

Unity Spiritual Center in the Rockies

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2024

MEETING OPENING: The meeting, held in person and on Zoom, was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Louana Turner, Board President. A count indicated a sufficient number of members present to represent a quorum. A motion was made to allow non-members to participate. Moved by Steve Smith, seconded by River Hansen. The motion passed by majority vote.

OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Dr. Ahriana Platten conducted the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Louana explained the changes to the March 19, 2023, Annual Meeting Minutes. Steve Smith moved to accept the revised Minutes. River Hansen seconded. The motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD CANDIDATES: Susan Anderson substituted for Board nominating team chair, Beth Brickell. Susan thanked nominating team members, Marlee Milner and Dr. David Goldberg. There were four candidates for three board positions. Susan introduced the candidates: Linda Anthony, Debra Warner Lacey, Todd Smith and Charlotte Wilson, all candidates for two-year terms for the Board of Trustees. Each candidate spoke briefly. The vote was taken, and results were announced at the end of the meeting.

NOMINATION OF NOMINATING TEAM MEMBERS: River Hansen was nominated by Debbie Lacey to serve on next year's Nominating Team; she accepted the nomination. Gloria Hearten was nominated by Don Turner; she accepted the nomination. Judith Hurley Prosser self-nominated.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Steve Smith gave the 2023 Financial Report. He compared the 2023 actual income and expenses against the 2023 budget. Total income was \$192,835.72. Total expenses were \$201,844.41. The year ended with a deficit of \$9,008.69. This shortage was covered using funds from our Operating Account.

Steve showed charts of our main revenue and expense streams. Reserve funds as of 12/31/2022 were \$73,240 and as of 12/31/2023 were \$74,702. This includes \$50,000 placed in a CD. This \$50,000 serves as our line of credit which we can draw on if needed. The CD serves as collateral for the line of credit and will have earned \$2,040 in interest at maturity April 8, 2024

2024 Budget: President Louana Turner presented the 2024 budget. Total estimated income and expenses are \$201,017. She explained the 2024 budget was developed based on actual amounts received and spent in 2023. Charts were shown of the main estimated income and expenses categories. She emphasized that giving was down in 2023. One goal for this year is to increase attendance which may result in increased donations. The good news: We received a \$24,000 anonymous pledge to be given this year in monthly amounts and will provide for the loss of rental income from High Plains Church's departure last year. Bingo provides 20% of our needed income and is estimated to provide \$40,000 this year. The fundraiser income category was increased by \$8,000 over last year because this budget has \$9,300 more expenses than income. This increase was necessary to balance the budget and may be challenging to raise. The contingency plan if donations, building rental, and fundraising are inadequate is to use our Reserve funds. It may take more than a year to increase income in order to cover expenses.

Copies of the budget are available. The Board approved a full-year budget for 2024. We have no mortgage and are debt free.

BINGO REPORT: A Bingo report was given by Don Turner which included the history and details of when, who, and how our bingo games started. Net proceeds in 2023 from Bingo totaled \$45,500. 2024 is on-track to achieve \$40,000 again or better.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Board President Louana Turner introduced the staff: Yo'Lauder Holt, Administrative Assistant; Mark Heinrich, Audio Visual; Tim John Facilities Coordinator; and Trudy Clark, Bookkeeper (not attending).

2023 We Did It Our Way

Even though we haven't grown much in terms of the number of new members in 2023, when I say, "we did it our way", I'm referring to more people stepping up and taking responsibility. Maybe you've also noticed more people assuming leadership roles and being willing to serve in challenging tasks. We've moved toward being more of a Mission Focused community that wants to serve the world, not just ourselves. I've had the chance to make new friends and have enjoyed sharing observations and suggestions. Being the Board President these past two years has been an honor and a privilege.

One of the things I've learned is how folks in this community often have opposite opinions. An example is the Sunday service. Some people like lively music, but someone else may cringe at it and want quieter reflective music. So, here's a solution: Let's grow enough so that we can again have a quieter, more reflective service and then a second more exuberant service.

