

**Unity of Fort Collins
Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 27, 2024 —11:30 a.m.**

Council Members present: Courtney Fuchs, Dennis Gibson, Dave Johnson present, on zoom: Nina Kunze and Anisha Kuhn.

Staff present: Jim Yeaw, Sharon Bush, Julie Schoenbauer

Courtney is acting president in Anne's absence, and is leading the meeting.

Sharon noted that the Chaplain prayers went long today, so the council meeting started 15 minutes late. Next month we will meet in the Rumi Room to avoid this.

Team Reports

Finance: The prosperity group has met. Dennis reported that Mike talked about short term vs. long term planning. Good ideas were generated.

We have \$16,000 in savings, and discussed whether to tap into it for the furnace replacement. The checking balance was \$43,000 at the end of September. Insurance with Church Mutual is going up \$1800 from \$11,800 per year. Jim is getting a quote from Guide One to compare their rate to Church Mutual's rate. Council voted a while back to add more coverage to the Umbrella Policy, and Jim has sent a message to Church Mutual asking them to add this.

Dennis asked Elyce about doing a benefit concert with a half split, and she agreed. We will need to advertise this and we can have a potluck or appetizers. We could allow appetizers in the sanctuary instead of limiting food to the Friendship room.

Youth & Family Team: The kids are really enjoying the Around the World Series. Jim attended the YFM Team retreat. He says we are so fortunate to have Nancy, and she is very optimistic that more children will be coming.

Office: Lil asked for the sanctuary to be warmer because people have complained. Thermostat is set at 67, and Julie arranged for Lind to come to raise the temp, because the thermostat is very hard to operate. We need to advertise that we are keeping the sanctuary warmer.

Jim reported that 18 people (all Unity people) attended the film "For the Bible Tells Me So" on Friday night. We may want to explore other films, maybe an educational one about LGBTQ.

Preschool: Julie contacted Susan Cohn, who had a medical event, and had to have a pacemaker inserted, and is waiting 3 months to see if her body rejects or accepts it. Susan is rethinking everything due to her health, including the preschool. Jim proposes that we continue to

improve the children's area and if Susan doesn't go ahead, we could try to attract other preschools.

Facilities: The fence has recently been painted, and looks great.

Stage Expansion: Gerald wants the drums moved to the right under the TV monitor. New carpet for a larger stage will cost \$2100. Jim talked to Claire about carpet selection, and picked up some samples. Gerald estimated that it will cost \$700 to build the new stage, so the total cost will be about \$3000 for a new stage. It would be nice to have this done before Christmas. Sharon thinks we should go ahead with this project, that it's a higher priority than the new furnace and A/C, which can wait.

The first row of pews will be moved to the back of the sanctuary where the chairs are now. However this area needs to remain a flex area for other events. One pew can be stretched in front of the treehouse. We need to measure to see where they will fit.

Do we want to reinforce the stage floor everywhere so the piano can be moved around? The new stage will eliminate having so many wires on the floor.

Council voted to proceed with the stage expansion project.

New Furnace and A/C: We had a bid of \$11,300 for replacement. Julie arranged an energy audit two weeks ago, and learned that there are rebates available when we replace the furnace. The boiler has 3-5 years life left, according to Lind, and when we replace that we can also get a rebate. We discussed a Go Fund Me project to raise money for the the new furnace and A/C. Courtney said that all we need to do is ask, and people will donate.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Kunze, Secretary

Council Meeting Agenda – October 27, 2024

1. Team Reports
2. Preschool ?
3. Stage Expansion
4. New Furnace & AC
5. Go Fund Me
6. Other?

Team Reports

1. Chaplains: The prayer chaplains are dedicated to “their” people, and they have discovered their own spiritual growth by serving as a chaplain. Rev. Sharon is making Robert Hudgens calls to his congregants while he is gone.

2. Facilities/EarthCare Team:

Jim Weimar - Exterior Coordinator Update:

Completed Projects:

1. Completed yard clean-up
2. First part of fence painting is complete.
3. Window AC units have been removed for the winter
4. Sprinklers have been blown out for the winter.

Continuing Projects:

Front Landscape:

1. The plants in the Xeriscape landscape are doing well and are showing signs of growth. I replaced one plant (under warranty no cost) near the office and large boulder.

New Projects:

1. I am planning to repair the rear 3-foot fence and then paint it
2. Repair the storage shed in the rear and paint it to match the other shed.
3. Clean out the shed
4. I have applied for 2 landscape grants and am awaiting responses

3. Finance Report from Sharon: The Finance Team met this past Wednesday. They reviewed the September 30, 2024 Financial Reports and compared them with September 30, 2023 reports. It was discussed that Julie will check in with Susan at Polestar to see if the plan for the pre-school is still a possibility. Mike Haws shared the ideas from the Prosperity Team about a long-term financial plan.

