



Mission
We are a vibrant spiritual community
awakening each life to the Christ within.

Vision
Centered in Divine Love, we honor and celebrate
a world awakened to peace, abundance, and respect for all creation.

Unity of Fairfax Board of Trustees

“I break free from the illusion of limitation – Arise, shine; for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” – Isaiah 60:1

Meeting Minutes August 13, 2020

Board Members Present	Others Present	Board Members Absent
Russell Heiland, Senior Minister		
John Kell, First Chair		
		Anthony Flournoy, Second Chair
		Marangely Sandvik, Secretary
John Dickman, Treasurer		
Gail Hughes, Keeper of the Flame		
Nancy Schneider, Member at Large		

Quorum present? Yes

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Minister’s Report: Russell Attached as Appendix 1.

Motion: Russell moved that Unity of Fairfax make a \$100 tithe to Rev. Nancy Worth in appreciation for sharing study materials that will be utilized for Unity Awakening 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Fundraising: Several fundraising ideas came from the community after the last Community Dialogue meeting. A Board subcommittee will be formed to explore these ideas.

Committee Reports:

- Reopening Team, Nancy Schneider: No updates
- Financial Report, John Dickman: The July 2020 Treasurer’s Report was not finalized as of the time of this meeting.
 - The roof on the Mildred Park Center needs repairs. We will get quotes for that work.
- Benevolence Fund, John Kell: Tammy Nguyen will join this committee.
- Nominating Committee, Nancy Schneider: Some members have expressed interest in running for the Board

Old Business:

- Cash Policy Update - Tabled
- Finance Team and other Charters discussion - tabled

New Business:

Annual Meeting and Voting: John Kell is working on documents and communications addressing the bylaw requiring in-person attendance and voting at the Annual Meeting.

Meeting End: 9:40 PM

Upcoming Dates:

Next BOT Meeting: Sept. 23 7:00 PM

Minister's Report * August 13, 2020

Strategic Initiatives

Mini-Sabbatical. Guest speakers set as follows: Ron Karstetter on August 23, James Jones on August 30, Rev. Sherrie Quander on September 6.

John Kell will be payment signatory in my absence.

John Kell, Ron Karstetter, Patie Wilcox will have a weekly check-in meeting in my absence.

Trustees will record vlogs. Schedule sent separately.

Pinnacle Trailer. Staff is in the process of securing title. We can neither sell it nor scrap it without title.

Mildred Park Roof. Needs repairs that would be funded from Capital Reserve.

Action Items

I move that Unity of Fairfax make a \$100 tithe to Rev. Nancy Worth in appreciation for sharing study materials that will be utilized for Unity Awakening 2020.

Rationale: Ministers often share materials with one another. It is customary to offer a tithe in appreciation.

Information Items

An online guestbook is now added to the Livestream. Any signers will receive a contact from Ron Karstetter or me.

Sunday Livestream modified effective August 9 to have pre-Livestream content. Order of service modified.

Eagle Scout project by Matteo Betancourt has been submitted to Eagle Scout committee for review. Once they make edits, it comes back to us for approval to proceed.

Ron and I are crafting the new Online Membership Class to roll out towards end of September.

July tithes per our new tithing practice noted here:

Total tithe amount for July (10% of love offerings of \$57,088)	\$5,709
Ministerial student total compensation costs:	\$3,539
UWM Eastern Region	500
Unityparatodos.com	250
Truthunity.net	250
Silent Unity (25% of balance after above)	292
UWH (25% of balance after above)	292
UWM (balance remaining less any special tithes*)	585
*no special tithes in July	5,709

Discussion Items

- Based on final decision of financial actions to be taken in the final quarter of 2020, the Board and I will need to craft a communication to the community.
- Many income generating ideas have been presented to me which are included in this report. More were shared at the Community Dialog Meeting. How would the Board like to proceed in implementing them?

From Carolee Egan –

WINE! We could purchase a 1 day permit again. Sell online somehow. Patie would order another 1 day permit.

From Patie Wilcox and Steve Marcom –

<https://unity-of-fairfax.square.site/>

(n.b. Patie and Steve are working on making the Unity of Fairfax bookstore an online retailer)

From Patie Wilcox –

Paper Shredding. The basic flow of the fundraiser is easy. You decide how many shred bags fit your fundraiser. We suggest 10--20 bags per participant. Participants then sell the bags to friends, neighbors, family, or local businesses. Bags are then delivered, by the purchaser, to your

local shred event. Shred events are scheduled by us, per your needs/dates/times. The only cost to your organization, by National Shredding, is the cost to purchase shred bags. We provide shred trucks on your event day for up to 4 hours and stickers to place on the bags showing event details. Promotion costs are the responsibility of the event participants.

