

Unity of Fort Collins
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 25, 2024—11:30 a.m.

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

Staff present: Julie Schoenbauer, Jim Yeaw, Sharon Bush

Jim passed out registration sheets so we have a record of who attended.

We had about 50 people attend.

Leane Gabel arranged for pizza and Courtney Fuchs brought veggies.

Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that we are continuing our adventure of being a “weird” church as we worked hard on revising our bylaws to reflect our non-hierarchical structure. During a council retreat a year ago, we confirmed the team approach and knew we needed to rewrite our bylaws. Unity Worldwide Ministries reviewed our revisions, and gave us a lot of detailed and thoughtful feedback we found helpful. Jim, Anne and Courtney have worked hard on revisions for months.

Jim presented a summary of the bylaws revisions with slides. A vote was taken and all were in agreement with the changes.

Two council members are stepping down: Gerald Gates after many years of service, and Janice Ballard, who is moving to Denver.

The nominating committee has brought forward 4 candidates to step onto council, as the new bylaws specify that our council will number 6 persons minimum.

Dennis Gibson—has been a member of Unity of FC for ten years. Has attended several other Unity churches for many years and was a board member for Unity of Colorado Springs.

Anisha Kuhn—Loves our weird church and the divine creative process we have here

David Johnson—Has attended since 2023. Appreciates the diverse perspectives here that have contributed to his spiritual growth. He and Anisha will be co-leading a new group on spiritual growth.

Mike Hawes—Has been a member for over 25 years. He and Kimber raised 2 sons in Unity, and it's their spiritual home. He notices that Unity principles are showing up in his sons, now in their 30s. He would like to work with Nancy Hughes and the Jr. High and High School students, and wants to help out on the finance team.

All agreed for each nominated person to join the council. Our new council will consist of 7 members.

Since Mike Hawes is joining the council, he will no longer be on the nominating committee. Camina Sylvestro was nominated to head the committee.

Our 2023 Successes were discussed & celebrated:

Connections—Lil McBrien, team lead. Activities this last year were movie night, Tuesday tea at 10, the Curry Potluck, Summer Picnic, card making, the marketplace fundraiser, Christmas caroling, and drumming.

Facilities—Leane Gabel, team lead. This team handles outdoor cleanup days in spring and fall, sanctuary interior decorations, sound and video, roof repairs, Unity Earthcare program/Green

Team, looking at sustainable practices. They will be working toward getting a certification from UWM.

Finance—Leane Gabel, Team lead. Keeping track of our finances and fundraisers. She stated that why she gives to Unity is not just a donation, it's an investment in her spiritual community that she benefits from.

Marketing—Nina Kunze, Team Lead. Our new website is almost two years old. The YouTube page continues to grow. Two years ago we had 88 subscribers. Last year we had 149 subscribers, and currently we have 240 subscribers! Over the last year, we had 5000 total views (a 19% increase) and the watch time has increased by 30%. Our Facebook presence has really grown with Courtney's efforts. We are now up to 915 followers.

We worked with Nancy Hughes to promote our Youth program and attract younger families. We started a new paid social media campaign, which is where we will reach young people. We will spend \$154 between February and April this year to advertise our YFM program. We designed door hangers to promote Unity on one side and YFM on the other. Jim has been walking his dog in nearby neighborhoods and has distributed 300.

Julie continues to produce our weekly newsletter and does a great job. We have been using the new newsletter format for just over a year now. She also updates the front page of the website weekly with information on the topic and speaker.

Event photography—Courtney, Nina and Julie take photos. We need more volunteers to send up photos. iPhone photos are fine.

Flyers & Posters: In the past year, we designed a welcome newsletter for new folks, a poster on becoming a member, a giving brochure, parent workshop flyers, kids camp flyers, brochures on the history of Unity, and on our teams. We promoted all these things on social media as well.

We refreshed the website with a new YFM page. We will be working on adding information about our facility rental and tweaking the website to keep it fresh.

Signage: Initial discussions with the Facilities Team began a year ago for a new outdoor sign and it was installed on January 25. Woo hoo! The old sign will be preserved as a treasured memory and kept in the back yard. Jim spearheaded the sign effort, but there were many others who helped.

Outreach Team—Mike Hawes, Team Lead. They are looking for nominations of charities to support from the community. They have just booked their tickets for a service trip to Guatemala.

Prayer Chaplains—Sharon Bush, Team Lead. She started the program two years ago. We now have 14 chaplains who call 84 people every month and pray for them every day. If anyone would like a chaplain who does not have one, let Sharon know.

Support & Service Team—This team includes Jim & Sharon, along with Anne Hudgens and Julie Schoenbauer, who meet weekly to plan services and speakers, address issues, and make plans.

Technology—Gerald Gates, Team Lead. This team is looking for people to learn to help run the Sunday services. Next week we will be converting to a digital soundboard. Our online presence keeps getting better & better.

Welcoming Team—Courtney Fuchs & Camina Sylvestro, Team Co-leads. This team is large, and consists of the Sunday greeters, the bookstore, and provides coffee and goodies on Sundays. This team designed and paid for new directional signs around the building that were installed this past year, they moved the bookstore to the new location. The motive for the bookstore is to be of service to the community, providing books to go along with the classes that are running. They carry Unity classics, new thought classics from well-known spiritual teachers, and logo items. They partnered with Bookshop.org this year and we earn 30% of profits from purchases.

Youth & Family—Nancy Hughes, Team Lead. Nancy started leading this team in a new direction in July of 2023. Her goal is to provide a safe space for kids to grow. The team held a retreat in October to plan the curriculum for 6 months. They are getting into a flow and the attendance is growing. They could use more people to help on Sundays to relieve Nancy. They have a new theme each month.

Anne announced that we now have 79 people involved in teams at Unity. Our community is thriving and growing. All is well.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Kunze