

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Winter 2026 Congregational Meeting January 18, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Bention, Board President, at 11:30am. He introduced the rest of the Board: Heather Stanley, Past-president, Maureen Flanigan, V.P., Margie Boudreaux, Treasurer, and Steven Moores, Trustee.

Mission Statement: Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church provides a religious home where we can follow our own spiritual paths together. We seek to transform ourselves and the larger community by living lives of integrity, service and love.

Chalice Lighting: Rev. Jenny Amstutz

Congregational Meeting Bylaws:

A Congregational Meeting is composed of all members and Pledging Friends of the Church.

A Congregational Meeting is called by the Board of Trustees and must be attended by 33% of the voting members of the church. We had thirty-nine members attending; a quorum.

Agenda

Announcements:

Open Board Positions for 2025-2026:

- Vice-president, a three-year term
- Shared Ministry Team-has an opening for one position
- Trustee-a two-year term. We currently have one Trustee. Up to four people may serve.

Invitation to Imagination a Congregational Visioning Workshop is being offered on Saturday, April 4th by Rev. Tania Marquez from 10am to 4pm to address, “who we are and where we go from here?”

New Volunteers were introduced, **Jenn Ritter**, our new Office Assistant to Kerby and **Destiny Beeson**, Community Engagement Coordinator, which will include tech support and social media media and web presence as well as helping advertise events and worship services.

Teams:

- **Fundraising-Honey Sharp** was introduced as a volunteer leading this new team. She will assist with the Legacy Giving program and with organizing the auction, but not as chair. We still need an auction chair. We recognized Heather Stanley’s great work as this year’s chair.
Steven Moores, Board Trustee introduced a revitalized **Vehicles for Charity fundraising opportunity**. He researched Colorado Public Radio’s vehicle donation program through ARCThrift Stores, which sent an agreement. 80% of the proceeds from this program are returned to the church. He will also look into Cars for Charity.
- **Stewardship-Sherry Benton** volunteered to be this year’s Stewardship chair. The Stewardship kick-off will be February 8th with a potluck brunch.
- **Safety Team-Travis Beeson** is our new Safety Team chair. **Judy and John Kary were recognized as our long-standing Ushers** and remain as usher volunteers. They provided us with years of dedicated service keeping us informed of safety procedures recommended by officials in our community, offering training, and untold Sundays of loving watch over our congregation and premises during services.
Travis introduced his prodigious qualification to chair the Safety Team and his goals:
 - Grow the Usher Team
 - Review and update relevant safety documents
 - Inaugurate small but high impact facility safety improvements.

Travis took comments from the congregation regarding first aid kits, AED equipment, and improved lighting in the parking lot. Our church is just minutes from South Metro Rescue.

Finance Team-Margie Boudreaux, Treasurer announced this year's Stewardship Campaign, "Together We Make This Happen." She asked the congregation to consider why we belong to Columbine, why we pledge, and who do we want to be? Margie introduced the **Finance Team, Richard Pilatzke and Sherry Benton**, and presented an overview of our Fundraising history. She presented a handout and explained the Operating budget prepared with the expertise of the Finance Team and **Kerby Baier, our Administrator:**

- 15% increase from last year
- We have a healthy Reserve Fund
- Pledges have been flat the past few years. We're encouraging members to increase their pledges by 15% from last year, and we also hope to see an increase in pledges as our membership grows.
- In accordance with UUA standards staff salaries will be increased to offset cost of living expenses and in recognition of the details of their job descriptions.
- We will increase our dues to the to the UUA
- Kerby has completed the transition of our budget bookkeeping to Quickbooks and the team will seek guidance from a consultant in the coming year.

Margie offered to provide a detailed budget and explanation to anyone who asks..

Wins and Thanks: Maureen Flanigan presented the many accomplishments of Rev. Jenny, our Minister since she came to our church five years ago, especially growing our congregation from 62 to over 91 members. She also highlighted the achievements mentioned in **Rev. Jenny's Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees** with special attention to the work of our tremendous staff, **Matthew Cox, Director of Music Ministry**, who has grown our choir to 22 members and provided inspiring services along with our talented **Accompanist, Alex Porter. Leah Tracy Porter, Director of Faith Exploration**, recognized for initiating our Roots program for our kids, and Wings program for our youth, and loving these vibrant members of our church community, and **Kerby Baier**, and her brilliant work as our Administrator.

Closing: Rev. Jenny closed our meeting with a Chalice Lighting at 1pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Flanigan