

UNITY CHURCH OF ALBANY
Minutes of the Board of Trustees' Meeting
August 19, 2021

Participating in Board Meeting (via Zoom call, 5:00 PM EST): Peggy Kaufman, president; Carol Morris, vice president; Karin Reinhold, treasurer; Patricia Wood, secretary; Dottie Frament, trustee; Heather Diddel, trustee; Dave Ferrill, alternate trustee; Rev. Roger Mock, assistant minister; Special Guest: Rev. Jim Fuller.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm.
2. **Approval of August 19th Agenda:** Motion/second/approved.
3. **Approval of July 15th Board Meeting Minutes:** Motion/second/approved.
4. **Remarks from Rev. Jim. Fuller:** The Reverend Jim Fuller joined the Board meeting to provide insights on Unity Worldwide and local church issues during the pandemic. He commended the Unity Albany Board and staff for re-inventing the church and continuing many activities despite unforeseen circumstances created by the Covid 19 crisis. He advised that Unity Worldwide had reduced resources during the pandemic, and that there were fewer ministers being ordained. He encouraged the church leadership to continue opportunities for engagement and sacred service, as this was essential in maintaining a solid church community. A summary of Jim's comments is attached to the minutes.
5. **Congregational Remarks:** As the church follows the 10 a.m. Sunday service summer schedule, a congregant suggested that service be changed to 11 a.m. The schedule will be re-visited in September. There was also a request that Unity Albany dedicate prayers for indigenous peoples during services, and this will be added to One Song services.
6. **President's Report:** Peggy Kaufmann proposed that the Board schedule a retreat to allow for more in-depth discussion on spirit/ministry groups, sacred service, etc. She will distribute a Doodle poll to find the best date for this retreat. She announced that with the resurgence of Covid infections, it was a priority for the church to stay on top of Covid guidelines for public gatherings. A volunteer will be sought for this project and share relevant information with church leadership. Peggy also asked that each Board member take turns writing introductions to the bi-weekly church e-newsletters. She ask each member to take responsibility for individual months.

7. Staff Reports:

- Reverend Roger Mock reported that Anne Sampson offered to coordinate a “Journaling as a Spiritual Practice” class with a revenue split with the church. He will be going on vacation starting on Sunday, the 22nd and asked for help in coordinating the Sunday service Power Point slides. Carol Morris and Pete Furlong will assist with this in his absence. Roger also asked for help in checking the phone messages for Sunday service RSVPs during his absence. He continues to pursue estimates for a new camera and lighting.
- Prior to the meeting, Nina Corcoran had asked the Board for guidance regarding outside groups renting the church meeting space. After discussion, the Board decided that with the resurgence of the pandemic, the church was not yet in a good position to offer public space, so no outside groups can be permitted to use the space for the time being.

8. **Finance Report:** Karin Reinhold reported on church finances. Income and expenses were stable; for July, income was \$16,738 and expenses were \$14,913. A portion of the church reserves which were invested in funds managed by Merrill Lynch had been transferred into a different stock fund, with the goal of improving annual returns. Karin reported that some congregants had begun using the new online donation program, Vanco, which allowed for love offerings to be directed towards specific funds. A motion was made to accept the finance report; motion was seconded and approved.

9. **Adjournment: Board Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The Board then entered Executive Session.

10. **Adjournment: Executive Session:** The Executive Session concluded at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Wood, Secretary, Board of Trustees