement:** Evaluating membership trends, engagement levels, and pledge campaign outcomes; identifying patterns, challenges, and opportunities; and recommending improvements to practices, communications, and strategies.
- **Collaboration:** Working closely with the Minister, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, and other committees to align membership, engagement, and stewardship efforts with the congregation's mission and annual goals.

***Lifespan Religious Exploration Committee***

This Committee oversees religious and ethical programming for children, youth, and adults. It sets program goals, recruits leaders, selects curricula, evaluates programs, and works with the Minister to align programming with congregational mission. The Committee includes at least three members, with the Minister and Lead Teacher serving ex officio.

---

**Congregational Committees*****The Caring Team & Shawl Ministry***

**Our Mission:** The Caring Team, reactivated in 2014, serves to augment the pastoral care provided by our Minister and to cultivate a vibrant culture of mutual support and compassion throughout our Meeting House community.

**How We Help (In coordination with the Minister):**

- **Practical Assistance:** We facilitate providing meals, transportation, and errands for those facing temporary challenges.
- **Needs Identification:** We help identify congregational needs and connect individuals with supportive resources from within our community.
- **Personal Outreach:** We extend warmth and connection through phone calls, visits, and cards to parishioners when appropriate.
- **Household Support:** We can facilitate or provide help with small household chores as needed.
- **Community Engagement:** We encourage all members to participate in embodying our shared mission of care.

**A Culture of Care:** Our community has a deeply ingrained history of caring for one another. Often, when a congregant faces a difficult time, members spontaneously organize meals, visits, and transportation to appointments or church activities, demonstrating our inherent generosity. Continuing home visits to members unable to attend services remains a key priority for the Team.

**The Shawl Ministry:** Initiated in late 2013, our Shawl Ministry has seen a heart-warming response from volunteers. Members lovingly knit and crochet shawls that are given to parishioners (and close affiliates) during times of challenge. Each shawl is a tangible expression of the love and embrace of the entire congregation. Before being gifted, every effort is made to pass the shawls among the membership for their collective good thoughts and blessings during a special "shawl blessing" ritual.

### *Social Justice Committee*

The Social Justice Committee advances the congregation's commitment to living Unitarian Universalist values in the wider world. Grounded in the UU Principles—particularly respect for the interdependent web of all existence, the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations—the Committee encourages faithful action, witness, and service that respond to local, national, and global needs.

The Committee helps the congregation discern where it is called to act, educates members about social and environmental justice issues, and provides opportunities for advocacy, partnership, and service. Its work is guided by UU theology, an understanding of systemic injustice, and a commitment to equity, sustainability, and inclusion.

Responsibilities of the Social Justice Committee may include:

- **Discernment and Focus:** Identifying priority justice issues through congregational conversation, reflection, and alignment with UU values and mission.
- **Education and Engagement:** Providing forums, programs, and resources that deepen understanding of social, racial, environmental, and economic justice concerns.
- **Advocacy and Witness:** Coordinating opportunities for public witness, advocacy, and civic engagement, consistent with congregational policy and UU practice.
- **Direct Service and Partnership:** Supporting and partnering with community organizations, especially those serving marginalized and vulnerable populations.
- **Environmental and Climate Justice:** Promoting sustainability and care for the interdependent web through education, action, and advocacy.
- **Congregational Participation:** Encouraging broad participation across ages and identities and collaborating with other committees and ministries.

Examples of past or potential initiatives include food rescue, immigration support, welcoming and supporting immigrant and J-1 visa workers, gun violence prevention advocacy, gender justice and inclusion efforts, climate action, and responsive service to emerging community needs.

Through its work, the Social Justice Committee helps the congregation embody its faith through action, connecting spiritual values with meaningful engagement in the world.

### *Worship Committee*

The Worship Committee supports and enriches the congregation's worship life in partnership with the Minister and other worship leaders, consistent with Unitarian Universalist theology, values, and practices. The Committee helps ensure that worship is spiritually meaningful, inclusive, accessible, and reflective of the congregation's mission, covenant, and UU Principles and Sources.

Responsibilities of the Worship Committee include:

- **Worship Planning and Support:** Collaborating with the Minister on the planning and coordination of Sunday worship services, including minister-led, lay-led, and guest-led services, while respecting the Minister's primary role in worship leadership.
- **Lay Participation in Worship:** Recruiting, training, and supporting worship associates, lay leaders, readers, and other congregants who participate in worship leadership.

