



2024 - 2025 |

South Valley
Unitarian
Universalist Society



ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 18, 2025



PRIDE CELEBRATION 2024

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Being an Activist Congregation

Meeting Date: Sunday, May 18, 2025
 Location: South Valley Sanctuary, 12:00 PM
 Called by: Brenda Voisard, Board President
 Sinnamon Wolfe, Vice President; Tom Omer, Secretary;
 Bryan Debbink, Treasurer; George Melling, Member-at-Large
 Minister: Rev. Lora Young
 Parliamentarian: Paul Barron
 Leadership Team Chair: Kristen May

Topics for Discussion	Led By	Time	Purpose
Welcome	Brenda Voisard	10 mins.	Affirm mission and year in review
Opening words and chalice lighting	Rev. Lora Young	5 mins.	Center in the warmth of love and community
Review and acceptance of meeting rules	Paul Barron	10 mins.	Share the rules of the meeting
Establish a quorum (32) for 157 members	Paul Barron	5 mins.	Per the SVUUS bylaws, 20% of the total membership is needed to conduct business
Approval of minutes from the last congregational meeting	Brenda Voisard	5 mins.	Remind us of what we accomplished last year
Being an Activist Congregation	Rev. Lora Young	20 mins.	The Reverend's address
Outgoing leaders	Kristen May	15 mins.	Recognition of service
Proposed amendments to the bylaws and vote	Brenda Voisard & Paul Barron	10 mins.	Discussion and vote
Vote for new leaders	Kristen May	15 min.	Per SV bylaws, leaders for Board, Endowment, and Leadership Development are elected for 3-year terms
CUUrb Appeal	Collin Surles	10 mins.	Update on the status of the CUUrb appeal project
Endowment distribution proposal and vote	Sinnamon Wolfe & Paul Barron	20 mins.	Detailing the proposed endowment distribution
Presentation of the proposed budget	Bryan Debbink	30 mins.	Determine what is possible for us to do this next year with our pledges and other income
Vote to pass 2025-26 budget	Paul Barron	5 mins.	Congregation votes on the annual budget each year – it is created by us, for us
Closing words and extinguishing the chalice	Rev. Lora Young	5 mins.	Close our time together.

SVUUS MEETING RULES OF ORDER

DEFINITIONS

1. The Board of Trustees schedules Community Discussion Meetings to cover community discussions of a designated topic. The Board appoints the chair/moderator. These meetings are intended to establish a consensus and/or gather ideas, congregational sentiment, etc. The meeting results guide the Board in their decision-making and in preparing proposals for action at congregational business meetings. Both members and friends of South Valley UU Society may participate. Straw polls, if used, are not binding or official. They merely indicate the views of those at the meeting. It is suggested that comments be given in the “I think/it seems to me” format, with consideration to others’ feelings and with a willingness to maintain an open mind. The purpose of the meeting and simple ground rules of courtesy, brevity, etc., should be reviewed at the opening of every community meeting.
2. The Board calls Official Congregational Business Meetings/Annual Meetings for the purpose of reviewing and approving budgets, electing officers, calling ministers, bylaws changes, etc. The call to meetings and business meetings shall follow the Society’s bylaws, Robert’s Rules of Order as the parliamentary authority, and suggested meeting rules. At the beginning of each meeting, it is strongly recommended that meeting rules such as those listed below be presented for adoption at all official business meetings of the Society.

MEETING RULES (SUGGESTED)

The proposed meeting rules will be presented at the opening of each business meeting for adoption by the delegates. A two-thirds vote is required for their adoption; the same vote – two-thirds – is required to amend or rescind a rule. Any standing rule (except one prescribing the parliamentary authority and those that are bylaws provisions) may be suspended for a particular specified purpose by a majority vote, even if the rule requires a two-thirds vote to adopt. The purposes of these rules are to expedite business in a clear and orderly fashion, to give all members an opportunity to be heard, and to protect the rights of the minority.

Representation

1. Each individual who shall speak shall be a member or friend of the Society.
2. Each member shall cast no more than one vote on an issue.
3. The meeting shall be open to all members and friends of South Valley UU Society, but only members shall be entitled to vote and offer motions, legislative items, and resolutions.

Debate

1. Any member desiring to speak to the question under discussion shall stand (if physically able). When recognized, they shall speak into a microphone (provided) to allow all attendees to hear. Speakers shall first identify themselves and state their membership status.
2. No one shall speak for longer than 2 minutes at a time without the unanimous consent of the convention.
3. Debate shall follow a pro/con format until all viewpoints are heard. At that time, more points on any side may be heard.
4. No one shall be allowed to speak a second time on the same question as long as any person who has not spoken to that question desires the floor. This rule does not apply to the committee chair making a report or a speaker presenting a subject/issue.
5. No one shall speak more than twice on the same question.

STANDARD “ROBERTS RULES” PROCEDURES

- *Call the Question.* This is used to end the debate and call for an immediate vote on the motion. It requires a second and a simple majority vote. There is no discussion on a call for “Question.”
- *Point of Order.* To be directed to the chair. Point of Order is used to inquire if the Meeting Rules are being followed.
- *Point of Information.* To be used for clarification or questions on the motion. A Point of Information should not be used as a method to enter into a discussion.
- *Question or Point of Privilege.* This takes precedence over all other motions except three: Recess, Adjourn, and Fix the Time to Adjourn. It cannot interrupt voting or verification of a vote. It does not require a second, cannot be amended, and is not debatable. It is ruled upon by the chair.
- *Friendly Amendment.* Although not supported by Robert’s Rules, South Valley has a history of allowing Friendly Amendments from the floor. After recognition by the chair, the member offers a friendly amendment, which is typically only a minor change from the existing motion. Both the maker of the original motion and the seconder need to agree for the amendment to the motion to take place.

South Valley Mission

“We are a community of hope for religious explorers who wish to transform our world into a more just, compassionate, and sustainable place. We embrace diversity and provide opportunities for creativity, spiritual growth, and celebration of life.”

2023-24 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MINUTES FOR REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE

SVUUS' mission is to “provide opportunities for creativity, spiritual growth, and celebration of life.”

Meeting Date: May 19, 2024
 Meeting Location: SVUUS and Zoom
 Meeting Called By: Brenda Voisard, SVUUS Board President
 Parliamentarian: Paul Barron
 Minutes Submitted By: Kathleen Luck, SVUUS Board Secretary (and formatted by Tom Omer)
 Technical Support: Palmer Pattison

Topics for Discussion	Led By	Purpose
Opening and chalice lighting	Rev Lora (12:00 PM)	
Establishing quorum (at least 26 members)	Paul Barron	Conditions for quorum met with 45 present and online (26 needed). Paul reviewed Robert's rules that will be used in the meeting. Jordan Roberts moved to accept; Kris Berg seconded. Rules were accepted.
Minutes	Brenda Voisard	Brenda presented a motion to accept the minutes from last spring's congregational meeting. Mac Lund motioned to approve, and Kris Berg seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Jordan Roberts motioned to accept the minutes from the October 2023 congregational meeting. Mac Lund seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
Discernment	Rev Lora	Rev. Lora led the congregation in a discernment practice around the difficulty of finding volunteers for hospitality and for yard cleanup. We had thoughtful answers on the difficulty of balancing expectations and effort. Rev. Lora said, after June 15 th , there will be water and clementines available after service to give the hospitality committee a break over the summer.
Strategic planning process	Brenda Voisard & Sinnamon Wolfe	Brenda and Sinnamon gave an update on the strategic planning process and shared possible areas for the future strategic plan.
Leadership succession	Shauni Roberts	Shauni Roberts from the leadership succession committee shared the outgoing people from service: Kathleen Luck, board; Elaine Totten-Beale, social justice chair. Shauni recognized Maria Anderson, Kris Berg, and Anna Smyth for their work on the strategic plan. We thanked Scott Renshaw for serving as chair of the stewardship committee for many years and to Shauni Roberts for her service on the leadership development committee.
Voting	Paul Barron	The leadership development committee put forth two nominations to the board. Bryan Debbink agreed to serve another term, and Tom Omer. They were voted in unanimously. For the endowment committee, Paul Barron was nominated. The congregation voted unanimously to approve his nomination. For the leadership development committee, Kristen May and Natalie Cole were nominated. They were voted in unanimously.
Annual budget	Bryan Debbink	Bryan Debbink, treasurer, presented the 2024-25 budget. Retirement spending went down from last year, while salaries are the same due to a change in the RE director's hours. The budget was about \$4,000 short of the expected revenue. Maria called the question, and Mac seconded. The question and budget passed unanimously.
Closing and Extinguish Chalice	(1:28 PM)	

SVUUS Members Attending (45 total):

In-person: Scott Renshaw, Laura Renshaw, Palmer Pattison, Gloria Olsen, Lorri Quigley, Paul Barron, Jordan Roberts, Sinnamon Wolfe, Mac Lund, Sheri Lund, Kristen May, Kirsten Jensen, Kathleen Luck, Charlie Christensen, Caitlin Collins, Laurine Collins, Denna Wright, Maureen Davies, Sue Lue, David Vickery, Robert MacGillivray, Brenda Voisard, James Wain, Sophia Hawes-Tingey, Thomas Omer, Al Anders, Bryan Debbink, Nancy Melling, Peggy Montrone, Collin Serles, Kris Berg, Tucker Gurney, Ted Gurney, Tammy Felt, James, Susan Eyzaguirre, Robert Allen

Online: Bonnie Kaufman, Ann Scarborough, Bob Scarborough, Becky Condas, Kris Landvin, Melissa Venable, Phil Quigley, Sarah Featherstone

SVUUS Friends Attending (no power to vote; 2 total):

Brenda Julander, Cate MacGillivray

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Section 10 - Leadership Succession Committee

Currently reads: “Nominees shall be members of the Society for at least six months prior to the Annual Congregational Business Meeting.”

Proposed: “Nominees shall be members of the Society for at least six months prior to the beginning of their term of service.”

Article VI Section 1 - Board of Trustees.

