



Unity of Fairfax Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes September 26, 2019

Board Members Present	Others Present	Board Members Absent
Russell Heiland, Senior Minister		
Teresa Accomando, Chair		
Gail Hughes, Chair Emeritus		
Nancy Schneider, Secretary		
		John Dickman
Jody Ruth		
		Laura Berry
John Kell		

**Quorum present? Y**

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

**MOTION: Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the August 2019 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Began at 7:16 and ended at 7:43.

**Minister’s Report: Russell** Attached as Appendix 1.

**MOTION:** Russell moved that effective with the payment of the September 2019 tithes, the current Unity of Fairfax monthly tithing practice be changed from Version A to Version B (see Appendix 1). The motion was approved unanimously.

The board is taking into discernment if and how the financial situation at Unity Worldwide Ministries will impact our tithing levels to UWM.

**Treasurer’s Report: John Dickman was absent.** The August 2019 Treasurer’s Report can be found here:

<https://www.unityoffairfax.org/sites/unityoffairfax.org/files/Financials-August2019.pdf>

**New Business:**

- Audit - The audit partner will attend the October Board meeting to meet in Executive Session with and without Russell. Then they will share in the regular meeting. Jody suggested that we try to include a representative from the audit partner in the November Annual meeting.
- Nominating Team - There will be 2 seats to fill for the 2020-2023 term.
- Cadre of cash counters: When we hold events which involve large amounts of cash, such as a yard sale, Bingo night, etc., it is the finance team’s purview to write the policies for cash counting at events - final team to include a board member, staff person and finance

team member. The board remanded to the senior minister the staff function of identifying background checked volunteers for cash counting.

- Russell hired a part time contracted bookstore manager
- A Kiva microlending service project was proposed by the Men's Group. The board declined to have Unity of Fairfax participate in this project.
- Proposal from community members for ESL class ministry: a possible project for 2020

**Writer of the next Governance page for bulletin:** Gail

**Closing, Pray-Out and Adjournment** 9:22

**Upcoming Dates:**

Fall Potluck and Auction: September 29

October 12: Sacred Service Council

October 24: Next Board Meeting

October 26: Unity Board Training, Bowie MD

Annual Meeting: Sun. Nov 3 12:30 pm

Board Celebration Dinner: Nov. 3 5:00 pm

## APPENDIX 1

Minister's Report \* September 26, 2019

**Note:** I plan to update the format of my monthly report to highlight the following:

1. Strategic Updates. These will be the big picture items that impact the overall functioning of Unity of Fairfax
2. Motions. These will be motions I bring to the Trustees for a vote
3. Information Items. Though no vote will need to be taken on Information Items, they warrant the attention of Trustees, quite possibly items of celebration or general interest

**Strategic Updates:**

Since my 2018-2019 review is complete, I will be crafting for the Board a draft for conversation of my goals for the 2019-2020 period. My desire is that we will discuss these at our mid-October working session. Ideally, a final draft will be ready at the October Board meeting. What I present at the October Board meeting will be a list of goals; not necessarily the implementation plan for each goal. In order to ensure alignment between minister and Board, implementation plans may be impacted by the goals the Board makes at the January 2020 retreat.

My online nonprofit management class is nearing completion. I will successfully complete the course by the mandated October 24, 2019 completion date.

I hired Laurie Warhol as a contractor to manage the Unity of Fairfax bookstore effective October 1, 2019 in accordance with the proposal she made to me in July. No volunteers will be paid at this time.

**Motions: (1)**

I move that effective with the payment of the September 2019 tithes, the current Unity of Fairfax monthly tithing practice be changed from Version A to Version B:

Version A (current practice):

Unity Worldwide Ministries*	50% of total tithe amount
Silent Unity	25% of total tithe amount
UWM Education Fund	\$1000/month
UWM Eastern Region	\$500/month
TruthUnity.net	\$250/month
Unityparatodos.org	\$250/month
Special tithe requests	TBD
UWM	balance of tithe dollars remaining after special tithe requests added to the UWM 50% of tithe dollars noted above

\*current practice is that the following are included as tithes to UWM: Rev. Russell's UWM ministry team service and Ron Karstetter's ministerial education expenses.