- **Lay-Led Worship Services:** Discernment, design, and implementation of lay-led services (traditionally one per month), drawing on UU resources, congregational experience, and community voices.
- **Worship Elements:** Supporting the selection and coordination of worship elements such as music, hymns, readings, prayers, rituals, and responsive moments, with attention to UU traditions, creativity, and multigenerational engagement.
- **Seasonal and Special Services:** Assisting with the planning of holiday and seasonal services, multigenerational worship, memorial services, and services involving guest speakers, in collaboration with the Minister and staff.
- **Worship Environment and Accessibility:** Attending to the worship experience as a whole, including flow, pacing, accessibility, inclusivity, and the physical and emotional worship environment.
- **Reflection and Evaluation:** Engaging in ongoing reflection on the congregation's worship life, gathering feedback, and offering insights and recommendations to support spiritual growth and vitality.

Through its work, the Worship Committee helps cultivate worship that is welcoming, participatory, and grounded in Unitarian Universalist identity, serving both the congregation and the wider community.

Reformatted and Updated by the Board of Trustees, Barbara Elder, 12.17.25

(Changes - Pledge Committee and Membership Committee merged; Worship Committee replaces LayLed Committee)

*Barbara Elder*





## Call to 2026 Annual Meeting

Posted and sent to Members and friends by eBlast on January 15, 2026.

**Article 7 Meetings** The annual meeting of the Church shall be held within six weeks of the end of the fiscal year for the purpose of electing Trustees and transacting all other business. Special meetings may be called at the order of the Board only for such purposes as may be specified in the call. Ten days' notice shall be given for each such meeting. Notification by email shall suffice as notification for those members with established email addresses, except for those members who request written notification. A quorum for such meetings shall be thirty percent of the number of members most recently certified to the UUA.

from our Constitution

In January 2025 we certified 80 members to the UUA, so a quorum would be (30% \* 80 =) 24.

At their 1/14/2026 meeting our Board voted unanimously to approve this Notice or Call.

### **Notice and Call to the 2026 Annual Meeting Second Congregational Meeting House Society / Unitarian Universalist**

Notice is hereby given that the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Second Congregational Meeting House Society (Unitarian Universalist) will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026**, immediately following a shortened Sunday worship service, at approximately **11:30 a.m** at 11 Orange Street, Nantucket.

The service and meeting will be held in a **hybrid format**, both **in person and via Zoom**.

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 923 1698 6312  
**Passcode:** 001809

In case of severe bad weather, both the Sunday service and the Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom. See our website or eBlast for notice.

All are warmly invited and encouraged to attend. **Voting is limited to Members of the Society.** The purposes of the Annual Meeting are described in this notice and are further detailed in the accompanying Agenda.

Supporting materials—including the **Congregational Handbook** (with Constitution, policies, and procedures), the **2025 Annual Report** (including minutes of the prior Annual Meeting), and the **proposed 2026 budget**—will be available on the church website at **UnitarianChurchNantucket.org** and in paper form upon request through the church office.

Respectfully,

Your Board of Trustees:

Barbara Elder, President  
Jan Ellsworth, VP  
Deirdre Duffy, Clerk  
Kathy Stevens, Treasurer

Randi Allfather  
Carol Benchley  
Rosemary McLaughlin  
Susan Robinson  
Rev. Erin Splaine (non-voting)

## Nominating Committee

The 2025 Nominating Committee, elected by the 2025 Annual Meeting, consisted of Susan Richards, Kat Robinson Grieder, and Loretta Middleton.

*We hereby nominate*

*Kathy Stevens for a one-year term as Treasurer,*

*Rosemary McLaughlin to continue to fill the remainder of Chris Hanson's term ending January 2027,*

*and*

*Carol Benchley and Suse Robinson for their second three-year terms.*

Electing those candidates would result in the following 2026 Board of Trustees:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Term ends</u>
1. Randi Allfather	January 2028
2. Carol Benchley	January 2029
3. Jan Ellsworth	January 2027
4. Rosemary McLaughlin	January 2027
5. Suse Robinson	January 2029
6. Kathy Stevens	January 2027, Treasurer
7. Rev. Erin Splaine	ex-officio non-voting

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan Richards, Kat Robinson Grieder, and Loretta Middleton*

### **Also to be elected at this Annual Meeting:**

In compliance with the South Church Preservation Fund bylaws in our Congregational Handbook, and pursuant to a vote by our Board of Trustees, I nominate

Polly Miller,

Susan Hochwald,

Mary Bergman,

Joyce Van Vorst,

Jim Sulzer,

Ben Moore, and

Larry Levine for three year terms ending 2029,

and

Alison Forsgren to fill the remainder of Matt Maryinski's term ending 2028.

