

**Unity of Fort Collins  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, January 25 —11:30 a.m.**

**Anne Hudgens, President 970-217-3299  
Nina Kunze, VP 970-215-7191  
Gerald Gates, Treasurer 970-690-3005  
Janice Ballard, Secretary 505-660-9375  
Courtney Fuchs, Member-at-large 816-529-9304**

**Council Members present:** Anne Hudgens, Gerald Gates, Nina Kunze, Courtney Fuchs

**Staff present:** Julie Schoenbauer, Jim Yeaw, Sharon Bush

**Others present:** Dennis Gibson, Anisha Kuhn, David Johnson

The meeting opened with Sharon leading a prayer. We prayed for Janice Ballard, Kimber Hawes, Dale Pettigrew and Bonnie (Gerald's mom).

Anne asked those present who are interested in stepping into the open council positions at the annual meeting next month to introduce themselves. Janice Ballard is stepping down, as she will be moving to Denver. Gerald is also stepping down, after 12 years of service as a council member. As proposed in our new bylaws, we will be adding more council members, so we will have four openings.

David Johnson said he has been attending Unity for about a year. He found right away that it aligns with his core beliefs. He has jumped onto the Welcome Team and helps manage the bookstore.

Anisha Kuhn has also been attending Unity for just over a year. She has also been a prayer chaplain for about a year. She described her spirituality as being "on the edge," and loves that each person who attends Unity can experience spirituality in their own way that is meaningful to them. She is excited to grow in her spirituality by joining the council.

Dennis Gibson has attended Unity of FC for about 8 ½ years. He served twice on the council in Unity of the Rockies in Colo Springs. He believes that serving Unity helps him more than it helps others.

Mike Hawes is also a candidate for stepping onto the council, but he was unable to attend, due to Kimber being in the hospital.

Anne announced that she would like to schedule a retreat to orient the new council members on the first meeting after the annual meeting, which will be March 24<sup>th</sup>. We will share a potluck, and spend the afternoon together, ending at 4 p.m.

#### Team Reports:

Facilities—Is asking again about having the carpets cleaned. The council agrees this is needed and asked that we wait until after mud season in the spring. Julie will contact OxyMagic, which was recommended by Courtney and Nina, for an estimate.

Finance—All year-end reports are done, as well as all the government reports. The year-end statements of contributions will be out by the end of January. There was a problem with emails converting to the new Quickbooks online system, so it is more cumbersome than usual to distribute statements. If unable to solve that, they will print out reports and make them available to pick up in person.

Dennis said he has been a member of the finance team but wasn't informed about the meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Sharon didn't know he was on the team either, but will make sure he is included in the future.

Marketing—Nina asked council members for a short testimonial for the website, to refresh what we currently have, which has not been changed since the website launched. Nina asked for input on anything that could be refreshed on the website, and Julie offered that we could promote our building rental. She has been taking photos when we are set up for events that she can provide.

Anne wrote a lovely letter to be sent out to people who used to attend, inviting them to come back. Gerald volunteered Lil to review a list of who it should be sent to, and Nina said she would also help with that effort.

Outreach Team—traveling to Guatemala in the spring, and bringing books to set up a little library in a box, with a curated assortment of Spanish books for all ages.

Social Team—hosting a game night every third Friday night, which replaces Family Friday Night. In February, they will organize a series of small group talks to be held once a month. Lil is continuing to host teatime at her home once a month. The next movie night will be Brother Bear, a kids movie, so the movie will start earlier than normal, at 6:30. Courtney suggested that we could always start movie night a bit earlier, so adults can get home earlier too.

Technology—Richard put together a proposal to replace our analog system with a new digital motherboard/mixer, which will cost about \$2000-2500. The team is also looking at outsourcing the connection platform to a service like Vimeo, which would cost about \$100 per month. Council members agreed that we should proceed with the purchase of the new digital motherboard as a first step, and then evaluate other improvements. Jim explained that the production quality of our service broadcast could be improved, but that it would take away the spontaneous nature of our services and tighten the structure. Everyone agreed that we don't want it to be too structured.

Welcome Team—Nina asked about how the effort is going at recruiting regulars to sign up as members. Courtney said they have backed off on that as most people have been asked. We will make a point to recommend that regulars join as members at the annual meeting.

Nancy Hughes has asked the council for approval of putting together a non-partisan letter writing effort for all ages, encouraging people to get out and vote. Council members approved this.

Those involved in the Hour for Peace that was held on December 31<sup>st</sup> agreed that in 2024 we will handle it differently, without Dr. Vickie's involvement. Jay Slovik went to a lot of work and there were many volunteers involved in this event. Everyone will appreciate it being held at a more reasonable hour than 5 a.m.

The new street sign is being installed today, and messages will be programmed on the second office computer. Jim is going to train Julie and Courtney how to program the messages.

Annual Meeting planning—Jim has asked each team leader for input so he can create a slide show about what they've accomplished over the past year. Anne said she wants the reports to feel like a celebration of what we've accomplished over the past year.

We will be voting on changes to the bylaws. Joanne Burns, who handles legal for UWM, reviewed our bylaws draft and pointed out several things we could add and important points we missed to consider. Jim presented a power point slide show explaining the changes, and council members fine-tuned them. Julie will be sending out the proposed changes to the bylaws to members very soon as required by the bylaws, so members have a chance to review them prior to the annual meeting.

The sign installation started just as the council meeting was ending, so all in attendance were able to witness the sign being hoisted into place, and celebrate its completion, which was a very festive event.