Currently reads: "Members of the Board of Trustees shall be members of this Society for at least six months prior to election and shall be at least 18 years of age."

Proposed: "Members of the Board of Trustees shall be members of this Society for at least six months prior to the beginning of their term of service and shall be at least 18 years of age."

Reasoning: We hold membership ceremonies in spring and in December. The current wording effectively screens out anyone joining in December, which is half of our new members. The terms actually start in July, which would still be six months after becoming a member. Most of our members are with us as friends for some time before they become members, and the Leadership Succession team can take this into account as they approach congregants for these positions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES & ELECTED COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

SVUUS BOARD CANDIDATES

Marci Woodward (she/her) has been part of the South Valley community for about 10 years. She and her spouse are the proud parents of TiElla (13), who also attends SVUUS. Drawn to the Unitarian Universalist 8 Principles, Marci has found a spiritual home at South Valley and deeply values the warmth and vibrancy of the congregation.

With more than 30 years of volunteer experience, Marci is passionate about service and community engagement. Her interests span music, animals, audiobooks (both fiction and nonfiction), theatre, crafts, and jigsaw puzzles.

Professionally, Marci brings nearly two decades of experience in public service. Her areas of expertise include financial management, legal compliance, technical writing, public speaking, and customer service.

Caitlin Collins (she/her) found South Valley in 2021 and has served as chair of the Worship Committee for the past three years. She brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous church, where she was active on the worship team and continues to teach in their preschool. With over a decade of experience leading camps and after-school programs, Caitlin has a deep commitment to education and community building.

She holds a degree in psychology and shares a home with her wife, Lauriane, and their beloved furry companions. Caitlin is passionate about process improvement, strategic planning, and seeing those plans through to completion. She's also known for her sharp wit and great sense of humor, which bring a joyful spark to all she does.

Lauren Anderson (she/her) enjoys living in Daybreak with her wife, Lindsay, and kid, Wren. Since 2009, she has proudly served as the first openly trans woman, “who flies a desk!” in the Utah Air National Guard.

Outside of work, Lauren loves spending time with Wren - often playing Minecraft together - or unwinding with Lindsay over a good audiobook or a favorite TV series like *The Good Place*. She’s an avid fan of board and card games and holds her own in *Words with Friends*.

Originally from “Happy Valley” (Utah County), Lauren grew up near American Fork High School (Go Cavemen!) as the second oldest of six siblings. While she appreciated the sense of community in her childhood faith, she was delighted to find that same spirit of connection when she joined South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in August 2023.

Jai Hogue (she/her) has been part of the South Valley community for six years, actively supporting religious education and currently hosting the information table during social hour to help keep everyone connected and informed.

She is also a dedicated member of the Teamsters Local 222 Queer Pride Caucus, where she has served for the past two years. The caucus works to foster LGBTQ+ inclusion in the labor movement by hosting community-building events, partnering with Pride at Work to organize job fairs for union positions, and advocating for fair treatment in the workplace. They are a vibrant presence at Pride parades—float and all—and have also played a role in recent signature-gathering efforts for local causes.

Jai is passionate about literacy and ensuring children have access to books, both through her work as a librarian and her stewardship of multiple free libraries. Looking toward the future of South Valley, she’s committed to offering care and welcome to everyone who walks through our doors. As she beautifully puts it, “My voice is a quiet one, but one that I hope is friendly and makes people feel at ease.”

Outgoing board members are Brenda Voisard and Sinnamon Wolfe. The other continuing members of the board are George Melling, Bryan Debbink, and Tom Omer

SVUUS ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE CANDIDATE

Jordan Roberts (he/him) has served on the Endowment Committee for the past three years, helping guide South Valley through a time of rebuilding following the height of the pandemic. During a period marked by financial market volatility and shifts in community priorities, Jordan has been a steady advocate for aligning our resources with our shared vision and mission.

He has championed major investments in our building and grounds and is encouraged to see that work taking shape. Jordan looks forward to the opportunity to continue this important work in the years ahead.

Continuing members on the Endowment Committee are Ann Scarborough and Paul Barron

SVUUS LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE CANDIDATE

Kristy Jensen (she/her) discovered South Valley 11 years ago and found a welcoming, open-hearted community, a place where her family felt safe and her children could grow and thrive. She deeply values the vibrancy and diversity of South Valley, where people bring a wide range of interests and perspectives on what church and religion can be.

Over the years, Kristy has served in a variety of roles, including Religious Education, hospitality, and most recently, on the Leadership Succession Committee. She’s grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many dedicated individuals who generously share their time and talents. Kristy looks forward to another year of supporting and uplifting new leaders and helping more voices find a place in our shared work.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear South Valley Community,

It's been an amazing year here at South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. You have moved us onward toward our vision of a place where we recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all beings and the Earth. We are creating a new outdoor space that will honor the climate and soil of where we are rooted, and will welcome us all, and those yet to come. You are doing this through great generosity of time, and talent, and treasure, as you also continue to give toward the day-to-day work of our beloved community.

Your Board looked at the newly completed strategic plan last summer and chose to focus on the first area, *Financial Wellbeing: From Stability to Prosperity*. Of the seven goals in this area, six were addressed this year, including:

- 1) safe and secure building investments (FEMA funding, including new front doors later this year)
- 2) beautiful and usable outdoor spaces (CUURB appeal and Eagle project)
- 3) support the spirit of generosity and investment by and within the congregation (expanded pledge drive success)
- 4) examine and renew our vision for endowment (i.e., strategic investment of funds in grounds and the beginning of an awareness campaign)
- 5) expand revenue streams (i.e., higher facility use income was achieved)
- 6) planning and explicit communication (i.e., movement toward balanced budget and pledges needed).

The seventh area, supporting the financial well-being of members and friends, began with offering a workshop on estate planning.

Many of the other areas of the strategic plan were touched on during the year as well, and we also followed up on discernment from last year's 2024 congregational meeting re: how we engage our volunteerism in areas like hospitality, streamlining the process so more of us could be a part of this important offering on Sunday morning. Exciting new offerings, like the gathering of our BIPOC members this May, continue to raise up our anti-racism and inclusion efforts, the focus of a workshop at the 2023 congregational meeting.

This community is of ourselves, imagined and created by us, with our beloved leader, Rev. Lora, and an incredible staff. We are in such a difficult time in our country, yet we are growing ever stronger as a community in response. Thank you for believing in beloved community, and for giving your time, talents, and treasure, taking action to create the community we want, and that our world needs so badly – I so appreciate spending my “*one wild and precious life*” with you all.

Brenda Voisard

Brenda Voisard, Board President

**From Mary Oliver's poem, "The Summer Day", featuring the line "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Comparison of April 30th Reports 2023 vs 2024

	April 2023	April 2024	April 2025	%Δ Y/Y
Total Liabilities	\$4,633.47 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts Payable - \$4,633.47 	\$6,991.99 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts Payable - \$6,991.99 	\$13,622.91 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts Payable 	+ 94.9
Total Equity	\$784,948.17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank Accounts \$26,372.18 UT Sales Tax Receivable \$2,359.68 Fixed Assets \$180,474.44 Endowment \$580,375.34 	\$934,572.33 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank Accounts \$80,977.76 UT Sales Tax Receivable \$1,472.74 Fixed Assets \$180,474.44 Endowment \$643,179.47 	\$1,026,362.10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank Accounts \$165,663.65 UT Sales Tax Receivable \$2,525.44 Fixed Assets \$235,745.72 Endowment \$629,207.41 	+ 9.8
Cash On-Hand	May 17th, 2023 \$33,084.88	May 18th, 2024 \$56,045.31	May 13th, 2025 \$194,163.88 Total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CUUrb Appeal \$118,000 Unrestricted \$76,163.88 	+ 35.9
Profit/Loss YTD, JUL-APR	\$21,032.01	\$66,500.72	\$81,511.08	+ 22.6

PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026

Account #	Account	Fundraising				Program				Budget FY26	Budget FY25	Δ% Y/Y	Actuals FY25 Half 1	Budget FY24	Actuals FY24	
		Admin	Auction	Other Fundraising	Committees & Teams	Ministry	Music	Property Maintenance	Religious Exploration	Other Program						
40000	Contributions															
40100	Contributions Pledge Contributions	225,000.00									209,576.00	7%	117,251.82	181,998.00	206,189.49	Endowment Contribution split out for FY26
40150	Contributions Nonpledge	10,000.00									29,038.00	-66%	7,865.00	20,474.00	21,139.99	Employer Matching gifts included
40200	Contributions Pledge Contributions	20,000.00									14,000.00	43%	10,342.09	14,000.00	14,197.23	Split out from Non-pledge to match accounting
40400	Contributions Foundation and Corporate Contributions	9,500.00									6,000.00	1483%	927.16	-	3,384.73	
18000	Fund (Endowment 18000 UUA Investment Contribution)	20,981.00														
40500	Contributions Government															
40600	Contributions In-kind															
40800	Contributions													5,000.00		
41000	Exchange Revenue										1,200.00					
41100	Exchange Revenue Tickets and Registrations										20,000.00	25%	21,969.12	14,000.00	21,120.07	
41200	Exchange Revenue Auction		25,000.00								12,000.00	71%	5,591.47	2,500.00	8,714.24	
41300	Exchange Revenue Facility Use Fees	12,000.00									2,000.00	25%	0.00	3,000.00	1,500.00	
41400	Exchange Revenue Front Porch Rental	2,500.00									500.00	0%	4,523.24	300.00	541.4	
41500	Exchange Revenue Other Income	500.00									2,000.00	0%	5,345.06	-	1,067.91	
41600	Exchange Revenue Interest Income	2,000.00														
42000	Investment Revenue															
42100	Investment Revenue: Dividends															
42200	Investment Revenue: Unrealized Gains and Losses															
42300	Investment Revenue: Realized Gains and Losses															
42400	Investment Revenue: Investment Fees															
	Total Revenue and Support	327,481.00	285,914.00	173,814.96	242,272.00	15%	173,814.96	242,272.00	15%	277,855.06						
50000	Salaries and Wages	172,364.81									159,942.29	8%	59,554.47	155,641.04	155,267.51	Half of Minister taxes included in Salary
50100	Payroll Taxes	6,256.78									12,235.59	-49%	1,942.31	11,906.54	5,494.28	
50200	Employee Benefits															
50210	Employee Benefits Health Insurance	13,607.51									11,904.36	18%	8,453.04	-	11,552.46	
50220	Employee Benefits Dental Insurance	1,134.00									1,662.00	-32%	284	-	1,050.80	
50230	Employee Benefits Other Insurance	1,754.80									1,712.00	3%	450.28	-	1,350.85	
50240	Employee Benefits: Retirement	12,393.11									11,892.23	4%	4,653.84	21,736.18	20,892.11	
	Total Wage and Benefit Cost	207,987.27	199,348.47	75,337.94	189,283.76	4%	75,337.94	189,283.76	4%	195,608.01						
51000	Bank and Merchant Fees	3,500.00	750.00								3,645.00	17%	2,118.51	1,330.00	3,375.75	
51500	Communications	3,500.00									3,000.00	17%	1,657.92	2,480.00	3,245.03	
52000	Conferences and Training				550.00	500.00			1,500.00		2,500.00	2%	1,656.00	3,700.00	1,339.08	Includes Honorariums, as well as funding for AV Manager stipend
52500	Contract Labor				7,200.00	500.00	4,000.00	750.00			3,750.00	232%	1,825.00	4,100.00	3,480.00	Many upgrades to AV system; new printer lease
52800	Curricula and Music						200.00		100.00		850.00	-65%	125.96	1,800.00	380.59	
53000	Depreciation															
53500	Equipment Small and Leased	2,706.72			3,975.00			500.00			600.00	1097%	1,569.00	1,200.00	6,703.07	
54000	Food and Beverage	100.00	400.00	500.00	1,850.00	500.00		700.00	600.00		3,150.00	48%	1,205.93	400.00	3,582.95	