4. Marketing and Communication: No Report

5. Outreach Team: No Report
6. Social/Connection Team: No Report
7. Technology: No Report
8. Teen Sponsors: No Report
9. Welcome Team:

The Welcome team is brainstorming on items to bring in that are inexpensive gift items-like packets of affirmation cards, gratitude cards, inspirational calendars etc We also may be able to get some ceramic items from a local artist who would then share the profits with us.

We had several of our volunteers offer to get trained on running the bookstore on Sundays so we can spread that duty around to more folks.

The kids books have been in the bookstore for a very long time so we will be putting them on sale to try to move them and possibly close out that "section."

Sharon informed the Welcome Team that we have actually been making money for the church! We are thrilled that our efforts are supporting our spiritual home!

10. Youth and Family:

Unity Youth Team met on Saturday, October 5th at Primrose Studio for our bi-annual curriculum/event planning retreat. It was simply a beautiful day of creating, sharing and forming stronger bonds as a team. In attendance were: Barbara Weimar, Jim Weimar, Mary Brownell, Bonnie Goulding, Lisa Faust, Jim Yeaw and myself. I am thrilled to be working with such creative and inspiring individuals.

Curriculum:

Our October/November program Children Just Like Me aka Unity Kids World Tour, is a classroom favorite! We have “visited” Jamaica, led by Alwena Cooper, Guatemala, led by Mike Hawes and are scheduled to visit Japan, Italy, England, India, and Austria over the next few weeks. The kids are having a blast!

Our December program is Celebration of Lights. We will be looking at different religious/spiritual practices and the symbolism of light and how light is viewed in our Unity teachings. We are planning a “field trip” for Friday, December 6th at 6:30 pm to walk through the beautiful light display at The Gardens on Spring Creek; followed by soul soothing hot cocoa with marshmallows...ahhh. We will provide the children with instamatic cameras to take pictures and will then use those pictures to create a collage of lights displayed on the foyer board at Unity.

The cost for the tour is: Adults: \$12.00

Children 5-11: \$ 5.00

Children under 4: Free

Family Night May – October 2024 3rd Friday of each month

Our Friday Night Family events are completed for 2024.

Our September BBQ at Unity was outside where we enjoyed lively conversation, lots of food, games and beautiful hand pan music by Daniel. Great evening!

The October Halloween party was a huge success. We were unable to be outside due to the weather, however, the kiddos had a fun evening painting pumpkins and gourds, decorating cupcakes, eating pizza, playing games, listening to storytelling with Barbara Weimer, and the finale of bursting open the pinata full of goodies. We had 33 people in attendance at this party! YAY!

11. Support/Service Team:

Rev. Sharon’s Report:

I have had three counseling appointments since my last report. And I spent a morning at the hospital offering spiritual comfort and care to a congregant before her surgery and stayed with family while our congregant was in surgery.

Marilyn Weatherspoon is home from rehab and is improving daily.

Arlene Brown hosted a women’s potluck brunch, in her beautiful yard, for the women of the church. There were about twenty of us who attended. The women have expressed a desire to do this again, so I will plan to have a “Women of Spirit” potluck brunch on Saturday morning once a quarter next year.

Heart Talks will begin meeting on October 30, 2024 in the Myrtle Room. This will be a weekly sharing time and will begin at 1 pm and last an hour.

Rev. Jim's Report: No Report

Office Report:

The issue with the mice seems to be getting better. The smell is still lingering in the teen room and the west side of the building. We are finding less droppings in the west rooms. Our building use continues to increase, as members and people from the community are contacting us for one time and regular usage. Everyone loves the space and feels that it is spirit filled. The sprinklers were blown out on 10/9. On 10/9, Xcel Energy came and did a Commercial Building Assessment. They looked at our Hvac system, water heater and boiler. They also evaluated the sink faucets and aerators for flow rates. They said everything looks good and they will be submitting a report to us in the next week. They said we can apply for rebates when we get a new furnace & a/c unit installed in the Rumi room. And if we ever replace the boiler, we could apply for a rebate for that as well. They will let us know what efficiency requirements need to be met in order to qualify for the rebates. Lind's Plumbing & Heating came out on 10/16 because we have had issues getting hot water in the kitchen and west hall bathrooms. They confirmed the system is working correctly. They suggested that we could insulate the pipes in the crawl space since it's such a long run from the boiler to the kitchen & bathrooms. They also said we could get a quote for a special water pump that would help circulate the water more efficiently from the water tank to the west side of the building. And the Service & Support team is working with Leane on the Volunteer Recognition that will take place at the service on Nov. 17th.

Attendance Report:

Date	Adults	YFM Kids	Teens	Under 2 yrs	YouTube Totals	Speaker
9/15/2024	55	4	1	1	61	Rev. Jim
9/22/2024	99	4	1	0	76	Jaya Helin
9/29/2024	76	3	1	2	55	Rev. Sharon
10/6/2024	73	2	1	2	74	Lynne O'Connor
10/13/2024	65	7	1	1	174	Anand Anma
10/20/2024	74	1	0	1	82	Anisha Kuhn