

Friends of Unity Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 8, 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

Call to Order: Jan Larsen **Time:** 6:00 PM

Opening Prayer: Michelle Hayes

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

- The Board reviewed the minutes from the February 8, 2026, meeting. Valerie McCloskey moved to approve the February minutes as presented. John Fanta seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

- John Fanta presented the financial report detailing the current budget status. He noted that the CPA has not yet completed the monthly report, necessitating a delay in the full financial review until next month. The Board discussed the January discretionary title and selected Open Door Ministry as the recipient to support local food needs. Michelle Hayes moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Valerie McCloskey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. Administrator's Report: Gail Parker

- Gail Parker presented the annual planning calendar, highlighting current activities and the success of recent social media reels. She requested Board volunteers for planning Easter Sunday. John Fanta moved to accept the Administrator's report. Michelle Hayes seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

- The Board followed up on whether guest speakers had expressed interest in offering post-service classes. Adriana Medina Marin will offer a class through Unity of Ann Arbor.

5. New Business

- **Leadership Model:** The Board engaged in a discussion regarding the new leadership model before excusing non-board members. The Board received the Discernment Meeting Overview for the Board before this meeting.

The purpose of the proposed Discernment Meeting is to plan for long-term sustainability by surveying congregational preferences. A facilitated dot-preference system will be used where congregants indicate support on a 0% to 100% scale for three frameworks.

Topic to explore: 1. Lay-Led/Speaker Rotation; 2. Fractional Spiritual Director; 3. Community Planning and Feedback Circle.

Dean Georgoff will facilitate. Trustees will remain on the dais to answer clarifying questions only. Financial constraints will be cited if questions regarding a full-time minister arise.

Sherry Wells and Dean Georgoff clarified both the intention and the wording of the questions to explore with the congregation.

- **April 12 Discernment Meeting Planning:** The Board reviewed the methodology for the upcoming April 12 congregational meeting. The session will use a "dot-voting" system to gauge support for three frameworks: Lay-Led Rotation, a Spiritual Director, and a Feedback Circle.

Valerie McCloskey moved to approve the methodology and three discernment areas for the April 12 meeting. Michelle Hayes seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Gail Parker and Dean Georgoff to send the Board updated wording for the two selected questions.

- **Sunday Tithing Collection:** The Board talked about the tradition of passing the plate during Sunday morning services. The decision was to have Steward bring the donation basket forward to be blessed by the Platform Assistant.
- **April Meeting Schedule:** The Board discussed the date and time for the next session.

Closing Prayer: Prayer of Protection

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54 PM

Board Meeting Calendar:

- **April 12, 2026 6 p.m. on Zoom**
- **May 10, 2026**
- **June 14, 2026**
- **July 12, 2026**