Unity Spiritual Center of Central Minnesota Annual Membership Meeting

# Meeting Minutes

# January 31, 2021

## Opening

The Unity Spiritual Center of Central Minnesota Annual Membership Meeting called to order on Zoom at 11:23 am on January 31, 2021 by President Rebecca Marie. There were 36 members present.

**Election of Board Members**

Rebecca reviewed the applicable By-Laws related to election of Board members. There are two vacancies for three-year terms. The vacancies are created by two terms ending; Linda Scherer completed the term vacated by Allen Brisse and Carol Laudenbach completed the term vacated by Chuck Lang.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, JoAnn Pelinka, announced the candidates they are presenting. They are Carol Laudenbach and Cristina Elena Seaborn. Rebecca then called for nominations from the floor, three times. There were no further nominees. Sue O’Hara made a motion, Chuck Lang seconded, to accept the nominations. The motion was passed.

Rebecca called for a vote. This was completed by using the Poll feature in Zoom, and all members were asked to cast votes. Rebecca announced the results: Carol Laudenbach and Cristina Seaborn were both elected to the Board.

Susan Holmen made a motion to select JoAnn Pelinka to be the 2021 Nominating Committee representative and Cheryl Perry seconded. The motion passed, and JoAnn will be the representative.

**Secretary’s Report**

Susan Holmen, Secretary, announced that there are two Minutes documents relevant to the membership that need to be approved. The first are the Minutes for the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting. Terri Duncan made a motion to accept, Lara Challberg seconded, and the Minutes were approved. The Minutes from the Special Membership Meeting (for the sale of the building) were also accepted, after a motion made by Chuck Lang and seconded by Linda Scherer.

**Blessings and Co-Creations**

Carol Laudenbach reviewed the many blessings of 2020, despite the challenges. She also highlighted the co-creations of the year, expressing the belief that we have continued in the flow of life and have followed divine guidance, making decisions that are for the best of the community.

USCCM gained a new minister in Rev. Jim Ernstsen after a smooth, synchronistic process. We maintained and thrived through a year of COVID-19 isolation through virtual services, classes and gatherings. We did not lose ground in attendance, giving or commitment. We were able to make the step-by-step transition of selling a beloved building and moving forward toward a successful future. There has been effective management and communication by the Board of Directors. There are new initiatives in place, including Board training and development and the creation of the Spiritual Social Action Ministry.

Carol also spoke of honoring the transition process and the many feelings and reactions that were experienced, acknowledging how we have moved through the ending of certain things, the “void,” and to the new beginnings that are coming.

**President’s Report**

Rebecca Marie expressed immense gratitude for many things, including the work of the Board, the invaluable work of Sacred Service volunteers to keep everything going, for Zoom facilitation and participation. She emphasized the help given throughout the sale of the building and the ease of that process.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Phil Limerick shared information related to the Proposed Budget of 2021. He explained pertinent details of projected Income and Expenses, and Assets and Liabilities, noting that this budget is based on the current situation and will be fluid and evolving, as our situation changes. Total projected income is $123,000 and total projected expenses are $119,915. Net Assets are $376,572.60. A motion was made by Sue O’Hara, seconded by Terri Duncan, to accept the Budget. Rebecca called for discussion and questions.

Phil explained that there is a new Financial Committee, consisting of him, Dale Neuschwander, Sue O’Hara and Mike O’Hara, who will be exploring options and recommendations for protecting and managing the proceeds of the building. We also have regular tithing in the budget, as well as “Outreach and In-reach Funds.” It is also suggested that we actively pursue the 2021 CARES grant, or other funds available.

Appreciation was expressed for the work of Phil and Sanda Lang in preparing clear, understandable documentation. The question was called to approve the 2021 Proposed Budget and the motion carried.

**Minister’s Report**

Rev. Jim followed up Carol’s talk of “Honoring Our Transition into the Future.” He spoke of the process of endings, the Void, and moving toward new beginnings; co-creating the vision with energy, excitement, and commitment.

He spoke of the opportunities in front of USCCM, asking “What is unfolding for our future?” These answers are as yet unknown; the next phase of dealing with the COVID pandemic will be returning to in-person services, but we will not rush into that. Safety of our community is the first priority. He also described numerous possibilities but emphasized that at this time we do not know what the future holds, or what will be the best outcomes.

He extended an invitation for members to come together in a Visioning Committee, to begin investigating next steps, exploring what the community wants/needs, how we proceed, etc. He said that if speaks to one’s heart to serve in this way, contact him, or Rebecca, or the office.

## Adjournment

President Rebecca Marie adjourned the meeting at 12:51 pm. Rev. Jim concluded by having the community share the expanded Prayer for Protection.

| Minutes respectfully submitted by: | Susan G Holmen |
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