

New York State Convention of Universalists Founded 1825  
198th Annual Meeting

**Business Meeting October 26, 2024**

1. **Call to Order-** Ann Rhody, (President, Rochester)  
meeting called to order at 10:52am

2. **Determination of Quorum** - Tom Hackett, (Clerk, UU Catskills)  
We have the required 25 voting individuals representing at least 8 member societies.

3. **Approval of Agenda** -  
Motion to approve (Nancy Gaede, Rochester/Mark Berninghausen, Canton) - approved

4. **Approval of Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting** -  
Motion to approve (Mark Berninghausen, Canton/Richard Reed, Rochester) - approved

5. **Report of the Board of Trustees** - distributed in the meeting packet  
No highlighting needed at the meeting

6. **Treasurer's Report** - Melissa Lesley-Fox, (Treasurer, Syracuse )  
A video report was presented which covered: Service Gratuity fund \$239,840, 5% COLA recommended and approved by the Board; Budget (\$3,169,212 fair market value of general fund investments) used for grants and loans; additional reports and information provided in the Call to Meeting packet

7. **Vote on Proposed Bylaw Amendment** - Tom Hackett (Clerk, UU Catskills)  
Tom Hackett presented the amendments (included in the Call to Meeting sent to member congregations). Section 102, Purposes. Replaces language that refers to UUA Districts and refers to the Central East Region of the UUA. Section 601 corrects a typo. The rest of the changes are in the Appendix to the Bylaws and they replace gender specific language with more inclusive language.  
Motion to approve (Sally Hamlin, Amherst/Nancy Gaede, Rochester) - approved

8. **Report of 2024 Grants and Loans** - John Roleke (Board Member, Garden City)

Linda Joy Groat and Katy Cosgrove from UU Amherst reported on the grant they received in 2024. Peggy Sherman from Albany spoke about the NY UU Justice and their project: Justice Convocation. Gay Canough from Binghamton spoke of their sound system upgrade. Mark Berninghausen from Canton spoke of a grant for advertising and outreach. Megan Foley from the Central East Region spoke of NYSCU's ongoing financial support for the region. Barbara Fillips from Barneveld spoke of the loan and grant the congregation received.

John encouraged people to apply for a grant or a loan and answered questions.

**9.Report of the Nominating Committee**

Nominating Committee: 1 yr term - Judith Adel

Board of Trustees - Trustees for 3 year terms John Roleke, Gay Canough

**Election of new Trustees and Nominating Committee members**

Motion to Approve slate as presented (Greg Abbott/Ken Drake) - approved

Openings to be filled: please speak with Ann Rhody  
two 2 yr terms on the Nominating Committee  
one 2 yr term on the Board of Trustees  
joining an ad hoc group to look at NYSCU investments and  
reconciling them with our values

**11. President's Remarks**

Ann briefly spoke of what NYSCU leadership adds to her life and encouraged others to join the leadership and volunteer teams of NYSCU.

**12.Old Business - none**

**13.New Business - none**

**14. Invitation to 2025 Annual meeting - October 24-25, 2025 in Canton**

**15. Adjournment - 11:50am**