

The Trustees of the Pennsylvania Universalist Convention (TPUC) Annual Membership meeting is Saturday, April 25th.

We need folks to serve as Delegates from **8 AM to 12 noon**. We will gather in Hale Lounge for this meeting, but you can also participate as a delegate from your home computer by ZOOM. Every year our budget receives a substantial stipend from the TPUC which is larger than most of us can pledge individually. Our TPUC membership requires attendance in this Annual Meeting. We can have up to 5 voting delegates but more folks can attend as well. Please check your calendars and see if you are available to participate in this singular annual event.

Please contact Fern or Cynthia via text/call or email at
Fern: 215 970-4746, fernculhane51@gmail.com
Cynthia: 215 498-6856, cynbradley@aol.com

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for considering participation in this important event. Read further if you wish to know more about the TPUC.

As members of the Pennsylvania Universalist Convention we have a few responsibilities to support its existence. We provide a Trustee and an Alternate Trustee who are involved in supporting the well-being of the Convention. When the merger happened, Pennsylvania was one of the states that chose to not disband and combine our shared endowment funds with the UUA. We basically existed as a fund of money, but with the guidance of a Finance Committee the endowment was carefully monitored and invested, becoming an important source of financial support for the health of the remaining member congregations. Over the years, the annual stipend from a portion of the growth of the shared endowment has been very important for this congregation. Along with the required involvement of 2 members of our congregation as Trustees, is attendance at the annual Membership meeting. This year we moved the date from October to April. During COVID we began using the internet to allow folks to participate from their homes. Each year the meeting is hosted by one of the 6 churches. This year, Brooklyn is our host. They have planned activities and food for delegates and trustees from Friday evening through the church service on Sunday morning. Due to a variety of challenges, we do not have anyone able to attend in person. We will be attending electronically. Cynthia Bradley and Fern Culhane are the Alternate



and Trustee, respectively. We have slots for 5 delegates. The responsibilities of the delegates are to attend the Membership meeting on April 25, from 8 AM to Noon. You will hear presentations about each of the 6 member churches, and the financial health of the endowment. There will be a keynote speaker for the final portion of the meeting.

When you look at our past years budgets and the proposed budget that we will be considering soon, you will recognize the financial benefit we receive each year from the "Convention." This is one of the important ways that we support our church with our time and attention.

If you wish to know more about how the TPUC works, here is the text of our entry in last year's Annual Report. You are also very welcome to ask questions of your Trustee team.

Annual Report for the TPUC, 2025

Fern Culhane and Cynthia Bradley continue to serve as your Trustee and Alternate Trustee for the Pennsylvania wide Trustees of the Pennsylvania Universalist Convention (the TPUC). 6 PA Historically Universalist churches remain as functioning UU churches. The Articles of Incorporation of the now named TPUC describes its mission as:

"The purpose for which the corporation is formed is the support of public worship according to both the Universalist religious heritage and the principles and purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association; the support of such benevolent, charitable, educational, and missionary undertakings; and the administration of all trusts which may be confided to this corporation for any of the foregoing purposes."

Thus, the current organization has the responsibility of tending the PUC endowment created from the assets of the many PA Universalist churches who were a part of the spiritual landscape of our commonwealth. With the judicious management of the finance committee within the TPUC, this endowment has grown in size and provides an annual disbursement to each of the 6 congregations. A formula is used that apportions funds from the interest earned to each community. Similar to our representative legislative structure, one portion is divided equally with each church receiving $\frac{1}{6}$ of the amount. A smaller portion is divided proportionately as the larger communities make larger expenses. In addition, special grants can be submitted for specific tasks. We have received support for removing asbestos during renovation work, slate roof repairs, and the sidewalk driveway cut on Stenton Avenue. With a special grant request, the submitting church must demonstrate that it is paying for at least half of the work from within, and that estimates have been collected from multiple agents.

We, the Unitarian Universalists of Mount Airy, keep a sizable portion of our own endowment with the TPUC in order to benefit from the careful management of the funds. Our money is not used for any of these disbursements described above, and we can access and withdraw our funds at will. It is not like a bank, so if we want, for example, to use \$10K of our funds, it will take a period of time, to maneuver the array of bonds, equities, etc. of the total fund. We don't keep the vast majority of the endowment sitting as cash in an account.

Currently, we have noted the lack of participation of the folks from our individual churches at the required Annual Meeting of the Membership. Each church can send up to 5 voting delegates to this meeting. It is a fair amount of work to host the meeting no matter how many people attend. The host job rotates around the state. We last held the meeting in 2022. For this year we are holding the Annual Membership Meeting and the annual business meeting together in April of 2026. This will be a saving for the organization as a whole and perhaps we can devote more time to encourage and plan for participation.