UNITY CHURCH OF ALBANY

Board of Trustees
Minutes of the meeting for Spiritual Practice and Sacred Service
Thursday, April 23, 2026

Present: Rev Brigid, Debbie Durkee, Deb Foss, Ginger Hannah, Mary Myers, Jim Staebler
Absent: David Meyers, Chris Quick

1. **Ginger called us to order and offered the opening prayer**
2. **Brief check-ins**
3. **Motion to approve the agenda with additions was seconded and approved.**
4. **The Minutes from 3/26/26 were reviewed, M/S/A.**
5. **Congregant comments:**
   - Glowing feedback was received about the recent Seder, the Maundy Thursday service, and the beautiful harmonies of our choir during the acapella song at the end of the Earth Day service on 4/19.
   - Some people would like to resume the tradition of rising to greet each other during the service. Others appreciate the pause to turn and greet each other from our seats.
   - Many people appreciate Rev Brigid's intro to each part of our weekly shared affirmations, and others would prefer a shorter version.

6. **Minister's report**

a. Rev Brigid has taken several classes towards Unity ordination recently, and will be immersed in 3 classes the week of 6/28 – 7/3.
b. Rev Brigid plans to host a 5-week book club following Wednesday meditation starting mid-May. We'll read "The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World," by Robin Wall Kimmerer (author of Braiding Sweetgrass). (Discount copies available at The Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza by mentioning "Unity of Albany.")
c. Rev Brigid will take time off in mid-August and plans to take the second half of her sabbatical in October to welcome her third grandchild!
d. Unity's "Special Dispensation" process for ministers ordained by other faiths is under review, with fewer conditions expected.
e. Rev Brigid is on the Board of both FOCUS and Family Promise; the participation by her and many of our congregants in each group has been mutually beneficial.

7. **Church business**

a. Unity Board of Trustees will have a planning and centering retreat on May 13, from 4-8 pm at church.
b. “Stories of Unity” to be shared by all at Church in the Park July 12. More to come!
c. Room Use fee was discussed, with consensus that our standard agreement will remain, with room for adjustments in keeping with our mission.
d. Planning for our Fall retreat at the Dominican House (Oct 2 & 3) is underway. The Board approved the request to hire a facilitator this year.

e. A proposal to expand the size of our platform is being explored in order to give our musicians more room. The idea to assess the need for improvement of our sound/ recording system was discussed.

8. **Treasurer’s Report:** The method of categorizing expenses was questioned; discussion of how to make changes to improve clarity; more to come.

9. **Ministry liaisons:**

Due to time constraints, we postponed discussion of each group individually.

10. **Closing prayer was offered by Ginger, and the meeting was adjourned.**