



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 25, 2024 – 12:30 p.m.

MINUTES

(FINAL)

Call to Order – Phyllis Shepard, Vice President

- The meeting was called to order at 12:54 p.m.
- The meeting was held at Unity of Gainesville and broadcast live on Zoom.
- Board Members Present – Phyllis Shepard, Vice President; Barbara Gordon, Treasurer; Donna Bonnell, Secretary; Rupali Robinson, Trustee
- Board Members Absent – Gabriel Coleman, President

Opening Prayer – Carla Palmer, LUT

Election for Board of Trustee Position – Rupali Robinson, Trustee

- Introduction of Nominating Committee & Explanation of Election Process
 - o Introduction of Nominating Committee – Rupali Robinson, Trustee
 1. Team Members – Marilyn Mahone, Saranda Mazur
 2. Board Liaison – Barbara Gordon, Treasurer
 - o Explanation of Voting – Barbara Gordon Treasurer and Nominating Committee Liaison, read (verbatim) the pertinent sections in the Unity of Gainesville Bylaws.
 - o Introduction of Board Candidate – Rupali Robinson, Trustee
 1. Lauri Mills, current Volunteer Coordinator, and former Board Member.
 2. Lauri Mills was unable to attend today's meeting.
 3. Rupali Robinson read her bio.
 - o Introduction of Ballot Committee – Rupali Robinson, Trustee
 1. Team Members – Starr Ranford, Shirley Mogensen
 2. Ballot Liaison – Phyllis Shepard, Vice President
 - o Voting – Rupali Robinson, Trustee
 1. We have two openings – a three-year term and a one-year term. Two candidates needed.
 2. Only have one candidate. Since there is only candidate, voting is not required.
 3. Lauri Mills won by acclamation for the three-year term.
 4. The Board will seek and select an eligible member for the remainder of the one-year term.
 - o Selection of Two Nominating Committee Members for 2024 – Rupali Robinson, Trustee
 1. Procedures read.
 2. Must be a Unity Member for at least one year.
 3. Jacque Tatum and Nancy Johnson agreed to serve on next year's committee.
 4. In October of 2024 they will select a third member.

**Review and Approval of Annual Congregational Minutes 2/26/23 –
(former Board Secretary, Barbara Gordon)**

- Review of Minutes – no comments or corrections.
Barbara Gordon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Gary Coleman seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report and Proposed 2024 Budget – Board Treasurer, Barbara Gordon

- Financial Report – 2023
 - o Budgeted Income \$120,395.00
 - Actual Income \$ 92,122.64
 - Actual Expenses \$ 75,364.41
 - Net Income \$ 16,758.23
 - o Bank loan secured to replace roof.
 - 1. Good terms on loan!
 - o None of our ancient air conditioners were replaced.
 - o Question Asked – Do we have any funds that are designated?
 - 1. Answer – Yes, Audio Visual and YOU.

Paul Leiss made a motion to accept the Financial Report as reported.
Anne Young seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of 2024 Budget

- See Attached Proposed Budget.
 - o Discussion ensued over identifying proper categories for pastoral care expenses.
 - 1. It was decided to leave the budget as submitted. When a minister is hired, that person will determine the breakdown and budget adjustments can be made.

Gwen Lindsley made a motion to accept the 2024 Budget as presented.
Gary Coleman seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Trustees Report – Phyllis Shepard, Vice President

- New musicians were hired.
- A Yamaha Clavinova was donated. Our Baby Grand Baldwin is being offered to music departments and music/dance organizations locally to repurpose first.
- Our financial systems were reviewed by Rev. Monica Driscoll.
 - o Changes were made per her recommendations.
- Rev. Betty Martin Lewis held a training on Prosperity Principles.
- Several generous anonymous donations provided our financial improvement.
- A Search Team to find a Spiritual Leader, with support of Unity Worldwide Ministries, was formed. Interview questions for candidates were created. A review of MOR/Part-Time Minister candidates for the Spiritual Leader position was completed. The Search Team and Board are actively pursuing applicants.
- A second golf cart was donated.
 - o The Board is considering the best thing to do with the old golf cart.
- A television screen was placed in the sanctuary.
- Earth Care and Ecofriendly practices were implemented.
- The Decorating and Ground Teams made many improvements to beautify our church home.
- The volunteers who previously ran the bookstore have returned.
 - o They have made updates/changes, including adding new books and gifts.

- Our beloved Sue Henry Young, who for many years was responsible for our website and weekly eBlasts, name tags and much more, made her transition. A plaque honoring Sue was created and placed on the back deck.
- The Public Relations Team was created, including a volunteer PR Coordinator position.
- An A/V, Sound, and IT Coordinator volunteer position was also created.
- New member orientations were held. Some of our new members have already taken on leadership roles which is greatly appreciated.
- Our children's church is growing.

Ministry Report – Carla Palmer, LUT/Adult Education Director

- *The Power of Focused Ministry*, a leadership training was attended by the Board of Trustees and other congregants. It was provided at Unity of Citrus with Reverend Shad Groverland, the President/CEO of Unity Worldwide Ministries.
- Three *Healing with Sound* fundraisers were held; led by Sam and Luci.
- Healing circles are being held on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month (immediately following Sunday service).
- Carla Palmer is the Vice President of the Executive Team for Southeast Unity Ministries, Inc. (SUMI).
- Unity Worldwide Ministries is in the process of reviewing/changing some rulings. One is that Licensed Unity Teachers (LUTs) are now permitted to serve ministries that are not their home church.

Questions and Answers

- Q – Who oversees Outreach?
A – Since the pandemic, that team has not been active. We need a team leader and volunteers.
- Q – Can a Transportation Team be created (different from Golf Cart Team)?
This team would provide rides for congregants unable to drive. Are there funds available to pay for gasoline to drivers?
A – A team can be created. We need a team leader and volunteers.
Money is currently not budgeted for mileage.

For the Good of the Order

- A Town Hall is coming soon. Reorganizing teams and recruiting volunteers will be addressed.

Closing Prayer

- The closing prayer was said.

Adjournment

- Jacque Tatum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carla Palmer seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

(Respectfully submitted by Donna Bonnell, Board Secretary)
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Attachments: Agenda
Proposed 2024 Budget