

MINUTES

United Church of Christ Board

March 12-14, 2026

The United Church of Christ Board is the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Board Corporation, Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ). Each meeting of the United Church of Christ Board is a meeting of each of these corporations.

Board Members Present:

Jean Avison, Joyce Bathke, Bret Bicoy, Judith Booker, Deborah Dee Brayton, Elizabeth Brunton, Indigo Brown Bryant, Charles Buck, Cynthia Butts, Susan Cartmell, Lorraine Cenicerros, Tyler Connoley, Tom Croner, Equilla Curry, Lillian Daniel, Courtney Dobbins, Daniel Doty, Mark Dutell, Jimmy Gibbs, Sheila Harvey, Cean James, Josann Jenks, Tracy Keene, David Klassen, Ali Lopez-Valcarcel, Marcia Keese, Marisa Laviola, Andy Mangum, Roy Mosley, A.T. Ortiz, Shari Prestemon, Jasmine Coleman Quinerly, Sara Rabe, Lawrence Richardson, Gregory Sato, Jennifer Smith, Karen Georgia Thompson, Ivy Tillman, Elizabeth Walker, Careina Williams, Kate West, Kim Wood, William Young

Board Members Not Present:

Carrie Call, Jamar Doyle, Janese Murray, Michael Readinger, Andrew Ponder Williams

Staff Present:

Joshua Baird, Heather Kimmel, Shameerah Lemon, Olivia Risko, Brian Tracy, Patrick Duggan, Donyale Copeland

Guests Present:

Representative of Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio

Representatives of UCC Media Justice Ministry: Charles Jefferson Jr., Cheryl Leanza, Freeman Palmer

Representative of the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ: Paul Ramsey

Thursday, March 12

Jasmine C. Quinerly, Chair of the UCCB, calls the meeting to order.

Roll call is taken and a quorum is declared.

Jasmine, Chair, and Cean James, Vice Chair, offer their welcome and share brief remarks.

Agenda Approval

Deborah Dee Brayton moves to approve the Agenda, Lorraine Cenicerros seconds.

Discussion: Deborah Dee Brayton requests to move the General Synod discussion to 3:45PM on Friday. It was determined this would be done as a friendly amendment.

It was VOTED:
UCCB-26-03-01 To approve the Agenda, as amended.

Motion: Deborah Dee Brayton
Second: Lorraine Cenicerros

Vote: Passes.

Supporting Document: *Amended _UCCB-26-03-01_Agenda*

Consent Agenda Approval

Tom Croner moves to approve the Consent Agenda, Roy Mosley seconds.

Discussion: None.

It was VOTED:
UCCB-26-03-02 To approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Tom Croner
Second: Roy Mosley

Vote: Passes.

Supporting Document: *UCCB-26-03-02a-h Consent Agenda 03.12-14.2026*

Minutes Approval

Tyler Connoley moves to approve the January 12, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, Daniel Doty seconds.

Discussion: None.

It was VOTED:
UCCB-26-03-03 To approve the January 12, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion: Tyler Connoley
Second: Daniel Doty
Abstentions: Josann Jenks, Tracy Keene, David Klassen, Shari Prestemon, William Young

Vote: Passes.

Supporting Document: *UCCB-26-01_ 01.12.2026 Minutes*

The UCCB engaged in anti-racism training provided by Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio for the remainder of the afternoon session.

Friday, March 13

United Church of Christ Board meeting adjourns. A separate Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) corporate meeting is called to order. (See separate minutes)

The LCM meeting adjourns. The United Church of Christ Board joint meeting is called to order.

GMP/CEO Report to the Board

Karen Georgia Thompson provides the General Minister & President's report. A written report is available in BoardEffect.

Media Justice Ministry Presentation

Representatives from UCC Media Justice Ministry provide information on the organization's history, structure, and program. Materials are available in BoardEffect.

The Pension Boards Presentation

Dave Klassen and Paul Ramsey provided information from the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ. Materials are available in BoardEffect.

United Church of Christ Board joint meeting adjourns. A separate Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) meeting is called to order. (See separate minutes.)

The WCM meeting adjourns. The United Church of Christ Board joint meeting is called to order.

Finance & Budget Committee Report

Deborah Dee Brayton introduces the members of the Finance & Budget Committee and staff. She then states that OCWM has decreased at a rate of 6% over the last ten years.

The transfer to United Church Funds to account for the charitable gift annuity reserve was also discussed; the transfer was previously approved by the UCCB.