SVUUS DRAFT Operating Budget FY26

Main Budget

Account #	Account	Fundraising				Program				Budget FY26	Budget FY25	Δ% Y/Y	Actuals FY25 Half 1	Budget FY24	Actuals FY24
		Admin	Auction	Other Fundraising	Committees & Teams	Ministry	Music	Property Maintenance	Religious Exploration	Other Program					
54000	Information Technology	2,600.00			775.00	3,500.00				10,000.00	3,375.00	35%	1,351.76	2,200.00	2,661.28
54750	Grants to others										13,500.00	35%	4,377.26	10,000.00	9,273.19
55000	Insurance	7,000.00									7,000.00	-13%	3,282.00	6,400.00	6,492.75
55200	Interest Expense														
55500	Loanses, Fees, Dues, and Subscriptions	1,450.00			-	500.00					1,950.00	77%	710.74	2,475.00	768.95
56000	Marketing	750.00									750.00	-52%	270	200.00	1,968.70
56200	Miscellaneous Expense				750.00						750.00	-32%	335.23	300.00	1,878.88
56500	Office Expense	400.00									400.00	-43%		1,400.00	280.53
56700	Professional Development	200.00									200.00				
56710	Professional Development: Ministerial					8,200.00					8,200.00	3%	3,511.10	7,000.00	8,625.71
56720	Professional Development: RE Director								2,400.00		2,400.00	0%	0	500.00	1,719.43
57000	Professional Services														
57010	Professional Services: Accounting	13,000.00									13,000.00	0%	6,102.69	10,000.00	11,535.76
57020	Professional Services: Legal													200.00	
57030	Professional Services: Other	1,200.00									1,200.00	200%	721	4,000.00	1,155.00
57500	Professional Services: Rent	400.00									400.00		195	-	390
58000	Repairs and Maintenance				2,350.00	400.00	100.00	12,000.00			12,000.00	30%	8,201.47	3,000.00	12,385.96
58200	Supplies	2,500.00	250.00	500.00				4,000.00	1,500.00		11,600.00	23%	3,396.43	5,600.00	12,201.05
58700	Travel														
59000	Utilities	7,200.00									7,200.00	44%	4,780.15	9,000.00	452.56
59600	UUA National Dues	1,000.00									1,000.00	0%		100.00	5,709.13
62000	Food, Refreshments and Catering														100
62700	Honorariums and Performer Fees														
63500	Licensees and Taxes														
64200	Supplies Expense														
	Total Expenses	255,017.73	1,400.00	1,000.00	17,450.00	14,100.00	4,300.00	17,950.00	6,100.00	10,000.00	327,793.99	12%	122,731.09	283,626.25	295,313.36
	Net Income										(312.99)	-96%	51,083.87	(46,354.25)	(17,458.30)

t-shirt printing is the difference here

Most goes to Supplies

no RE dir in FY25H1

Background Checks
Murray Park

This isn't used. It goes under Food and Beverage

This isn't used. It goes under Contract Labor

Proposed Budget Cont'd.

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Beloveds,

As I wrap up this fifth year of ministry with you, I am again moved to express just how wonderful an experience of shared ministry this has been. Our leadership and staff teams have been working diligently on all fronts, and it really shows up on Sunday mornings when I see streams of new people coming in our doors— and staying. At a time when the world is feeling upended and many people are struggling with despair, South Valley is a beacon of hope. And this is exactly what this community has long understood itself to be about and for. Our community is responding to our national context and the threat of authoritarianism by focusing on what can be done and with a commitment to our shared values.

This year kicked off with a focus on our building and grounds as a first step in working on our strategic plan. A year ago, we applied for funding through FEMA and were granted \$150,000 towards building improvements in the form of new doors, windows, and security upgrades. The project team has dedicated countless hours to meeting the grant requirements (which are extensive and complex), and we hope to be able to begin our planned projects in the next few months. Note: As these funds are already available at the state level, we are cautiously confident that they will remain available.

South Valley has a deep understanding of itself as a place, both physically and spiritually, in the wider community. We have known for several years that a major investment in our outdoor spaces was needed, and last year we began the work of creating a plan that could be implemented in stages over several years. Under the thoughtful leadership of the grounds team, we crafted a master plan and set our sights on stage one- replacement of the parking lot. But South Valley members surprised us by coming forward with an even bolder vision and timeline than we thought possible. Through gifts from members and a matching grant from our endowment fund, it became possible to take on the whole outside and make major improvements to accessibility, tree coverage, ease of use, and overall function of our urban space. And while many interrelated details are still being worked out, we remain hopeful that the work will begin in the coming weeks. As a community, we are investing in ourselves and the land we worship upon so that our space can be a place of refuge, beauty, and joy for all who seek us out.

Sunday worship has continued to be a bright spot in our offerings. The AV/Sound team has continued to make improvements in the online worship experience and in our post-service video production. We look forward to continued improvement with the addition of hearing support and the replacement of equipment that has reached its limit of usability. Our worship team has continued to delve deeply into the themes and “conversations” we seek to have within and among our community at this time. And with the new political context, we are seeing many more people join us- our attendance numbers keep growing. So, it's an exciting time to be sharing the good news of our community with a wider group of folks.

Our welcoming, starting point, and membership teams have coordinated to ensure new folks are engaged and able to find their way into connection and belonging as they desire. Our small groups- Soul Matters, HUUMANIST, prayer shawl, CUUps, meditation, and religious transitions (among others) have engaged in a variety of topics and built spaces for explorations of ideas and bonds of friendship. Our Social Action team has led several successful initiatives (our day of service, food drive, shared plate), and our VOA meals for homeless youth have continued to be a vibrant ministry this year. Our board of trustees has worked diligently and with joy to provide leadership and direction for all committees and teams, and the resulting improvements in process for our finance, endowment, and leadership succession committees show in our bottom line, our investment strategies, and our new slate of trustees eager to serve.

We have had many changes as well in our staff team this year. Staffing for part-time positions is always a challenge, and we certainly have had our share of challenges this year. Many amazing volunteers have held our music direction and religious exploration program for children and youth. We look forward to settling in with our new music director over the summer months. In the fall, we will begin our search for a Director of Religious Exploration and trust our interim leader, Cam Adams, to shepherd us from now until then. Our youth programming has remained focused on incorporating the many new families and supporting teachers to lead thoughtful lessons. And our vocal choir is back on track to prepare monthly

music offerings for worship. It has been a test of patience and willingness to sit with ambiguity, and I appreciate everyone for sticking with the changes this past year.

As I finish this letter to you, I am deeply aware that my sabbatical is soon arriving. I am excited to venture into a less busy time and hope there will be new spaces for rest and renewal. I will really miss you all while I am away- South Valley is a huge part of my life, and I look forward to returning in the fall and hearing what good trouble you have been up to.

Onward with love and justice!

Rev. Lora

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION UPDATE

This year in RE has been both exciting and challenging, marked by resilience, creativity, and deep commitment from our community. Our Sunday morning Pathfinders and Seekers classrooms have thrived thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers who facilitated meaningful lessons using Soul Matters materials and other engaging resources. We are deeply grateful to those who have shared their time and care with our children during this time of transition.

One highlight of the year was our children's social justice project: choosing to support Encircle Utah, an organization that provides affirming services and community for LGBTQ+ youth—a choice that reflects the values of love and inclusivity we strive to embody.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to our reliable and compassionate childcare providers, Zoe Milner and Tanu Sri Sbarra, whose presence ensures families can participate in worship and other church activities with peace of mind.

Despite some transitions in our Director of Religious Exploration staffing, the program has remained strong and steady. We are especially grateful to Cameron Adams, who has graciously stepped in not once, but twice, to guide our RE ministry as Interim Director.

Looking ahead, we are excited to offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for 4th–6th graders this coming Fall, continuing our commitment to providing thoughtful, age-appropriate, and values-centered education for our children.

It's been a year of growth, collaboration, and community spirit, and we look forward to all that lies ahead.

COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Auction Committee

Chair: Maria Andersen

Committee Members: Brenda Voisard, Kristen May, Collin Surles, Marilyn Smith

The Auction Committee supports the mission of SVUUS by organizing one of our most successful and cherished events – the Annual Auction Party. This beloved tradition not only serves as a vital fundraiser but also as a joyful celebration of community. The auction brings people together in a spirit of generosity, connection, and fun, strengthening our shared commitment to sustaining the work and values of our congregation.

This year, our annual auction was not only a fantastic success, but a truly *legendary* party! With the theme of Musical Legends, our community came dressed to impress - Joan Baez, Cyndi Lauper, and even Beethoven made appearances on the dance floor! The energy was electric, the costumes were fabulous, and the spirit of fun and generosity filled the air.

Thanks to the incredible support and enthusiasm of everyone who participated, we raised over \$20,000! This achievement reflects the heart and commitment of our amazing community. Thank you to all who donated, bid, volunteered, and celebrated with us. *You* made it unforgettable!

Audio-Visual and Sound Teams

Co-Chairs: Maureen Davies and Palmer Pattison

Team: Richard Coleman, Stephen Carter, Stephen Smith, Bob Scarborough, David Lane, Brenda Julander

The Audio/Visual Team continues to play a vital role in enhancing the worship experience at SVUUS, both in-person and online. Each week, a dedicated group of volunteers—including a sound mixer, video technician, Zoom host, and slide presenter—ensures high-quality sound during services and produces recordings for our YouTube channel.

Through the leadership of Palmer Pattison, the team implemented a weekly planning meeting for those involved in the upcoming Sunday service. This initiative has significantly improved coordination and helped ensure a smoother, more cohesive worship experience for both attendees and worship leaders.

Our technology continues to evolve to meet the needs of our hybrid community. We regularly welcome 20+ households via Zoom each Sunday, and more who watch the service recordings later. These recordings are edited by Palmer, with chapter markers thoughtfully added by Maureen, allowing viewers to navigate the service with ease. In collaboration with Rev. Lora, the team has developed a list of recommended technology upgrades, which has been submitted as part of next year's budget for Board consideration.

As we continue to improve our technical capabilities, we remain mindful of maintaining a system accessible to lay volunteers. We are deeply grateful for Palmer's professional expertise and commitment, and we look forward to this essential ministry's continued growth and impact.

BIPOC Caucus (New Name TBD)

Co-Chairs: Kim Adams and Naomi Laine

The BIPOC Caucus is a newly formed group at SVUUS, having just held its first gathering on May 4, 2025. The creation of this space reflects our ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion, as well as fostering a diverse, justice-seeking community. A BIPOC caucus centers the lived experiences of its members as it offers a vital opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color within our congregation to connect, share, and support one another.

Book Group

Lead: Janis Ries

The SVUUS Book Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the Boardroom, with attendance ranging from 4 to 10 participants. Our selections include titles available through local libraries as well as online resources. Over the past year, we continued our exploration of anti-racism with discussions of *Master Slave, Husband Wife*, and *I'm Still Here*. We also enjoyed a month dedicated to poetry, led by Bob Speiser, and ventured into fantasy with *Cloud Cuckoo Land*.

This year, we were delighted to host a Logan UU congregation member for a potluck gathering and discussion of his book, *More Stars than Grains of Sand*. In addition, we have volunteered to organize and host the May 18th congregational potluck.

The Book Group remains open and welcoming to all participants, who are encouraged to join the conversation, whether or not they have finished the current book. We are always happy to receive suggestions for future reading selections.

Buddhist Meditation Group

Facilitator: Bob Speiser

This group, which includes Palmer Pattison, Zach Stickney, and several others, continues to support both South Valley members and newcomers in exploring Buddhist practice. We aim to nurture spiritual growth and contribute to the broader community's spiritual well-being.

There have been no particular challenges this year, and the group does not require a budget at this time. Looking ahead, we are excited to collaborate with the Religious Education (RE) program and continue to support SVUUS's spiritual life in new and meaningful ways.

Caring Circle

Chair: Maureen Davies

Committee Members: Cort Bouldin, Erin Bouldin, Janis Reis, Kevin Alvey, and Peter Verschoor.

The Caring Circle currently includes a meal team of fifteen members and a transportation team of two members.

Throughout the year, the Caring Circle has provided meals and transportation to individuals facing life challenges, offering pastoral care to those undergoing surgeries or coping with bereavement. Our team connects with members through in-person and phone visits, with much of our outreach conducted over the phone.

Looking ahead to the next church year, Cort and Erin Bouldin will lead the circle's pastoral care aspect.

Continuing challenges for our team include ensuring congregants know they can reach out to us for support and recruiting and training additional volunteers to assist with this vital ministry.

Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS)

Chair: Kim Lane

Team: Kathleen Luck, Cathy Calara

The Earth-centered spirituality group continues to foster deep connection through nature, community, and spiritual growth. Embracing a variety of Earth-based traditions, we are proud to be part of the congregation's vibrant and inclusive community life.

Over the past year, we have welcomed several new members. Our group studied *The Inner Temple of Witchcraft* by Christopher Penczak and participated in the Samhain service in October. We were also very proud to bring Celtic musician Celia Farran to our Sanctuary for an excellent performance.

Our monthly gatherings, held every 2nd Sunday, provide a welcoming and supportive space for spiritual exploration, and we are always open to new participants, both in person and virtually. We invite anyone who is curious to join us in community and celebration.

Next year, we are planning on forming an Earth Circle group, which will meet on the second Sunday to have round table discussions of Pagan paths and do rituals. We are planning to hold a witches' tea in October, as well as other rituals later in the year.

Endowment Committee

Chair: Paul Baron

Members: Ann Scarborough, Jordan Roberts, Bryan Debbink (Board/Treasurer), Sinnamon Wolfe (Board of Trustees representative).

Jordan's term on the Endowment Fund (EF) Committee ends on June 30, 2025; Ann's term concludes in 2026, and Paul's in 2027. One member is elected annually for a 3-year term, and two Board of Trustees members serve on the EF Committee.

The Endowment Fund was established to ensure the continuity and growth of the SVUUS and the causes it supports in perpetuity. It is managed by the Endowment Fund Committee as described in the bylaws.

The EF Committee meets quarterly to discuss business associated with the SVUUS Endowment Fund. The value of the fund as of 12/31/2024 was \$699,387. This value reflects \$617,109 invested in the Unitarian Universalist Association's Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF), plus \$82,278 in loans to the congregation. *(\$30,000 was loaned to the Congregation for ARPA grants/security enhancements. \$52,278 is the remaining balance of monies loaned to the congregation between 2012 and 2014. In several recent years, the EF Committee has chosen to pay down the original \$65k balance by disbursing less than the allowed 3% of the fund values.)*

The growth of South Valley's shares in the UUCEF increased 6.6% (Composite Net) for the 12 months ending 12/31/2024. UUCEF follows the principles of ESG (environmental, social, and governance) in applying UU values to fund investing. Our EF Committee is disappointed with this lackluster return, though it recognizes the importance of investing according to UU values.

Our EF Committee has voted to disburse a full 3% of the fund value to the congregation this year, totaling \$20,981, to support the budget process for the 2025-26 church year.

The EF Committee also voted in October 2024 to loan up to \$50,000 to the congregation, as seed money for American Rescue Plan Act projects for security enhancements to the church facilities. This money would be repaid as ARPA funds reimburse SV for these projects. The EF Committee voted to immediately disburse 30k for this purpose, with 20k to be disbursed later if needed. South Valley currently has this money invested in a CD, as security projects have not yet commenced.

In late 2024, the Board approached the EF Committee about the potential for a capital campaign to make improvements to the parking lot and asked if the EF Committee would consider a grant/disbursement to match congregant pledges. In December 2024, the EF Committee approved pursuing up to a \$60k disbursement as a 2-to-1 match for congregant donations/pledges towards this project. Since then, additional congregants have pledged monies to re-landscape the grounds to the south, north, and front of the church building, and it became apparent that improvements to the area west/behind the annex would be more efficiently done before landscaping the south & north sides. The EF Committee recognizes the potential for congregational growth if the facilities are improved, and noting the recent lackluster UUCEF performance, feels that investing in ourselves is a valuable and allowable use of our Endowment Fund. The EF Committee met on 3/31/2025 and approved pursuing a disbursement of up to \$110k from the fund to be used for improvements to our parking lot and landscaping. Per our By-Laws, because it exceeds the allowable 3% annual disbursement, this requires a 75% approval of members at our Annual Meeting.

Additionally, the EF Committee developed an informational brochure about the Endowment Fund, available in the church lobby.

Finance Committee

Acting Chair: Bryan Debbink, Treasurer

Committee Members: Phil Quigley, Robert Scarborough, Collin Surles (Stewardship), Susan Garr (Personnel), Paul Barron (Endowment), Brenda Voisard (President), Rev Lora Young (Minister)

The SVUUS Finance Committee ensures SVUUS remains a financially sustainable community.

The Finance Committee interacts with the Endowment Committee, Stewardship, and Personnel Committees, though the need for direct involvement with the month-to-month review is seasonal and intermittent. We value the wise contributions from these critical financial teams, as well as our de facto members -- Board President and Minister.

The primary purpose of the Finance Committee is to review the monthly financial data provided by the Bookkeeper and Treasurer in a timely manner, and to provide feedback as needed to the SVUUS Board. Through the Board, the SVUUS community is then able to make input on financial decisions at the annual congregational meeting.

A secondary purpose is to advise the SVUUS Board on any budgetary concerns that may be noted and to provide recommendations for consideration by the SVUUS Board. Specifically, the Finance Team prepares a draft budget for the Board to consider and revise.

Accomplishments

- (1) Added two new members – Pete Busche and Ende Lovato
- (2) Beginning the creation of the cyclical internal audit process.
- (3) Led a successful and on-time Budget process and captured some lessons learned.
- (4) The congregation has raised over \$100k this year from individuals for our CUUrb Appeal project. The Finance Team isn't taking credit, but wants to note what a huge accomplishment this has been.

