



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 23, 2025 – 12:45 p.m.

MINUTES

FINAL

Call to Order – Lauri Mills, President

- The meeting was called to order at 1:05p.m.
- The meeting was held at Unity of Gainesville and broadcast live on Zoom.
- Board Members Present – Lauri Mills, President; Rupali Robinson, Vice President; Barbara Gordon, Treasurer; Donna Bonnell, Secretary; Shirley Mogensen, Trustee
- Members signed in on the Membership List – 28 were present, one online.
- A quorum was met.

Opening Prayer – Rupali Robinson, Trustee

Nomination and Elections

- Lauri Mills, President, read the pertinent sections on nominations and elections verbatim from the 2022 Unity of Gainesville Bylaws.
- Rupali Robinson, Vice President and Nominating Committee Liaison, read the pertinent sections on the voting process verbatim from the 2022 Unity of Gainesville Bylaws.
 1. She reiterated that we must have a minimum of four members in the Board of Trustees.
 2. As per the 2022 Unity of Gainesville Bylaws, the Board voted (at the October 14, 2025, Board Meeting) to have five trustees for 2026. Hence, we have two openings – a three-year term and a one-year term. Two candidates needed.

Election for Board of Trustee Members – Rupali Robinson, Vice President

- Introduction of Nominating Committee
 1. Chairperson – Nancy Johnson
 2. Team Members – Jacque Tatum, Melinda Ua
 3. Board Liaison – Rupali Robinson, Vice President
- Introduction of Ballot Committee
 1. Team Members – Gary Coleman, Saradna Mazur
 2. Ballot Liaison – Rupali Robinson, Vice President
- Introduction of Board Candidates
 1. Celeste Kroll
 2. Penta Rose
 3. Kate Brigman
- Ballots were distributed, completed and collected (including one online voter)
 1. The Ballot Committee Members left the meeting to count.
 2. Results will be announced later in the meeting.

Review and Approval of Annual Congregational Minutes 2/25/24 – Donna Bonnell, Board Secretary

- Review of Minutes – no comments or corrections.
- Jacque Tatum made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Starr Ranford seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report and Proposed 2025 Budget – Barbara Gordon, Board Treasurer

- Financial Report – 2024 (See Attached)
 - o Budgeted Income \$123,101.00
 - o Actual Income \$ 92,479.41
 - o Actual Expenses \$ 86,237.83
 - o Net Income \$ 6,241.58
 - o Actual income was approximately 75% of budgeted income.
 - o The building maintenance expenses of \$18,863.23 includes payment of all but about 25% of the new flooring expenses.
- Review and Approval of 2025 Proposed Budget (See Attached)
 - o The two largest budgeted increases were in salaries and building maintenance.
 - o Total income budgeted income was increased to \$144,537.00 (from \$123,101.00).
- Carla Palmer made a motion to accept the 2024 Financial Report and 2025 Proposed Budget as presented. Bill Lang seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Trustees Report – Lauri Mills, President

- Summary of Activities
 - o Collaborated with UWM to recruit and hire part-time minister (started Sept. 1, 2024); many thanks to Jacque Tatum and Rupali Robinson and Rev. Ryan for saying “YES”!
 - o AV issues were researched and troubleshooting company was hired, many thanks to Phyllis Shepard, Gabriel Coleman, and Sally Travis!
 - o Procedures were created and updated as needed; thank you, Jacque Tatum, for being a wonderful resource!
 - o Hired part-time nursery caregiver, welcome Alex!
 - o Tried to sell piano; decided to keep it and it was relocated to the Gathering Room.
 - o Gave away the non-working golf cart; team worked on battery charging issues (many thanks to Bill Lang and Rolando Drausal).
 - o Several Town Hall meetings were held; action plan was developed to fulfill congregation suggestions.
 - o Volunteer Coordinator position transitioned to Gio Drausal in 2024 and in 2025, transferred to Sally Travis & Deena Reyes, Co-Volunteer Coordinators.
 - o Transitioned to using biodegradable kitchenware; thank you, Rupali!
 - o Decorating Team worked throughout the year to enhance the entry, Gathering Room, and Sanctuary by representing specific holidays.
 - o Annual fire inspection requiring replacing of bulbs.
 - o Benches were worked on and relocated.
 - o Deck was refurbished.
 - o Worked with Carla Palmer, LUT, re: description of UOG and PR Team to advertise our church.
 - o Purchased equipment for hearing impaired congregants.
 - o Reviewed list of who has building keys and keyless entry options.
 - o Bill Lang researched security cameras for the parking lot.

- o Rev. Ryan researched new sign; looking into refreshing the sign by purchasing a strong vinyl material that pulls over the existing sign.
- o Researched flooring and received bids from 2 companies; installation began on 2/18; many thanks to Rupali Robinson and Gio Drausal.
- o Gathering Room ceiling and beams were painted, many thanks to Jane Roy!
- o Hosted World Day of Peace & Prayer with Gerardo Ojeda-Ebert & Hannah Nerbovig, Coordinators.
- o Unity World Day of Peace held at UOG in September. Many thanks to Jacque Tatum and Rupali Robinson for planning and coordinating the activities.
- o Announcements and Sunday services available on the monitor in the Gathering Room.
- o Purchased memorial stone and bench for Rev. Joseph Bettencourt.

Ministry Report – Rev. Ryan Hope Travis, Minister

- He is excited about the progress at Unity of Gainesville thus far and has visions for great things to come.
 - o A service dedicated to honoring our first full-time minister, Rev. Joe Bettencourt was held.
 - o We are currently in the middle of renovation of the flooring throughout most of the campus.
- Goals:
 - o Extend outreach programs.
 - o Highlight new visitors – perhaps welcoming with a yellow rose.
 - o Redo parking lot lines.
 - o Update technology.
 - o A new website is currently being created, expected to be launched in the Spring of this year (2025).

Licensed Unity Teacher Report (LUT), Rev. Carla Palmer

- Rev. Palmer, LUT serves as the Vice President of Southeast Unity Ministries.
- At Unity of Gainesville:
 - o Coordinated/led a book club for five years and will continue.
 - o Teaches the new membership classes at UOG. More classes will be scheduled soon.
 - o Provides lessons/talks at Sunday services.
 - o Taught “Discover Your Divinity,” an affirmative prayer class.
- Enneagram:
 - o Rev. Palmer is certified to instruct Enneagram.
 - o Would like to teach the Enneagram to Unity Board Members as a part of Board Development.

Ballot Results

- Celeste Kroll received the most votes. She will serve the three-year term.
- Kate Brigman received the second most votes. She will serve the one-year term.

For the Good of the Order

- Selection of Two Members for the Nominating Committee – Rupali Robinson, Vice President.
 - o Nancy Johnson and Rupali Robinson agreed to serve on next year’s committee.
 - o In October of 2025 they will select a third member.
- Volunteering Opportunities – Sally Travis & Deena Reyes, Co-Volunteer Coordinators.
 - o Both were absent from the meeting. No report given.
- Questions and/or Comments - None

- Next Board of Trustees Meeting – March 18, 2025.
 - 6:00 pm via Zoom.
 - Officer positions will be determined.
- Next Annual Congregation Meeting
 - On or before the last Sunday of February 2026.

Closing Prayer

- The closing prayer was said.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

(Respectfully submitted by Donna Bonnell, Board Secretary)

Attachments: Agenda
Proposed 2025 Budget
ACM Minutes - February 25, 2024
Financial Reports - 2024