Next was an acknowledgement and thank you to Board members:

Beth Pettit-Willis: Because of Beth, we have a new Security Camera System
Steve Smith completed his second year on the Board. Until our recent hire of Tim John, Steve was the main person we called on when repairs were needed.
River Hansen has also completed her second year on the Board. She's been all over the place as usual helping when we didn't even realize we needed help.
Beth Brickell has served as Secretary of the Board keeping the Minutes, offering suggestions, and proactively making stuff happen.
Patricia Yeager is a visionary on the Board and for our Center in terms of seeing what this Community can become.

Some happenings in 2023:

- Big Band Event
- Closed bookstore
- A variety of guest ministers and musicians
- Volunteer Fair – April 23
- Garage Sale & Clean & Sort day – June 3
- Pet Blessing – and several other workshops
- Celebrated MLK – 60th Anniversary of the “I Have a Dream Speech” in August
- Two Town Halls
- Fellowship offered Full Meals and was organized by Donna Grant & Jackie Bourg
- Multi-purpose room updated, and Lending Library moved from Fellowship Hall
- Our Small Groups read and discussed the book “Ask and It Is Given.”

By mutual agreement, Dr. David's contract was not renewed by the Board. He provided a goodbye video which was presented to those in the Sanctuary and on Zoom on a Sunday morning in February 2024. Because he was loved by many, the community needed comfort and support and the opportunity to share. We held a Listening and Comfort session moderated by Christina Ahlen. We had the opportunity to ask questions, express our grief, and be comforted.

A Big Heart Acknowledgement to Donna Grant because she never stops giving of herself to this community as well as to her friends and family it. Besides her many volunteer activities, she also readily encourages others and uses her gift for seeing others in their goodness and when they are in need. Thank you Donna. Surely Spirit walks with you.

Finally, thanks to my sweetie, Don, for his technical skills and advice. Don has supported me and this Spiritual Center in countless ways. He is a bingo manager, Men's group leader, jack of all trades, and all-around good guy.

My vision is that we will attract many more active participants within the next few years. We attract them because we offer what they seek and because we are a dynamic, spiritually evolving community with our eye to the future of aiding in the planet's spiritual evolution.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Patricia Yeager reported on the Fellowship Hall improvement plan. The improvements on the former bookstore have been finished and the lending library moved. Plans are in the works for updating the appearance and usability of Fellowship Hall.

SACRED WOMEN'S CIRCLE REPORT:

River Hansen reported on the Sacred Women's Circle activities during the year with a slide show, narrated with her original poem.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY PRESENTATION: Vern Vobejda gave a presentation on Small Group Ministries. Under the Adventures in Prosperity program, there were seven small groups that studied the book, Ask and It is Given: Learning to Manifest Your Desires. Two new groups have been formed: The Fillmore's and Metaphysics. New groups can start anytime. A 10-page outline is available on how to start one. Vern and Jarla are also available to assist startups.

WESTSIDE CARES REPORT:

Susan Anderson reported that Unity is one of 24 faith communities who help support WSC. Unity donates \$1200 annually. Four times a year we also donate food, toiletries, and clothing. Quilts and blankets made by the Scrappy Quilters group are also donated. 2024 will be WSC's 40th anniversary.

PRAYER CHAPLAIN'S REPORT:

Carol Crossley reported that we have seven prayer chaplains who made 1500 calls last year, in addition to visits to hospitals and hospices to offer prayer. The program was started in 2009 by Linda and Richard Anthony.

MINISTER'S REPORT:

Acting minister Rev. Dr. Ahriana Platten reported that she'll be our interim minister until June 30th, possibly longer. It won't become a permanent position for her. She said every church and faith is going through the same issues of lowered attendance and income after the pandemic. The strategy for the future of our ministry is:

1. Growing attendance
2. Financial solvency
3. A heart of love

We will re-evaluate our mission in the next few months.

Her Leap Day initiative raised \$1500 toward improvements for Fellowship Hall.

The monks will come to Unity again the last week of May.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BALLOT RESULTS: The results of the election of the new Board members were announced. Those elected were Debra Warner Lacey, Todd Smith and Charlotte Wilson.

Departing Board members Louana Turner, Steve Smith and River Hansen were recognized and thanked for their service.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW BOARD PRESIDENT: Outgoing President Louana Turner announced that Patricia Yeager will be the new Board President.

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Dr. Ahriana Platten gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.