Unity of Central Minnesota Annual Membership Meeting

# Meeting Minutes

# January 22, 2023

## Opening

The Unity of Central Minnesota Annual Membership Meeting was called to order on January 22, 2023 by President Carol Laudenbach. Cristina Seaborn opened with a prayer. There were 24 members present.

**Election of Board Members**

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that the outgoing Board member is Susan Holmen and thanked her for her three-year service and all others who had stepped in during the year.

Wendy Hennes and Merry Jo DeMarais, the Nominating Committee, introduced the two Board candidates, Dan Haskamp and Al Neff and shared their bios. A motion was made and seconded to accept this slate of nominees. The vote was called, and the motion carried. Carol thanked and welcomed the new Board members. We are very fortunate to have them both.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Merry Jo DeMarais and Susan Holmen as the 2024 Nominating Committee Representatives and the motion was passed.

**Reports to the Membership**

Sue O’Hara introduced the next section, of reports.

Minutes

Susan Holmen, Secretary, read the 2022 Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting. A motion to accept the Minutes as read was made by Kris Bahl, seconded by Sue O’Hara and was carried.

Financial Report

Treasurer Terri Duncan and Sanda Lang shared handouts showing Revenue and Expenses of 2022 (although not completely reconciled) and the Balance Sheet. Sanda answered questions and explained what the numbers mean.

**Blessings and Co-Creations**

Each Board member shared thoughts about the accomplishments, co-creations and blessings of the year. Carol spoke of how people had stepped up when needed to help us get through transitions and challenges. Cristina expressed gratitude that our numbers have doubled, and for the spiritual energy she feels, and also appreciates Carol’s Board leadership as it is dynamic and skilled. Susan spoke of the Spiritual Social Action Ministry (SSAM) and the enthusiasm of its members and possibilities as we move forward. She also is grateful for the “pause” our community took to get settled and focused again, after Rev. Jim’s departure and move to SCC, and for the males now on the Board.

Sue is grateful for the community, and the Spiritual Center Task Force of Angie, Rick and Allen, who brought us many options last year and worked hard on finding the right space for us. Terri expressed appreciation of the evolution of our teams, including the Tech and Hospitality Teams and the sense of community to which they contribute so much.

**New Business**

Sanda shared the 2023 Budget. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Budget. Assumptions were explained (e.g., that the budget calls for staying at SCC this year, and not paying for a minister). This does not mean those things are off the table, but they are not in the Budget.

A question arose about the Tithing Committee and was answered (Tithing Committee decides to which local and national organizations UCM make our tithes). After review and discussion, the motion to accept the 2023 Budget was passed.

**President’s Report**

Carol shared the Board’s vision for 2023 starting with the building of our community (not only in numbers) but in coming together and sharing spirituality and energy. There is a plan for a **community-wide event** to help us identify our desires, needs, if/how healing is needed, and create a new vision. Rev. Phil Smedsted may conduct something that helps our community build solid ground with honest communication and openness.

Angela Trulson is now our **Center Director** andwill contribute greatly to the functioning and organization of the community. She explained how she will be in charge of the administrative/coordinating things a minister normally does, but not the spiritual leadership.

Carol explained that the Board will be considering how to provide **spiritual leadership** (there are many options, including qualified persons to provide spiritual counseling, pastoral care, etc.). Small group ministry and classes will be part of the structure, and we already have the means to provide meals and visits to persons experiencing illness or recovery (contact Cheryl Perry).

The search for **space** will continue in some form. **Strategic planning** will assist in shaping the plan that takes us forward. There are endless possibilities.

Carol announced that the Board has decided to not do any live streaming at this time (Facebook or Zoom), based on the recommendation in a Board training of Shad Groverland, the head of Unity Worldwide Ministries. He said that if it can’t be done well, we shouldn’t do it at all. Until we’re in a permanent space, we will not do it.

## Adjournment

President Carol Laudenbach adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting to establish officers is on 1/31 from 4-6 pm.

| Minutes respectfully submitted by: | Susan G Holmen |
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