Challenges

- (1) No official Chairperson aside from the Treasurer. Our ideal structure has a Finance Chair who is focused on running the meetings and digesting the details of our financial reports, and the Treasurer has oversight of the big picture, including an expanded vision for Stewardship.
- (2) Our process and relationship with accountants at Bountiful Peak continue to be uneven and, at times, contentious. Work in the coming year will need to be done to smooth this out with both South Valley and Bountiful staff, as well as to better track our contractual deliverables.

Opportunities

- (1) Open position: Finance Chair. Please contact Bryan Debbink, treasurer@svuus.org, 734-546-2648 (cell).
- (2) Looking to expand Stewardship into a real team. We need all skills. Zero financial or math required. Contact Bryan.
- (3) Outreach to other UU communities and the UUA to develop our processes in line with other best practices.
- (4) A list of “parking lot” projects that we will work through this coming year.

Hospitality

Co-Chairs: Chris and Sarah Hansen

Committee: Maria Andersen, Kamis Dewey, Bob & Cate MacGillivray, Ellen & Gigi Payzant, Page Speiser, Marilyn Smith, Elaine Totten-Beal, David Vickery, Sheri & Mac Lund, Jordan Bobo, Peter Verschoor, Deon Corkins, Ted & Tucker Gurney, Jessica Sonneborn, Jessie Petersen, Pallas & Leo Brandon

The Hospitality Team supports community connection at SVUUS by providing refreshments for our Sunday community gathering time and by assisting with potlucks and other congregational events as needed. Chris and Sarah coordinate volunteers for set-up, clean-up, and snack contributions, helping to create a welcoming and nourishing environment. We continue to build our volunteer base to ensure consistent support for these important moments of fellowship.

Humanists of South Valley

Lead: Phil Quigley

Committee: Ted Gurney, Tom Omer, Palmer Pattison

The Humanist Group contributes to the mission of SVUUS by providing a space for thoughtful discussion centered on human experience, inquiry, and ethics. While we enjoy exploring life's big questions, we also focus on practical, human-centered solutions to the challenges of everyday life. Each year, we share our perspectives with the wider congregation by leading a Humanist-themed Sunday service.

Leadership Succession & Development Committee

Chair: Kristen May

Committee: Kristy Jensen, Natalie Cole

The Leadership Succession and Development Committee helps fulfill South Valley's mission by ensuring our congregation members have opportunities to use their talents and skills - and develop new ones - through leadership.

This year, we are filling open positions for the Board, Endowment Committee, and Leadership Succession Committee. We will also recognize outgoing leadership at the May congregational meeting.

Although our congregation is vibrant and growing, we do struggle to find congregants who are eligible and willing to take on elected positions.

Library Committee – Connie Gates Memorial Library

Chair: Denna Wright

Library Committee: Rosemary McAtee, Gloria Olsen, Lorri Quigley

The SVUUS Library supports the spiritual growth of adults, children, and youth by offering a wide range of resources. Our collection includes books on Unitarian Universalism, social justice, LGBTQIA+ topics, world religions, and more. We also provide support to Religious Education and ministerial programs.

Ongoing challenges include staying current with evolving UU topics and identifying the specific interests and needs of our congregation. We remain committed to curating a library that reflects and enriches the spiritual journey of our community.

Membership Committee

Chair: Lorri Quigley

Committee: Sarah Featherstone

The role of the Membership Team is to ensure a coordinated welcome for newcomers, to help integrate newcomers into the life of the congregation, and to contact potential new members. Our team follows up with visitors who submit a Connection Card. We participate in presenting information about membership to the Starting Point small group classes several times a year. We also work with Rev. Lora to plan the new member ceremonies and host a gathering with the minister before each new member ceremony.

Throughout the past year, Rev. Lora and Lorri Quigley worked to update the membership lists and to personally reach out to lapsed members. Lorri updated the Breeze database to reflect the current active members, who total 157. The UUA membership database has been updated to reflect the accurate South Valley membership list.

A Dessert with the Minister gathering and a new member ceremony was held in December 2024, and another is planned for May 2025. The membership team reaches out to those who have been attending the Starting Point classes to see who may be interested in becoming official members. Sheri and Mac Lund and Scott and Laura Renshaw, the Starting Point leaders, have been helpful in recommending people who may be interested. Other recommendations have come from Rev. Lora and Brenda Voisard, President of the Board of Trustees. A total of twelve new members signed the membership book in 2024, and nineteen more joined in a ceremony held in May, 2025.

At the moment, our most significant challenge is finding personnel to join the committee. The current team is down to just two members. The team members have faced significant personal and family challenges, which have affected our ability to effectively carry out the mission of this team. New leadership for the Membership Team should be sought as Lorri Quigley is asking to step away from this role at the beginning of the next church year, July 2025. It would be helpful to add one or two new team members as well.

Personnel Committee

Chair: Sue Garr

Member Nancy Adams

This year, the Staffing Committee focused on strengthening our team through key hires and internal process improvements. While we encountered some challenges along the way, we are thrilled to welcome two new additions to our staff: Oswaldo Machado as our new Music Director, and Cameron Adams as our Interim Director of Religious Experience. Both bring unique gifts and wonderful energy to our community.

In addition to hiring, we undertook a thorough review of our job descriptions, aligning them more closely with best practices across other Unitarian Universalist congregations. We also revamped our performance review process to emphasize growth and development within each role, rather than focusing solely on task completion. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to building a supportive, dynamic, and mission-driven staff team.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our long-standing staff, Rev. Lora Young, James Carlson, Brenda Julander, and Ricklen Nobis. Their exemplary work this year has made a meaningful difference. Thanks to their dedication, our building, grounds, and day-to-day operations have seen steady improvements, making it a true joy to gather in our Sanctuary each Sunday.

A special note of appreciation goes to our building manager, James Carlson, who has faithfully cared for our facility for over 20 years. His commitment and service are deeply valued by our entire community.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Chair: Lorri Quigley

Committee: Kevin Alvey, Cate McGillivray, Louise Cofield, Gloria Olsen

The Prayer Shawl Circle is a small group of members and friends who come together monthly for spiritual growth and serve our church's members and friends, and occasionally the wider community. We create handmade projects to share with those who might need comfort and support from the congregation. We also made shawls or afghans for those teens bridging from RE into the young adult group.

The prayer shawls are a physical reminder of our connectedness and that we are part of an interdependent web. Completed projects are provided to the minister and the Caring Circle to determine who might need comfort.

We would love to have more members join our group. All of us who are participating have found this group to be a positive experience. The group members donate their time and all project materials; no church funds are provided. We are all happy to help, but this needs to be recognized and considered if special projects are requested.

Religious Transitions Group

Lead: William T. Dobbs

The Religious Transition Group (RTG) was established in 2003 because new people at South Valley coming here from another church needed a support group. Here they could frankly discuss their challenges about loved family members who expected that you would never change or have persistent questions. What are you to do with a spouse or child who expects whole-hearted participation at an upcoming religious rite? More than that, if you do not believe in your traditional faith anymore, what meaning does your life have?

To prepare for discussions, we established norms that included our dedication to kindness, confidentiality, honesty, mutual support, respectful perspective, constructive actions, and supporting “conversation, not conversion.” I am pleased that these discussion norms were later utilized to aid South Valley in getting through a difficult time on another issue.

We support the dignity of religious freedom, which is as important today as it was 22 years ago. We support our participants’ right not to be marginalized, shunned, or labelled. We support them through what happens, whether it be divorce or deciding to go back to their traditional practices.

I appreciate all the people who have attended RTG over the years, and our South Valley congregation supporting this unique face-to-face support group. Looking into the face of a supportive person does wonders for a soul’s feeling accepted and normal.

Safety & Security

Lead: George Melling

Team: Ann and Bob Scarborough, Bob MacGillivray, Dave Eliassen, James Carlson, Janis Ries, Mac Lund, and Palmer Pattison

During the 2024-2025 FY, the entire team met five times, but many subcommittee meetings were also held. Our primary focus was on completing the National Security Grant administered by FEMA for Houses of Worship. In 2024, SVUUS was awarded \$149,991.

We thank Bob MacGillivray and Rev. Lora Young for completing our grant application. Bob Scarborough, James Carlson, and Mac Lund are the project managers, and work is underway to begin. Training was planned by Janis Reis and Ann Scarborough, and led by Dave McKean, Director of the Secure Community Network of Utah, including Stop the Bleed, Run Hide, Fight, Be Aware (Institutional

Awareness), and Guardian (Identify, Protect, Respond). A Fire Evacuation Drill for the congregation was done in the fall.

Currently, Zachary Stickney is assisting the team on the 2025 NSG (Nonprofit Security Grant) application, and the team is planning training for next year, including evacuation drills for the congregation with RE classes, shelter in place, lockdown, and lockout drills. We strive to provide a safe and secure worship space with volunteers trained to prevent harm by observing, interrupting, or reporting potential disturbances. We will need more volunteers to assist in this role; contact Ann Scarborough (952.994.1790) or Janis Ries (801.943.3676) to volunteer for an occasional Sunday commitment.

Social Action Council

Co-Chairs: Cameron Adams, Zach Stickney

Committee: Alyssa Johanson, Cameron Adams, Kimberly Adams, Krista Bowers, Natalie Cole, Susan Eyzaguirre, Zach Stickney, Jessica Hercules, Kathleen Luck

The Social Action Council helps UU members live our values in the world beyond our doors. We help organize community service, protest, and civic engagement/activism activities, and work to establish relationships with groups and organizations that share our values. We also work together to determine the monthly recipients of our split plate offering for our religious services.

We continue to work to develop intergenerational activities for the congregation and hope to create more opportunities for volunteer service and action in our community.

Soul Matters Small Sharing Groups

Group Leads: Susan Eyzaguirre, Sheri Lund, and Ann Scarborough

Some of you may be familiar with small groups held previously at SVUUS, called “Evensong.” In 2021, Rev. Lora Young piloted a new UU small group ministry program called “Soul Matters”. The monthly curriculum is created by Rev. Scott Tayler, a UU Minister and Family Therapist, and many UU congregations around the nation are engaged in Soul Matters.