## 2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

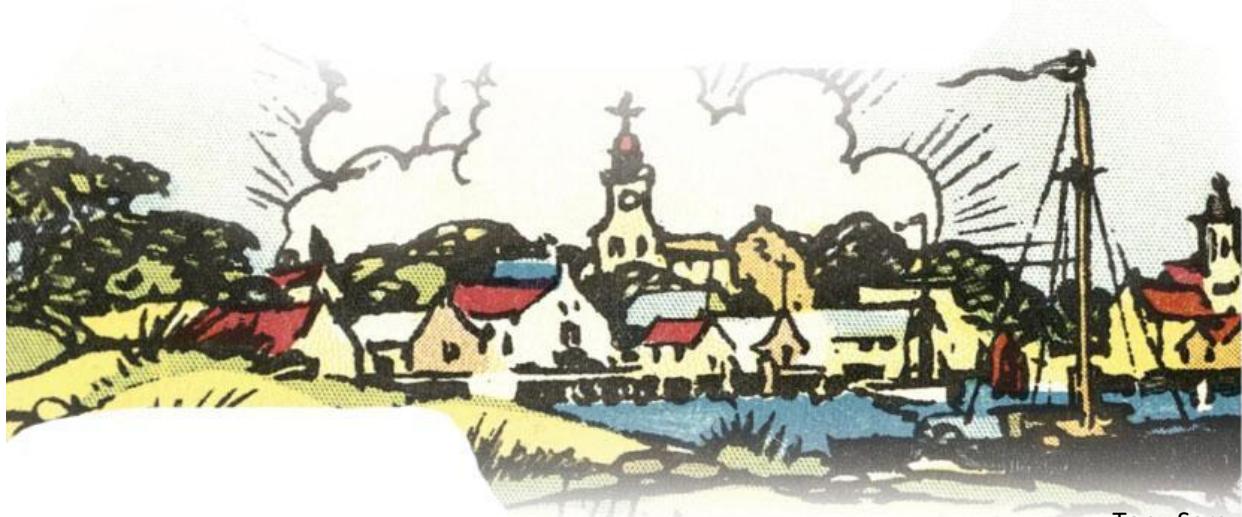
### **Second Congregational Meeting House Society / Unitarian Universalist Agenda of the January 25, 2026, Annual Meeting**

1. Call to Order..... President Barbara Elder
2. Opening blessing and words..... Rev. Erin Splaine
3. Determine quorum of at least 24 voting Members..... Clerk Deirdre Duffy
4. Approve minutes of prior congregational meeting..... Clerk Deirdre Duffy  
1/26/2025 Annual Congregational Meeting (see page 4)
5. 2025 Treasurer's Report (see page 28)..... Treasurer Kathy Stevens
6. Officers and Nominating Committee ..... President Barbara Elder
  - a. Thank outgoing Trustees, Nominating Committee, and SCPF Directors
  - b. Elect Treasurer (see page 44)
  - c. Elect Trustees
  - d. Elect South Church Preservation Fund Directors
  - e. Elect 2026 Nominating Committee
7. Finance Committee Report, and approve 2026 budget (see page 30)..... Jim Sulzer
8. Questions and Answers ..... All
9. Adjourn..... President Barbara Elder

**Support document at [UnitarianChurchNantucket.org/congregational-documents](http://UnitarianChurchNantucket.org/congregational-documents)**

2025 Annual Report, which includes:

Minutes as listed above  
Nominees  
Treasurer's Report  
Recommended 2026 Annual Budget



Tony Sarg

## Obituary, Rev. Ted Anderson, 1934-2025

(Feb. 24, 2025) Edward B. Anderson, better known as Rev. Ted, passed peacefully among his books and life's collection of artifacts Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, at the age of 90.

Ted was born April 22, 1934 in New Haven, Conn., where he grew up with his parents, grandmother and his brother John. After attending his senior year of high school in England, he started to pursue a bachelor's degree at Yale University.

He decided to leave college and join the Army in order to use the G.I. Bill to help pay for his education. He was stationed on St. Lawrence Island in Alaska, where he lived for two formative years among the Inuit, in America's effort against the Soviet Union during the Korean War.

After leaving the Army, Ted returned to Yale to complete his bachelor's degree in English.

After years as a high school English teacher, he attended Harvard University for a master's degree in education. He then taught at the Millbrook School in Millbrook, N.Y.

During his time as a teacher, he spent two summers in Israel on archaeological digs. He pursued a master's of divinity degree at Yale Divinity School in order to become a school chaplain. This is also where he met the love of his life, Gretchen Funkhouser Anderson.

Together, Ted and Gretchen moved to Nantucket in 1972. Nantucket had always been a special place to Ted, having visited his grandparents there every year throughout his youth.

There, Ted and Gretchen raised their children, Kathy, Candee and Roger Anderson, and Eric and Tim Ostebo. They enjoyed many fishing adventures on their single-mast dory, the *Loon*.

