**2024-1-28 Unity Spiritual Center Annual Meeting**

1. Meeting opened by Carol Laudenbach at 11:40 am
2. Prayer by Cristina Seaborn
3. Previous annual meeting 2023 minutes read by Al Neff.

Members in attendance 33.

**2023 Financial Reports led by Dan Haskamp**

Dan Haskamp let us know that previously, building funds were approved to be used for rental space. Money from these funds were transferred this month to cover our room rental expenses for 2023. Dan spoke about tithing for Unity and prosperity plus class, and the value of tithing of treasures. April Lange mentioned the distinction between tithing to places that are spiritually feeding our center vs. a charity. SSAM, Isaiah, and other organizations that tie into feeding our mission into the community will also be considered for our tithing.

Carol - We will create a tithing committee which decides exactly where the tithes go. A tithing committee will make the decisions, not the board.

**Board of Directors from bylaws read by Carol Laudenbach**

**Nominating Committee led by Merry Jo DeMarais**

Nominating Committee Members are: Susan Holmen, Dan Haskamp, Tammy Anhalt-Warner, Merry Jo DeMarais

Two qualified candidates for two open positions are: Barb Hamilton & Carol Laudenbach

Vote of approval by members was unanimous for new board members: Barb Hamilton & Carol Laudenbach.

**Nominating Committee 2025:** Wanda Horner, Cristina Seaborn, Lara Challberg approved unanimously by members. The board will reach out to the nominating committee in November 2025.

**Favorite 2023 Moments of Board Members**

Al Neff, board member - The moment during the board training when we came up with the concept of the spiritual co-op, everything changed. There was electricity in the air.

Dan Haskamp, treasurer - Linda Martella Whitsett would like more males to attend.

Terri Duncan, board member - moving to Atonement Lutheran because it allowed us to do what we used to do, the Pet Blessing.

Cristina Seaborn, secretary - John Denver Sunday and Faye Hazel’s mom, Vicki Lang's funeral.

Sue O’Hara, vice president - Carol as our president does a fabulous job of leading this community from your heart, you speak to everyone, secondly would like to thank this community for giving us the ability of hiring a director. Angie Trulson as our director has done so much for the community to make things happen & run smoothly.

Cheryl Perry, licensed unity teacher - the fireside chats we held in our yard have been amazing, the conversations honesty, exploration. A lot of topics ran themselves. Book study topics included Unity subjects in the many classes throughout the year.

Angie Trulson, director - the many opportunities since we have moved to Atonement Lutheran, including our healing services, a spot for our library, a kitchen so we could have stone soup again. It brought a sense of place moving here, special events like John Denver Sunday. Shared resources like having a yard for pet blessing. Everything we own is down the hall. Being able to build community, including Atonement Lutheran.

Carol Laudenbach, president - the grace, participation, ownership, someone steps up when we have a need. People care.

**Classes led by Cheryl Perry**

Spiritual Co-op training, Prosperity Class, the Trance of Scarcity starts mid February and runs for 4 weeks. Later we will do Metaphysics 1 class. Basics of metaphysics and how we view the world. Fireside chats will happen all summer long, different world religions and faith traditions. We are an inclusive community. We need to know what we are being inclusive with. Carol Laudenbach is going to facilitate the Eye of the Storm. If there is a topic or book you'd like to have, please let me know and I will do what I can to make it happen. Feel free to let me know.

**Spiritual Social Action Ministry SSAM by Rick Walter**

What we accomplished in 2023 and what we hope to accomplish in 2024. In 2023 we had a big presence in ISAIAH, which is a religious and ethnic community working on all kinds of issues. Susan Holman is working in this part of the state. We are lucky to be a part. Carol, Dan, and Rick went to training. In 2023, we committed to meals at Pathways for Youth, spearheaded by Rebecca Marie. We sponsored the Juneteenth celebration, and also Pride in the Park. We had a number of successful after service conversations. We had the intention of working with the city of Sartell and doing an Earth Day project, where we wanted to clean up the Sauk Rapids regional park. The day of cleanup didn’t work because it was so wet last spring. We are going to try to do that again in April this year, so look forward to that. We wanted to collaborate with Atonement Lutheran at Place of Hope. Atonement decided they were not going to continue to pursue that. We have stepped back from that, but have not given up hope of volunteering to support or volunteer in Lincoln Center, 180 Youth (homeless shelter). We will discuss what our options are for doing that volunteer work.

**Prayer Team led by Angie Trulson**

Thank you to April Lange, Rebecca Marie Telfair, and Cristina Seaborn for serving our community as prayer chaplains.

Thank you to Ronnette, Diane, Angie, Cameron, Faye, Cheryl, Rebecca and Terri for serving our community as a prayer team.

Angie introduced our 2024 new Prayer Ministry partners: Cameron, Diane, Ronnette, Angie, Cheryl, Terri, April, Cristina, Rebecca.

Unity’s Prayer Ministry will continue with the same services as in 2023, but with added services indicated by the congregation through our town hall survey in August 2023. We added wellness prayers, life event prayers, prayer by request in times of need (during or before.) The Prayer Ministry looks forward to meeting the needs of our congregation.

**Hospitality by Sue O’Hara**

Two parts of hospitality are after the services, and special events. Chuck and Sanda Lang, Lara Chalberg, Michelle Schroeder, Julie and John Laramie are committed team members who have signed up for a regular weekend of each month. Other volunteers include John Dahl, Diane Casey and Mike O'Hara. Barb Hamilton is my co-leader. I’m asking for volunteers to come forward to commit to a weekend every other month. Flexibility is necessary, as we can have last minute location changes. Barb added that being in hospitality is fun. You get to see everybody and talk to everyone.

**Spiritual Co-op by Terri Duncan**

It’s John Denver Sunday, stone soup. It’s ownership of bringing your talent to the community. It’s so exciting to have ownership of my talents and bring them into this and help out. When we come together for a celebration of life. Musicians who give their time and talent. Board members who love being on the board, who re-up and do it again. It’s for directors who come into work, come in on weekends. That’s what co-op is. I own part of this community. I believe in this community so much that I commit my talent, tithe, treasures and help cook stone soup. At the board retreat, when a spiritual co-op came up, yes spiritual ownership, we’re saying we’re more than a volunteer. We’re going to take that next step beyond and say I’m responsible for this part of it.

**Sacred Service Opportunities by Angie Trulson**

Since we have moved to Atonement Lutheran, there is a wider selection of options of sacred services. In 2023 we rolled out a new Sacred Service Menu of Opportunities. There is something for everyone, schedule, interests, passions, or skills. Fill out the form and sign up for what is meaningful for you!

**Online Auction Fundraiser by Angie Trulson**

Wanda Horner has offered to help us with an online auction fundraiser. You can donate items that you will keep yourself until after the sale. In February, Wanda will give an announcement at the service and share information in our newsletter.

**Bumper Stickers, Sweaters, and T-shirts**

As a result of our community survey, there is a lot of interest in Respond with Love bumper stickers. The suggested love offering of $3 to cover our costs. There is interest in Unity logo shirts and sweaters. There are 6 design options. Unity logo on the front, Respond with Love on the back. Angie will distribute info on how to order shirts in the future.

**2024 Vision by Carol Laudenbach**

We’re going to be doing strategic planning by asking you what our goals are. You can be expected to be asked for your feedback on big things and little. We have a lot of responses at town halls.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cristina Seaborn.