

Friends of Unity Board of Trustees Meeting

October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sandy Argas, Phil Ernzen, John Fanta, Kathy Harwood Long, Michele Hayes, and Nancy Langeneckert
Guest: Gail Parker

- *Visioning for our 13th year:* Energized by spiritual vision, we support family health through partnering, inclusivity, and mutual learning.
- *Focused Ministry Board Intention:* We intend to attract and integrate families through the inspiration of love, community, and service, fostering individual spiritual growth and collective spiritual evolution

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Location: Via Zoom

Opening prayer: Nancy

1. Call to Order by John
2. Minutes of prior meetings (May, June, July, and September) were reviewed, Revise May minutes with the correct spelling of Jim & Nancy Rosemergy. These meeting minutes were approved as submitted with the May revision.
3. Minister's Report – Kathy submitted
 - a. Annual calendar/events updates. Fall Intentional Living begins 10/22/23
 - b. Mission Statement - status report. Kathy shared statements and asked Board members to review them before sharing them with the congregation.
 - c. Promotions Assistant, Sherry, is focused on marketing and having engagement in Facebook, including concert payment link. Gail taking a vacation; Sherry is sub.
 - d. GLUR conference report. Kathy shared a link to Jim Blake's video.
 - i. Unity Headquarters distributes social media; any contacts and engagement suggestions are shared with UWM. UWM supports ministers and ministries. Clarity in new design.
 - ii. Confusion over use of unity in other denomination names may make FoU difficult to identify as a Unity church.
 - iii. Shad Groveland noted the churches that came out of the pandemic the best focused on the in-person most and less energy in online, includes more financial support. People seeking churches-churches are not dead. How can we position ourselves for people to find FoU?
 - e. Preparing for Annual Meeting, Retreat, and Daniel Nahmod concert.
 - f. This Sunday, the congregation will be encouraged to “claim” a Mission Statement. Plan to invite during the service and vote between the service and Annual Meeting.
4. Priority Items.
 - a. Annual Meeting Preparation.
 - i. Approve applicants for membership. Six new members were presented. Unanimously approved the new members. Membership list to be circulated to the Board. Plan to record Annual Meeting attendance.

- ii. Review agenda and slides. John distributed and reviewed the Annual Meeting slide deck and meeting activities. Discussed the slides for Board, Financial, and Minister's Report. Close with prayer from Flossie. Kathy will share a readiness for Vision at Annual Meeting. John and Kathy to discuss Board Report talking points tomorrow. Slides accepted with financial slides to be added.
 - iii. Handouts: Copies of last year's minutes and recent Statement of Activities from Treasurer's Report
 - iv. Discussed Board entry into October MailChimp. John recommended two financial slides. Nancy recommended welcoming new members (question of sharing names). Volunteer Appreciation was well received. To be worked on.
 - b. Review ideas for increasing prosperity consciousness within the community and income. Tabled.
- 5. New Business.
 - a. Focus groups identified the need for space for youth. Revisit with the new Board.
 - b. Budget & Finance Team.
 - i. Composition change with new Treasurer. Sandy shared Jan W. seemed amenable to continuing on the Finance Team.
 - ii. Need to define the meaning of "Healthy Budget" for 2024. The depletion of the Ida Bowles Grant, software increased costs, payment for expertise, etc., has implications for the Budget, Budget & Finance Team to present ideas to the new Board. Kathy asked what is the Divine plan?
- 6. Intentional Giving: \$165 to each Unity Headquarters, UWM, GLUR, and Discretionary tithe/Kathy proposed International YOU Love Light/Cultural Ambassadors; accepted.
- 7. Financial.
 - a. Treasurer's report - Phil submitted. Could have a Special Meeting to vote in officers. Kathy shared her appreciation for Phil's thoroughness in the Treasurer's Report which added perspective to the finances.
- 8. Administrator's Report - Gail submitted.
- 9. Sandy shared that this year's immersion in visioning helps us to identify our why, which is unifying. We believe in these things, so we do these things. Recommends Simon Sinek's TED Talk. Kathy appreciated Sandy's service on the Board.
- 10. Date and location for next meeting: Meet in-person at Nancy's home on November 12th.
- 11. Reviewed the these minutes. Approved.

Closing prayer: Michelle
 Meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted: Gail Parker