The Finance & Budget Committee moves to receive the preliminary unaudited financials as presented.

Discussion: None.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-26-03-04 To receive the preliminary unaudited financials as presented.

Motion: Finance & Budget Committee

Vote: Passes.

Supporting Document: UCCB-26-02-FB-03 Income Statement

Generative Discussion

Board members then engaged one another in a discussion about the present political moment in the life of the church and were asked by leadership to consider several questions.

Special General Synod Core Team Report

Joshua Baird, Chief of Staff and General Synod Administrator, gives a Special General Synod Report. He states that the Core Team comprises himself, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Valerie Smith, and Denise Pittman. He provides information on the plans for the upcoming special meeting, including communications, worship, webinars, and other opportunities to engage with the candidate, the meeting agenda, and the voting platform.

Jasmine, Chair, addresses a letter to the Board that was recently received from COREM, which had questions about the experience of the AGM candidate. Jasmine states that an updated biography has been placed in BoardEffect and will be shared with COREM. Board members also discussed the importance of supporting board decisions.

Jasmine announces that two Board members resigned: Jimmy Gibbs & Sana Delcorazon.

Saturday, March 14**Love of Church Report**

Karen Georgia Thompson provides the Love of Church report. A written report is available in BoardEffect.

Love of Neighbor Report

Shari Prestemon provides the Love of Neighbor report. A written report is available in BoardEffect.

Church Building & Loan Fund Report

Patrick Duggan provides the Church Building & Loan Fund report. Materials are available in BoardEffect.

Council of Conference Ministers Update

Kim Wood, Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, gives the CCM update and states that CCM is comprised of all Conference Ministers actively serving Conferences, of which there are thirty-one. There are currently thirty-three Conferences, including one non-geographical Conference. She then spoke about the anti-racism work that the CCM has been engaged in as well as Conference Minister attendance at Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C.

Governance Committee Report

Kate West introduces the Governance Committee and gives the report. She states that fourteen of the fifteen organizations in our group exemption were in compliance, and with conversations with the fifteenth, they are now in compliance as well.

The Governance Committee moves to approve the Special General Synod Standing Rules.

Discussion: Kate explains the intent was to give a set of standing rules that looked familiar, but was pared down to the required rules for a special meeting where the agenda was limited. Because there are no resolutions coming to this meeting of the General Synod, the section on resolutions and formal motions has been deleted.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-26-03-05 To approve the Special General Synod Standing Rules.

Motion: Governance Committee

Vote: Passes.

Supporting Document: *CLEAN_UCCB-26-03-GOV-02_DRAFT-Special_GS_Standing_Rules*

The Governance Committee moves to elect Serena Ruiz to the United Church of Christ Board to fill an unexpired term in the class of 2028.

Discussion: None.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-26-03-06 To elect Serena Ruiz to the United Church of Christ Board to fill an unexpired term in the class of 2028.

Motion: Governance Committee

Vote: Passes

Supporting Document: *UCCB-26-03-GOV-05_Ruiz_Bio*

Recruitment & Outreach Committee Report

Lawrence Tanner Richardson provided the Recruitment and Outreach Committee Report. A written report is available in BoardEffect.

Board Life Committee Report

The Board Life & Development Committee takes time to work on the UCCB covenant. Board members had the following concerns and questions:

- Financial commitment
- Volunteer time
- Harassment & sexual harassment
- Confidentiality
- Forgiveness

The board also discussed the difference between a covenant and board member responsibilities. Discussions will resume at a later date.

Vote: Passes.

Executive Session – see separate minutes**It was VOTED:**
UCCB-26-03-07

To move into Executive Session.

Motion: Beth Walker
Second: Dan Doty**Discussion:** None.**Vote:** Passes by consensus.**It was VOTED:**
UCCB-26-03-08

To move out of Executive Session.

Motion: Joyce Bathke
Second: Tom Croner**Discussion:** None.**Vote:** Passes by consensus.

Kim Wood moves to approve 10.26.2025 Executive Session Minutes, Dan Doty seconds.

Discussion: None.**It was VOTED:**
UCCB-26-03-09

To approve 10.26.2025 Executive Session Minutes.

Motion: Kim Wood**Second:** Dan Doty**Abstentions:** Beth Walker, William Young, Mark Dutell, Kim Wood,
A.T. Ortiz, Judith Booker, Liz Brunton**New Business**

Karen Georgia Thompson and Josh Baird introduce the UCC National Ministries' partnership with the Kindland organization and campaign.

Following closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.