

Friends of Unity Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2026

Vision: Transforming Lives Through Divine Love

Mission: Together We Nurture Spiritual Awakening, Cultivate Loving Community, Serve Generously.

Attendees:

Title	Name	Status
President	Jan Larsen	Present
Vice President / Treasurer	John Fanta	Present
Secretary	Valerie McCloskey	Present
Keeper of the Flame	Michelle Hayes	Present
Church Administrator	Gail Parker	Present
Guest	Sandy Argas	Present

Community Input

1. Discussion Regarding Ministry/Social Activities

a. **Social Committee Updates:** Sandy Argas, Social Team, reported that the number of recent potlucks (occurring every four weeks) has reached a point of "oversaturation," resulting in decreased congregational engagement

Decision: The Board agreed to move potlucks to every three months to help maintain enthusiasm . Any extra potlucks will be catered by the Board or planned without sign-ups for special entrees. Gail Parker and the Social Team will adjust the calendar to reflect quarterly potlucks rather than monthly events.

Call to Order: Jan Larsen

Time: 12:24 PM

Opening Prayer: Michelle Hayes

- b. **Volunteer Appreciation and Community Events:** The Board discussed moving the Volunteer Appreciation event away from the Annual Meeting to avoid over-burdening volunteers.
 - i. **Decision:** The Volunteer Appreciation picnic will be moved to September 20, 2026.
 - ii. **Action Item:** Gail Parker to update the Planning Calendar and distribute to Board members.

2. Minutes Approval

- a. **Minutes Approval:** The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the March 8th and April 9th Meeting, pending minor edits (see email).
 - b. **Action Item:** Valerie McCloskey to finalize the edited minutes and provide them to Gail Parker for posting.
3. **Financial Report:** John Fanta noted that first-quarter income is tracking ahead of last year and shared a single-slide summary that shows the church is in a stable financial position.
- a. **Decision:** John Fanta will present the quarterly financial report to the congregation on the 26th of April.
 - b. **Action Item:** Financial Slides to be added to May newsletter.
 - c. The Board discussed repurposing the budget previously allocated for a marketing assistant, suggesting these funds could be redirected to support a Tech Assistant as needed.

3. Administrators report:

Gail presented the FoU Annual Program Planning Calendar.

- a. Andriana Medina Marin will be teaching an in-person class: Neuroscience and Spirituality: Diving Deep into The Science of Spiritual Living on Saturdays in April, May, June, and July from 10:30 AM to 1 PM.
- b. May's theme will be a Month with Myrtle
- c. July's theme will be Walking on Sacred Earth: Moments of Awe.
- d. The Mental Health Fair will be on April 25th
- e. May 23rd is the Regional Board Training Meeting

5. Leadership and Spiritual Direction

- a. **Spiritual Director Search:** John Fanta proposed that instead of waiting for increased income, the Board should approach a potential candidate, to gauge his interest and financial requirements for a spiritual leader role, then present this to the congregation for a vote
- b. **Process:** The Board reached a unanimous decision to move forward with preliminary discussions.
- c. **Action Item:** Jan Larsen and John Fanta will schedule a Zoom call with the individual to discuss his interest and vision for the role, ensuring the Board maintains control of the search process as outlined in the Bylaws.

5. Future Scheduling

- a. **Meeting Dates:** Future board meetings will generally occur on the second Sunday of the month, with adjustments made for holidays (e.g., Mother's Day). The next meetings are scheduled for May 17th, June 14th, and July 12th.
- b. **Retreat Attendance:** Members discussed attending the upcoming spring retreat at a neighboring church, with several members planning to attend the Saturday sessions.

6. **Closing Prayer:** Prayer of Protection (Group)

7. **Meeting Adjourned:** 1:58 PM

Board Meeting Calendar:

- **May 17, 2026 5 PM on Zoom** (Moved to avoid Mother's Day)
- **June 14, 2026**
- **July 12, 2026**