

2021 Board of Trustees Candidate Application & Questionnaire

Name: Gabriel Coleman

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1. How long have you been a member of Unity of Gainesville Church? *17 years*
2. Why do you feel called to serve on the Board of Directors? *Unity has been an important part of my life for many years. Serving on the board is a way to give back to the community that has given me so much.*
3. Briefly describe how you have demonstrated leadership abilities here, at Unity of Gainesville, & beyond our spiritual community (on other boards, outreach, volunteering, etc.). *I have served on the Board of Directors for two terms, and a total of five years. I also work with the Youth of Unity, I directed wrote and acted in two plays at Unity, and I have wrote and directed several short films outside of the church.*
4. What classes, trainings, study groups have you been involved with and how have they shaped your spiritual journey? *I've participated in a number of classes at Unity of Gainesville. I have also attended many YOU, and NGU events. I am also currently studying to become a Licensed Unity Teacher. In addition to these things, I attend lectures from Mikey Singer (Author of Untethered Soul) on a regular bases, and speak to a spiritual mentor on a regular basis. I am immersed in a spiritual path for many years, and I consider the path to be a main foundation to my entire life. I have made it through many life challenges, and without a doubt I would be in a very different place without the support of Unity and my other sources of spiritual nourishment. I am ever grateful for what Unity has given me, and I feel deeply inspired to give back.*
5. As a Unity Truth student, how do you hold to Principle when your ideas have been challenged? *I recognize that everybody has their own path in life. I do not know ultimately what is right for that person in that moment. I respect their beliefs whole heartedly. I listen, ask questions, and I seek to*

learn more about their world view as well as look for the commonality of my world view and their world view. Sometimes people present new ideas in which expand my way of understanding the world. I feel everybody has something to offer and teach me, if I learn to really listen.

6. Give one specific example of how you've used conflict in your life to create a more positive experience/outlook. *On one occasion, I had a communication breakdown with someone else. I thought I understood their point of view and why they were saying and doing what they were doing. However, I put aside my preconceived judgments and listened deeply to what the other person was saying. As I listened I realized that my perception of what the person was thinking and saying was very different than what that other person was really trying to tell me, and eventually I realized that I had made a mistake that needed to be corrected. I feel from this experience that it is important in any conflict to listen deeply to the other person, even if I initially may disagree with their point of view.*
7. What do you love about Unity of Gainesville Church?
I love the community. I love to be able to meet so many other people on a common spiritual journey. Being a part of unity has introduced me to many different things that have deeply impacted my own spiritual path in many ways.
8. What would you like to help improve most at Unity of Gainesville Church? *I would like to help Unity become more involved in the Gainesville Community.*
9. What are the three most important financial decisions the church needs to make in the coming year?
 - 1) *Purchase a new AC system and set it up to be Covid safe.*
 - 2) *Upgrade the Video / Audio system to support a hybrid online, in person setup.*
 - 3) *We will need to assess our budget for hiring a new minister. This potentially will be a major expense to take on, yet I know when we find the right minister this will be a worthwhile expense.*
10. What unique, personal qualities, skills & spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board? *I have been into meditation since 17, and I had a spiritual awakening at age 15. Serving God has been an important and integral part of my life for many years. I have many skills and talents to offer the church. I*

am trained in many types of technology. I also have worked on many creative projects, including writing and directing short movies, and designing digital applications with computer programming. I would consider myself an out of the box thinker and I am always interested in learning new skills and finding new ways to put my skills and talents to good use. In my previous term I have helped the church move it's services to Zoom, and we are now livestreaming to Youtube and Facebook

11. How have your spiritual practices deepened and/or expanded since you've been active at Unity of Gainesville Church? *I met my spiritual mentor in 2005, at Unity Of Gainesville, and I still communicate with him on a regular basis. I meditate twice a day morning and evening consistently. My practice is an integral part of my life.*
12. What are some things you value most in your life? *My friends and family by far I value the most. I also value the learning and career opportunities I have found. I value my Unity Family a great deal. Other than that, I value that I have found such a deep and meaningful spiritual path. I feel that my life has been impacted in so many positive ways by the spiritual path I am on.*
13. Are there any areas where you do business with the church, or have any relationship with anyone on the Board or employees of the church which are, or may be considered a conflict of interest? *No I do not do any business with the church.*
14. Unity of Gainesville Church is committed to tithing;
which means each month, we tithe 10% of gross receipts where we have been spiritually fed. It is important that Board members embrace the principles of tithing & the practice of prosperity. How do you feel about that? *Absolutely, A recent discovery I have made is how Tithing has changed my relationship with earning a living. Knowing that I am going to make a regular Tithe to the church, changes my perspective on my work. I no longer feel completely that I am working to pay the bills, but my work itself becomes another act of service, because I know what I earn is going to help others. It's an amazing place to be.*
15. Which ministry teams do you believe are the most important to nurture the growth of Unity of Gainesville Church? *Outreach and Youth programs, are probably the most important.*

16. What is your vision for Unity of Gainesville Church in the next year? Three years? Five years? *In a year see Unity having an amazing Minister, which attracts people of all ages. As we put Covid behind us, I see unity becoming more integrated into the Gainesville Community at large. I can see unity having an active role in serving the community through volunteering in hospitals, homeless shelters, and more. I also see Unity having hybrid church services, which are both in person and online. This way people all over the world will be able to join our amazing church. Within three years I see unity Thriving. The church has three Sunday services. People of all ages, young and old are a part of the church. Five years, I see unity has expanded. We have a larger building to hold more people. The community service has put Unity in the local news several times. Unity is a place that people of all walks of life feel inspired to come and be fed spiritually, and it is a place that goes out into the community to help build it and make it a better place.*
17. What are you willing to do personally to help the church reach that vision? I will research and help Unity setup all equipment to start hosting hybrid online / in person services. Once covid numbers fall significantly, I will start the outreach / community service program. I will continue to lead Youth Of Unity Classes on Sunday.
18. If elected to the Board, would you be open to serving as an officer? Why? Or why not?
If it seems appropriate, I will be open to service as an officer.

BIO

My name is Gabriel Coleman. I have been a part of Unity of Gainesville since 2004. I started in the Church as a YOUer. My mother, Ann Coleman was the youth sponsor at that time. I am now walking in my Mother's footsteps as a You Sponsor.

I have served on the Board of Directors for a total of Five years, and I look forward to serving the church on another Term.

I hold four college degrees, all in technology, and I have a lot of skills to offer the church. Outside of my education I have been a regular meditation practitioner for many years. Recently, I began my studies to become a Licensed Unity Teacher.

I love this church and this amazing community. Unity is one of the cornerstones of my life. I am honored for this opportunity to continue to be here to serve.