What is a Soul Matters Small Sharing Group?

The format of this covenant group is specifically designed to help its participants learn and practice deep listening skills. This shared practice's wonderful benefit is the connection and closeness that emerges. The skills learned in Soul Matters can be applied to other relationships at home, work, and volunteer teams. We meet only once a month, 9-10 times a year.

Soul Matters’ distinguishing characteristic is a focus on deep listening that helps us heal spiritual disconnection around three core spaces:

- Hold still – the practice of offering space
- Hold at bay – the practice of offering presence
- Hold out and hold up – the practice of offering gratitude and noting meaningful connections

By engaging in deep listening, participants are called to move beyond the question of “What do you think?” into the deeper one of “Where are you willing to let your faith take you?”

This, ultimately, is why one joins a Soul Matters small group. Yes, you will encounter meaning. Yes, you will discover new friends. *But in the end, this is about recovering wholeness and the journey back home.*

Soul Matters is neither a “discussion group” nor a “therapy group,” and requires monthly preparation for our 2-hour meetings. We unlearn bad habits of interrupting others, pre-planning our responses, and offering unasked-for advice! We practice new ways of being sensitive and respectful to others, and learning together becomes a balm for our hearts and minds.

****We currently have 3 Soul Matters groups facilitated by Sheri Lund, Susan Eyzaguirre, and Ann Scarborough. Brenda Voisard is our substitute facilitator. This past year, we attempted to recruit additional**

facilitators, and we are delighted to welcome back Brenda Thomas! She and Shawna Cannon will be co-facilitating, and they will be meeting on the 4th Sunday of the month after the service, at the same time as Susan's group meets. A new Soul Matters Facilitator Training will be held on Wednesday, May 7th, in the Children's Chapel from 7-8:30 pm.

If you are interested in learning more, please email Rev. Lora at minister@svuus.org, and one of our facilitators will be in touch. Watch for more details and new Soul Matters groups in September 2025.

Starting Point Small Groups

Facilitators: Mac Lund, Sheri Lund, Scott Renshaw, and Laura Renshaw

Starting Point gives those new to our congregation the opportunity to come together for three consecutive sessions, typically from 11:30-1:30, following our church service. The sessions are scheduled multiple times throughout the church year. Participants share their religious journey, learn the history of UUs and SVUUS, develop deep listening skills, learn the myriad ways to become a part of our vibrant church community, and so much more. Many participants from our Starting Point groups helped host our November potluck brunch after our service. They were AWESOME! This past church year, Starting Point hosted approximately 45 participants.

We look forward to creating alternative Starting Point sessions for those unable to commit to the three weekly sessions. Starting Point is typically on hiatus during the summer months. Starting Point is definitely a great way to introduce new folks to the "AWESOMENESS" of our congregation!

Stewardship

Chair: Collin Surles

Table Captains (Semi-Members): Cort Bouldin, Mac & Sheri Lund, Tom Omer, Pete Busche & Jess Hercules, Scott & Laura Renshaw, Lindsay Anderson, Kim & Cam Adams, Zach Stickney & Natalie Cole, Cate MacGillivray, Bryan Debbink

The Stewardship Committee helps South Valley by assisting congregants to connect their giving to the staff and programs that make South Valley's mission happen, and making congregants feel seen and heard.

Conversations about giving to a cause like South Valley are often uplifting and affirming, as people share stories of what they get from South Valley, of the general joy of sharing, and of the fire people have for the mission of South Valley. However, with any conversation about money, there is always the risk of an awkward interaction.

I have used my chairmanship to expand the usage of Breeze, adding fields and processes to the standard work of several committees to foster inter-committee sharing of information, to improve committee communication and outreach to congregants.

The pledge campaign for the '25-'26 church has just wrapped up. Thank you to everyone who's made it a success!

Rather than shooting for a specific single figure, we shot for a range, knowing that at the very low end of the range (\$300K or so), we can fund much of what we consider our core necessities, while at the higher end of the range (\$336K), we can fund additional items and programs.

We have definite pledges of \$325K, which will add to our core necessities, and several additional not-as-definite amounts likely to come through that could put us near or even over \$336K. The Treasurer and Finance Team will give more details about the items we can include this year.

Website – svuus.org

Chair: Tammy Felt

Members- Tammy Felt and Brenda Julander

The website serves to provide information to members and potential newcomers alike. A person can get a good sense of our guiding principles and our intention to be a welcoming and diverse community by looking at the website. It includes how a person can connect with Happenings and our Facebook group, and information such as our bylaws and staff.

Earlier this year, our website displayed old data for a few days due to a problem updating software after our host, XMission, switched servers. However, the website was never completely down, so we were able to inform users that an update was being performed. XMission had some difficulty getting the update to work on their new server. However, we are not paying a monthly fee for our hosting, so with that in mind, XMission was helpful in getting the problem resolved relatively quickly. Tammy also reached out to a web developer for assistance in getting the update completed. He has worked for South Valley in the past and was, once again, a pleasure to work with.

Welcoming Team

Chair: Melissa Venable

Team: Ann Scarborough, Becky Condas, Candi Anderson, Denna Wright, Erin Bouldin, Jai Hogue, Kamis Dewey, Marilyn Smith, Melissa Venable, Nancie Pratt, Steve Hansen, Tasha Jensen

This team welcomes everyone walking through the door at SVUUS. We extend love and acceptance in welcoming newcomers and regular attendees, sharing information about our beloved community, and communicating ways folks can become more involved. We also refer people to staff members who lead program ministries in which they are interested.

Melissa Venable coordinates schedules to make sure we have coverage every week. This is a great place for those who long to become better acquainted with our members, friends, and visitors. Knowing more people by name helps one feel a stronger sense of belonging in our SVUUS community. We would love to have additional members for our team!

Women's Group

Facilitator: Marilyn Smith

The Women's Group offers a welcoming space for all who identify as women to build community and deepen relationships through social gatherings and shared connection. While we strive to create inclusive opportunities for participation, coordinating meeting times remains a challenge, as varying schedules can limit attendance for some. We continue to explore ways to accommodate the needs of all who wish to be involved.

Worship Committee

Chair: Caitlin Collins

Members: Tom Omer, Cate MacGillivray, Cortney Bouldin, Lauren Anderson, Lindsay Anderson, Matthew Morris, & Rev. Lora Young

This year, the worship team focused on creating a more inclusive experience through the use of technology, visual descriptions, and inclusive language. We have added several new members to the team who bring wonderful energy and new ideas to the planning process and to our Sunday services. Our current challenge is creating a continuous and enriching worship experience during Rev. Lora's sabbatical.

YRC Meals For Youth Program

Coordinators: Susan Eyzaguirre & Joshua Johanson

As a community, we continued serving two to three meals each month throughout the 2024-25 church year at the Volunteers of America Youth Resource Center (YRC) in downtown Salt Lake City. This program is one of our longest-running service programs at South Valley - entering our 14th year!

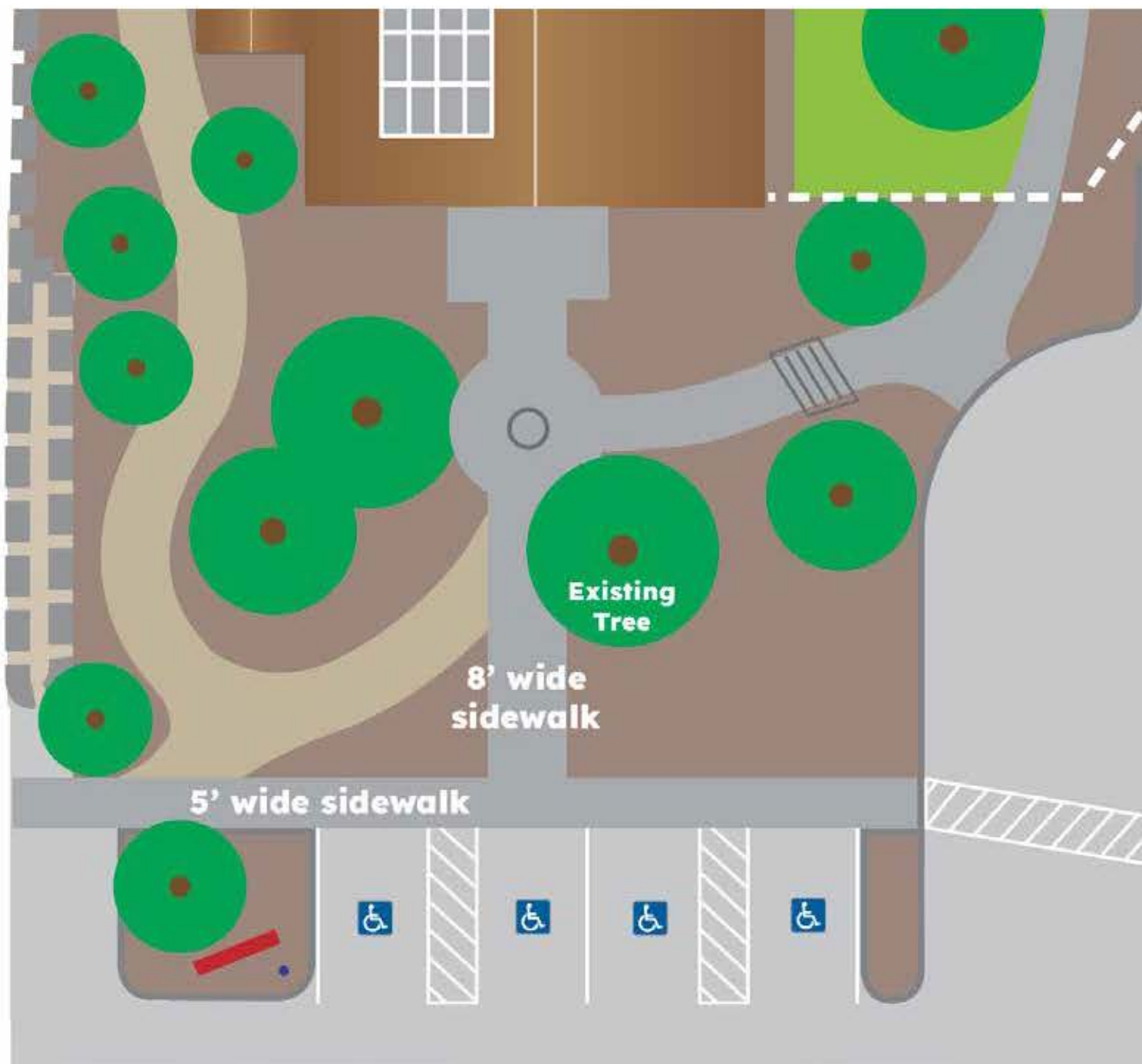
The YRC is a drop-in resource center and emergency shelter for youth ages 15-22 who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Three hot meals are provided daily, largely by volunteer groups like ours, for ~30 to 50 youth. Each of the meals we provide is planned and coordinated by a South Valley “Crew Lead,” and typically 3 to 6 South Valley members and friends will volunteer to provide and/or prepare menu items at home or at the center, serve at the center, and clean up. The South Valley Social Action budget includes some dollars to help volunteers cover expenses as needed, plus we can use a variety of food items available in the YRC’s pantry as well (i.e., dry, and canned goods, frozen meats, dairy items, condiments, etc.). Ages 16+ are allowed to serve at the center, but younger children and youth can participate at home, preparing food like baking cookies, putting together a salad or main dish, and delivering it to the center.