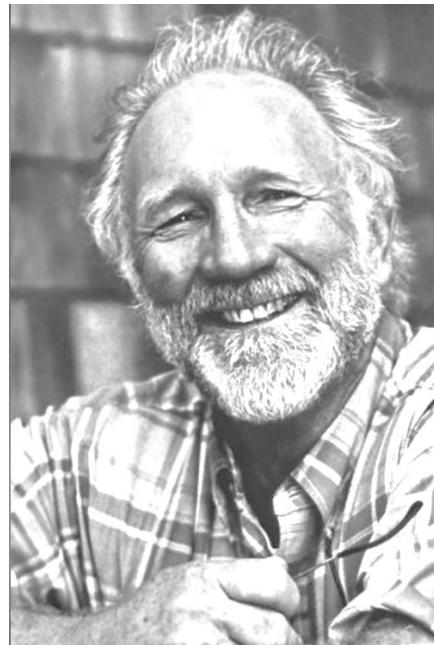
Ted became the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church in 1972 and served there until he retired Jan. 1, 2000.

Known for his thought-provoking, entertaining and often hilarious sermons, he was a central member of the Nantucket community for decades.

In addition to his ministerial duties, he served on the School Committee and was a prime mover in the conversion of Academy Hill to much-needed elder housing.

For years, he served as a volunteer firefighter and was chaplain of the Nantucket Fire Department. Over the course of his career, Ted estimated that he performed about 2,000 weddings.

Upon retirement, Ted and Gretchen traveled the world, studying art history, and continued to tend their gardens, bees and hens at their beloved home, Two Sheds Farm.



Ted was a lifelong student and teacher, a true scholar.

With a passion for Chaucer, he spent much of his life studying the Canterbury Tales in depth. He could recite a verse in Old English, sing a folk song in Russian, reference teachings from ancient religions and knew more about politics in 14th-century Europe than how to send an e-mail.

Known for the twinkle in his eye and his heart-warming laugh, Ted touched many lives and will be forever cherished by our community.

His empathy, wisdom, compassion and good humor led the island through good times and bad. Ted taught us many things: the value of love, humility, curiosity and, most importantly, never to take life too seriously.

Information about services will be forthcoming, where we will celebrate his extraordinary life.

For now, we mourn the loss of a great friend and a shining presence in our midst

[Memorial Service was held June 14, 2025]



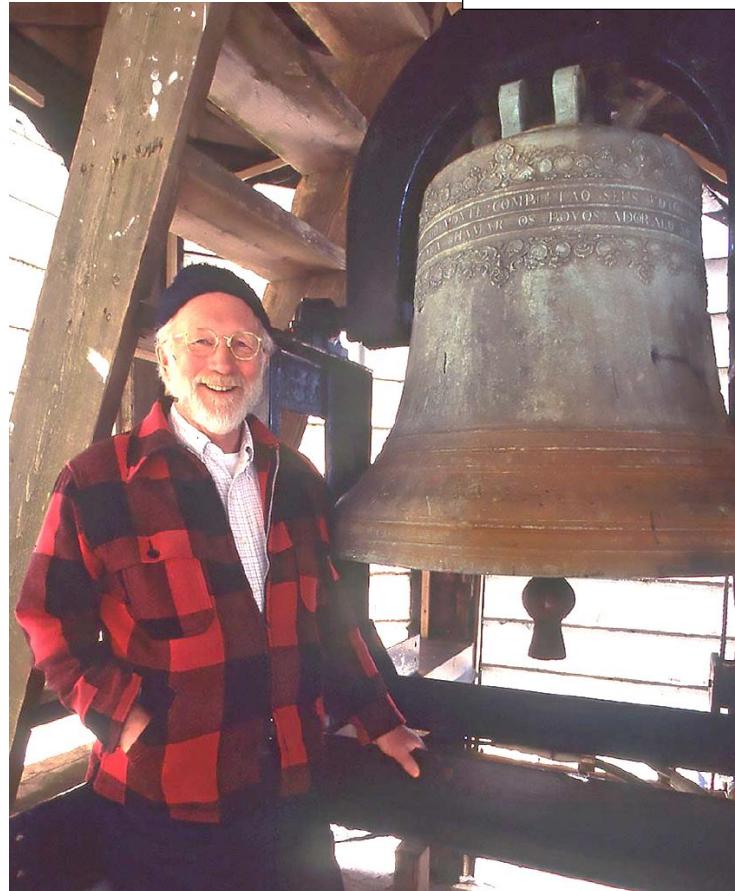
May, 1999



Group portrait of four people posed behind a life-sized cardboard cut-out of a photograph of the Reverend Ted Anderson and his wife Gretchen, in front of the Unitarian Church. Left to right: Jack Hendrix, Elizabeth "Libby" Oldham, Ted Anderson, and Jim Hendrix. Jack and Jim Hendrix are both wearing t-shirts printed with a picture of Ted Anderson and the caption: Ted Anderson Day, September 12, 1999.

Some images courtesy of the Nantucket Historical Association

**Reverend Edward 'Ted' Anderson  
April 22, 1934 - February 18, 2025**



**Ted in yellow helmet  
April 20, 1979**