

**Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist (CCUU) of Palatine IL  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** December 17, 2025

**Location:** CCUU, Atherton Hall

**Attending:** Gary LaBedz (President), Mike Berry (Vice President), Rick Rayborn (Treasurer), Pat Wydell (Secretary), Bailey Pierce, Peggy Simonsen, Elizabeth Van Orden, Dan Yokas (Trustees); Reverend Karen Mooney, Reverend Pam Rumancik (Co-Ministers)

**Absent:** Ryan Schaeffges

The regular monthly meeting of the CCUU Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by Mike Berry. Peggy shared an opening reading, and the Board recited the Board Covenant. A quorum of trustees being present, the meeting proceeded with business.

**Last Month's Minutes:** Dan moved to accept the November 19 minutes; Elizabeth seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**Privacy Policy:** There was an odd/concerning encounter with someone coming in during the Harmony School hours, essentially when the kids were being picked up. (A photo of the man is available in the church office.) The office staff filed a police report. The police say they can do nothing because we do not have a name or license plate. The whole of the RE area is now marked as private, and everyone using the building has been alerted to keep those doors locked.

**Online Board Meetings:** A request was made to hold January and February Board meetings on Zoom because of travel plans and winter weather. The decision was approved.

**Budget:** Mike reported that committee chairs will be asked for budget requests during the January Ministry Council meeting. Rick said that he will need those budget requests by March 1.

**Ministers' Report:** Rev. Pam reported that Jeannie Scown and Laura Corrigan cleaned and repaired the men's restroom, painted the kitchen and are in the process of sprucing up the kitchen floor and kickboards. Don Bak repaired the water fountains, saving over \$1500. We are very grateful for our amazing volunteers and will look for ways to thank them.

**Ongoing Business**

**Solar Panels/Roof Update:** Rick reported that Mike Gilley, Steve Black, and Rick met recently with the donor offering to pay for solar panels on the roof above the offices on the western edge of the church building, effectively doubling our solar panels. The cost of improving the roof with a membrane cover and installing the solar panels will come to \$165,000. The donor seems

ready to finance that work. Mike, Steve, and Rick plan to meet with him by mid-January to confirm the details.

**Capital Campaign:** The Board discussed establishing an ad hoc committee to plan and run a Capital Campaign over 3 years. At next month's Board meeting, Rick will present a spreadsheet listing the upcoming capital expenses along with cost estimates, for the Board to discuss and prioritize.

**Year-End Fundraising Campaign:** Rick reported that we have received two-thirds of the \$15,000 goal.

**Current Financial Status:** Rick reported that we are doing well and are in solid financial shape.

**Tree Trimming/Removal Estimate:** The trees that were recommended for removal by the new insurance company were taken out during the cold snap.

**Columbarium Update:** Dan, Peggy, and Joy Simon plan to make a formal presentation to the congregation, with slides/visuals and a brochure, to explain in depth what a columbarium is and to gauge interest. After reviewing congregational response, the Board will vote on whether to approve the construction of the columbarium.

**Closing Reading & Adjournment:** Peggy shared a closing reflection and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**Submitted by:** Patricia Harrington-Wydell, Board Secretary

**Next Regular BOT Meeting:** January 21, 2026, on Zoom

NOTE: The Zoom link is always listed at the top of the meeting agenda.

#### **Readings for Future Months**

January 2026	Ryan Schaeffges
February 2026	Rick Rayborn
March 2026	Elizabeth Van Orden
April 2026	Gary LaBedz
May 2026	Dan Yokas
June 2026	Pat Wydell

[Announcement Schedule link \(2025–26\):](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1187K56z2yJZMCM1fQiCrSm1whh1Pdp8g/e/dit?gid=700670809#gid=700670809)

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