This program aligns nicely with our UU principles and values, and South Valley’s mission. As we serve together, we nurture generosity within our faith community and connect more deeply with one another and our larger community.

We are committed to providing three meals each month for the duration of the 2025 calendar year, and we are always looking for volunteers and more Crew Leads. Susan Eyzaguirre and Joshua Johanson are willing to help those who want to give it a try. Let us know if you are interested; we are happy to co-lead or help plan meals with you.



Flower Communion 2025

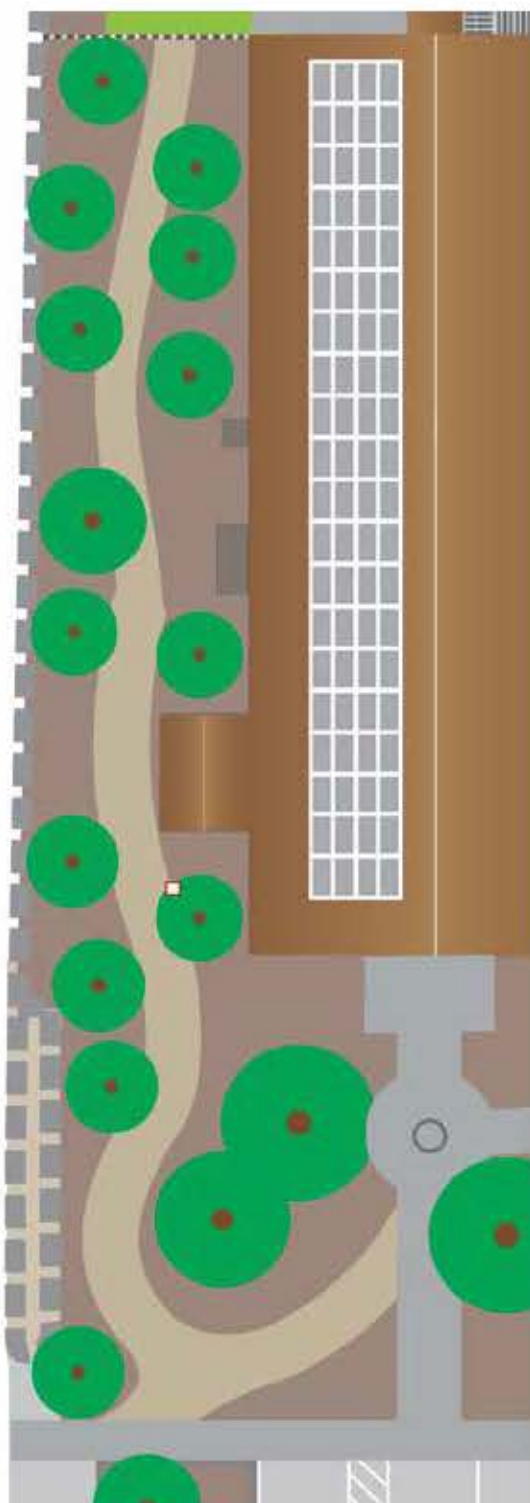


Our New FRONT YARD “LocalScaped Connection Point”



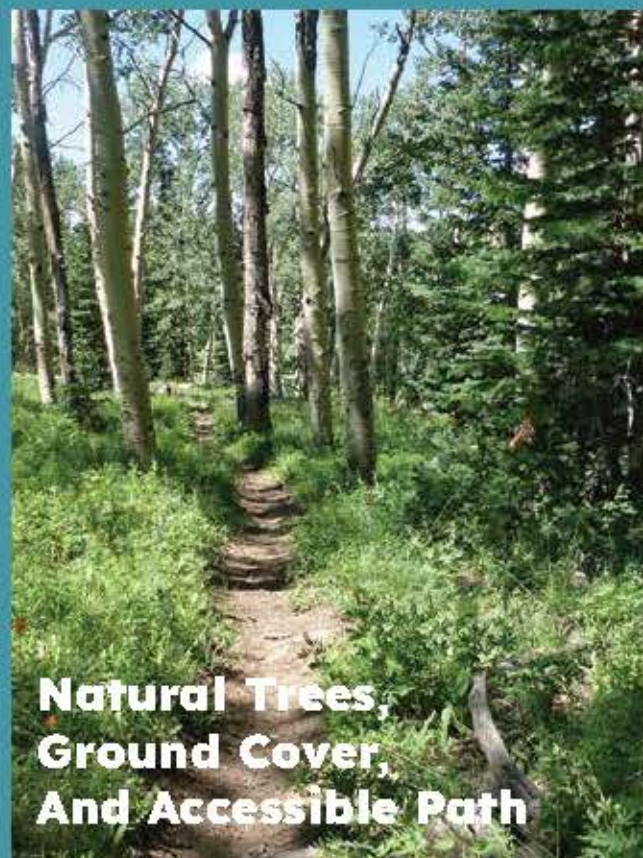
“LocalScaped” Front
Yard and planter beds
with native, drought-
tolerant plants and
cobble.





Our New SOUTH FOREST

"South Valley's Natural Landscape"



**Natural Trees,
Ground Cover,
And Accessible Path**



**Plants That
Attract Butterflies**

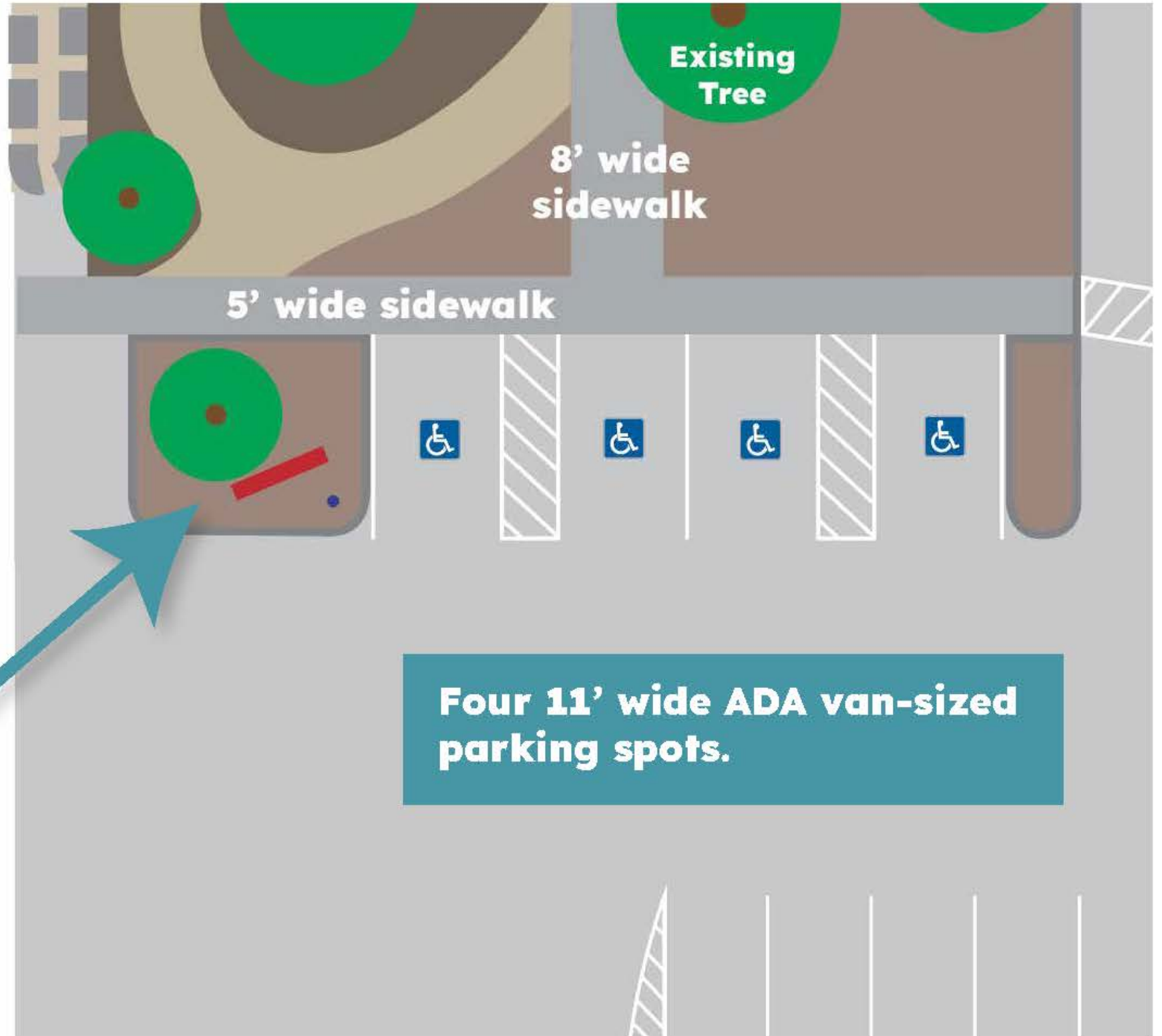


Trees That Attract Birds



Our New ADA PARKING

Potential
site for
future
sign.