Version B (proposed practice):

Unity Worldwide Ministries*	50% of total tithe
Silent Unity	25% of total tithe
UWM Eastern Region	\$500/month
TruthUnity.net	\$250/month
Unityparatodos.org	\$250/month
Special tithe requests	TBD
Unity World Headquarters	balance of tithe dollars remaining after special tithe requests

\*proposed practice remains unchanged from current practice.

Rationale: Unity of Fairfax is blessed by the work of the entire Unity movement and we have shown our gratitude through the tithes we have made. I have come to realize that our tithes to Unity World Headquarters (UWH) warranted reconsideration. Up until now, all of our tithes to that entity were made to what is in fact a designated fund, Silent Unity. Like Unity of Fairfax, UWH is engaging in the process of retooling its operation to support its core functions; a process which to me is inspirational. Additionally, the work of publishing continues, as does unity online radio, retreats, preservation of the Village itself, which is sacred to Unity Truth students. Although Version B means a reduction in tithes to UWM, it still allows us to be major supporters of that part of the Unity work.

At any time, the Board may modify, change, or adjust how and to whom Unity of Fairfax tithes; thus what is noted above is a tithing practice, not a policy.

## Information Items:

Pinnacle will continue to utilize the Mildred Park Center through the end of the lease and now speculates they will depart from the main building late October to mid November. They made a request to convert the Conference Room and Amy's office to 1st grade classrooms "only for a few weeks until we depart." We declined and suggested they consider another modular building.

All September events have been successful. We had to request extra rooms for the Capon retreat; the Jackie Woodside event on 9/8/19 had nearly 50 attendees (roughly 1/2 of whom were non-Unity); Dr. Dream had a large turn out for both activities, (1/3 to 1/2 were non-Unity); Deeper than the Skin had 48 attendees, most of whom were non-Unity. The Auction on September 29 has nearly 60 items and at the same time Rebecca Whitecotton and volunteers will be at the Pathways Expo which is an event that is a natural fit for Unity. Additionally, YFM added an additional class in September.

Sunday, September 29 will be a big day at Unity of Fairfax as we will have, along with the Auction, a pot luck luncheon, YOU'ers assisting on the platform at 2nd service, and a special video for Hispanic Heritage Month co-created by Mara Sandvik, Midd Hunt, and Ethan Whitecotton. Comunidad Hispana will also be leading a song.

October is every bit as busy as September. Most notably, for me, is the presentation of my own material for Unity Awakening 2019: Twelve Powers and Seven Chakras, or Could It Be Christian Kundalini. See your monthly bulletin for details.

Yeah, Unity of Fairfax! Here's a note Rebecca Whitecotton asked to be read at the September Sacred Service Council meeting:

*I just finished updating the events and classes page ([unityoffairfax.org/events](http://unityoffairfax.org/events)) and I thought, my goodness, we have been talking for a while now about shooting to be a thriving Spiritual Center for Education, Practice, and Service. Well, my dears, we ARE a thriving spiritual center! We have 24 significant events in September and October, plus 9 different programs that occur every week! WOW! That represents just a huge amount of time and effort put in by so many volunteers and staff members, and we are making an impact! This is our vision in action.*

*Plus, the reviews I'm hearing are incredible. World Day of Prayer was amazing for those who went. We had 42 at the retreat and then had 48 at the Jackie Woodside presentation (and half of those people had never been to Unity before!) This weekend is Dr. Dream, which hopefully will be fun and well-attended.*

*I'm not able to be at the SSC meeting tomorrow because of a Community Service Team retreat, but maybe one of you can share this info and help everyone celebrate just how awesome we are!*

I will be leading all Sunday services during Unity Awakening and taking off Sunday, November 24.