Four 11' wide ADA van-sized
parking spots.

Our New PARKING LOT

Regulation 24' wide two-way
traffic lanes throughout.

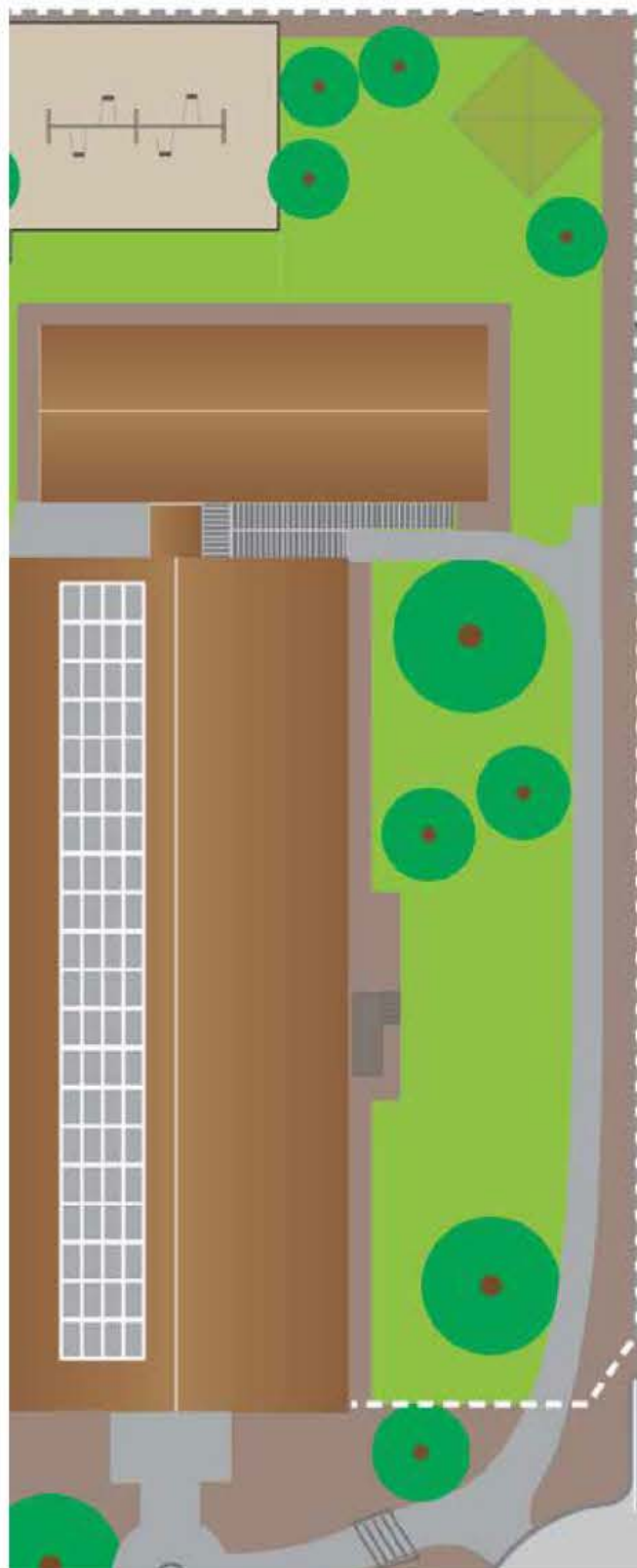
Pedestrian walkway that
incorporates power pole.

Expanded entry for safer
vehicle and pedestrian
movement.

Two-way traffic and aisle connection
means no more backing up.

Accommodates
future Cotton-
wood Heights
path system.
(Slated for 2030
to 2032.)





Our New/Future NORTH COURTYARD

“South Valley’s Back Yard”



Coffee Hour & Other Gatherings



Meetings



Kids' Play



Concerts & Speakers



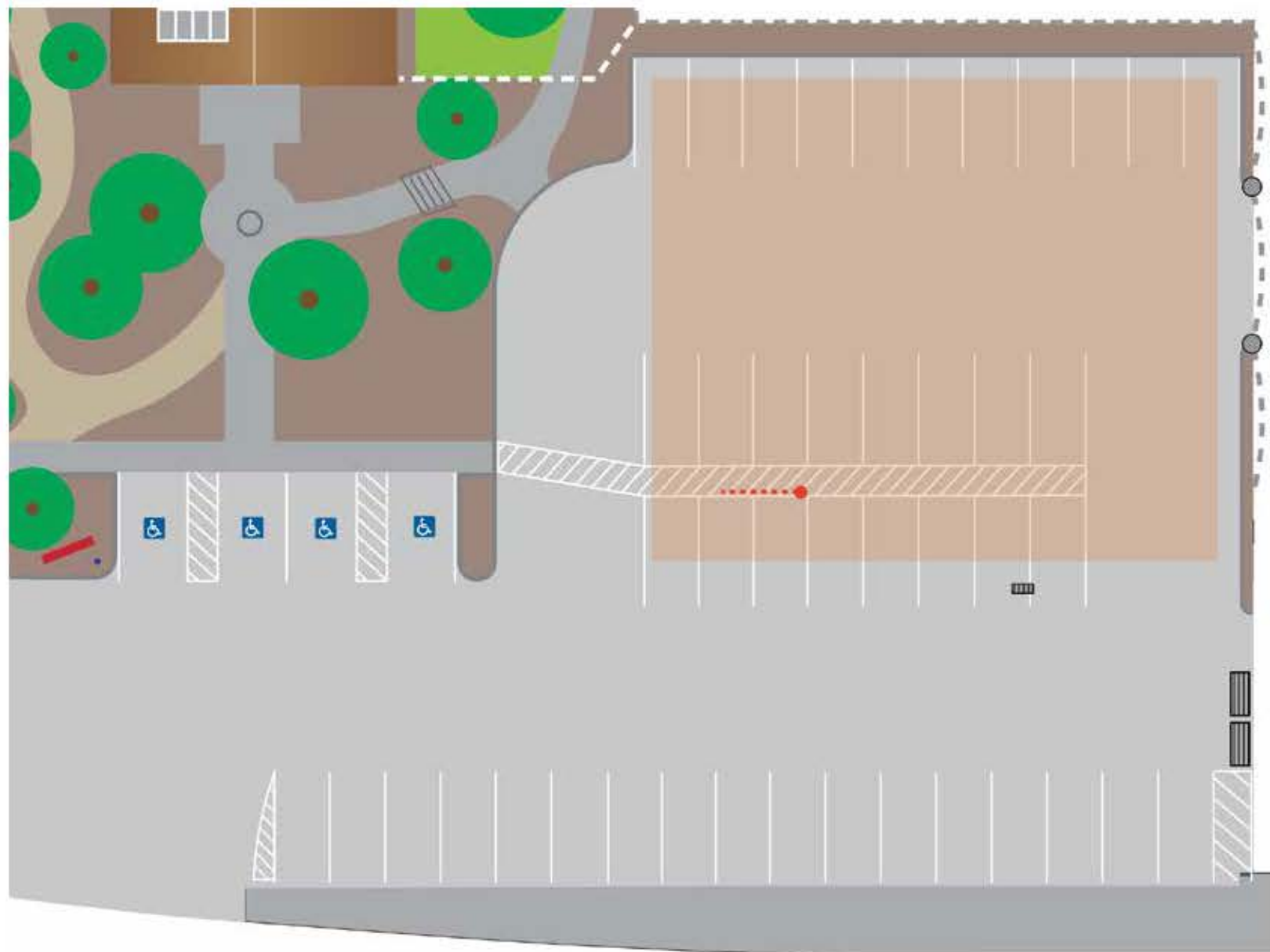
Weddings



Auction Parties



**Pet Blessing
After Party**



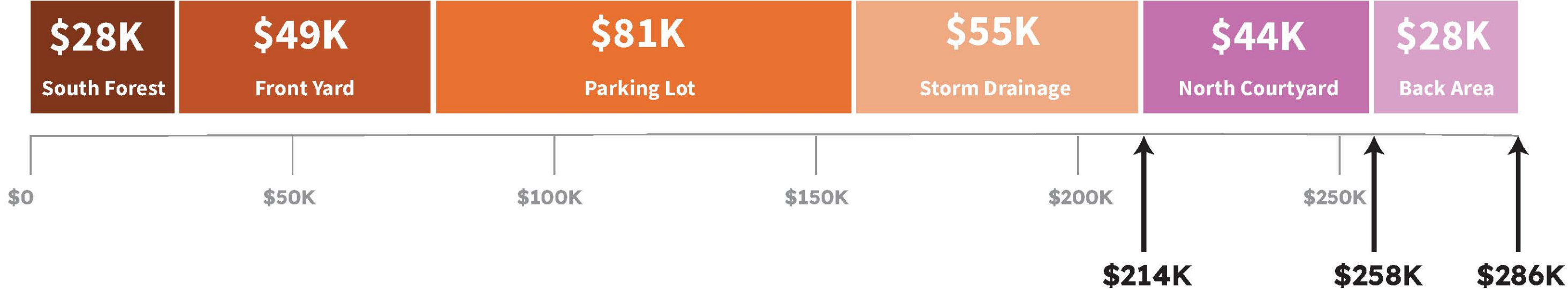
“StormTech” System

**This will likely be required.
(And very expensive...)**



When our parking lot was built 50 years ago, there were no regulations on controlling storm water. Since there's no infrastructure where our parking lot presently drains, we'll be required to install a something significant like this “StormTech” system.

PROJECT COSTS



FUNDING