How do we make money with this fundraiser?

Great question! The simple answer is selling shred bags in your local community. Participants in your group/school/team/congregation will go out into their communities and sell our bags to neighbors, local businesses, or family members. Your cost for the bags is \$10 per bag. We recommend you sell the bags for \$20+. This guarantees you a 50%+ return on investment. There is a 200 bag minimum.

How do we get the bags? We ship them directly to you at no cost.

How much paper do they hold?

38 +/- LBS or paper. No need to remove paper clips, spiral notebooks, or even binder clips. We even shred CDs or DVDs. The customer delivers their shred bag sealed to your event and the ENTIRE bag gets shredded. Privacy is the primary concern.

How will our customers know about our shred event? In addition, to whatever promotions you decide to do locally, National Shredding provides stickers to go on each bag with your organization name and dates for the shred event. The best news of all is that you collected payment upfront so, even if the customer doesn't arrive at your event to shred, YOU GOT PAID!

Who will be at the shred event day to shred our bags? National Shredding works with NAID AAA certified and insured local document destruction professional to provide a seamless Shred event day for your organization. All shred day professionals are bonded and insured. Best of all this is at no cost to you. Shredding is included in the cost of the bags.

From Patie Wilcox –

As a working mother of an elementary school child, I see the need for “after online school” tutoring support. Working parents do not have ample time to direct their children in their independent school work.

Working parents have been hiring private tutors since schools closed in March and some are continuing to do so over the summer. My daughter is receiving tutoring twice a week over the summer. Other parents I know are doing similar.

Hunter Mill Montessori likely has clients with older children in addition to preschoolers that they could offer services to. That will create the need for more space at MPC.

Now that Fairfax and other counties are going online only – this presents an opportunity for private schools that have excess space to provide socially distanced learning for elementary students. (I mentioned this to the Pinnacle folks that stopped by yesterday.)

We have all this space and can setup small classrooms ourselves to give working parents the support needed and fill the gaps left by homeschooling. Working parents are struggling to keep children engaged and supported.

Since we are a small close knit community, we could likely find a few families that are already allowing their children some degree of socialization to form small classes at UoF. I know I could for rising 6th graders.

How do we pay for the shred bags? National Shredding will invoice you for the bags ordered. That invoice is due 5 business days before your shred event. If you have bags left over just return them to National Shredding, we will credit your invoice for unused/undamaged bags. As a reminder any bags with stickers on them are non-refundable.

The very best feature of our fundraising opportunity is that the vast majority of the shredded paper is recycled. Helping the environment and making \$\$! It's a win!

From Jaime Singhal –

Hi Rev. Russ,

I've been thinking a lot about the Community Dialogue meeting. I've also been reading a lot of news. There are going to be a lot of churches that need to shutter. I'm hoping that Unity can sustain itself and be true to its vision. I do think we need to do a few extra things this year to keep attempting to raise funds. I know Beverly W. came up with a cute idea and hopefully that can come to fruition. I wanted to also run some ideas by you to see if they could work. Would you present them to the board or do I need to write something up? Itemized list below. Some may be doable and others not. Looking forward to your feedback.

1. Doormat Fundraiser

I have a Facebook teacher friend that has a sidehustle making customized doormats.

<https://www.facebook.com/shutthefrontdoormats/>

She charges \$30 per mat plus about \$14 for shipping. That's pricey. We could use another company that is cheaper and customize them with Unity based quotes such as: "Let Go and Let God", "All Is Well", "Schtick With Us", "Peace Begins With Me", "Let There Be Peace On Earth"

It doesn't have to be those sayings but something Unity so that everytime the person goes in and out of their house, they think of Unity. Each mat right now is 22.49 but usually retail 29.99. Shipping is 2.99 per rug. Charge \$40 per rug then the profit is \$14 per rug. All of this can be done electronically by creating a google form to indicate interest and desired saying on rug and then payment can be made by check or text to give. Rug can be mailed directly to parishioners so no one is risking catching the virus by doing this fundraiser.

2. Wreath Sales At the Holidays

Right around mid-October offer individuals to purchase wreaths.

This wreath from Walmart

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/ALEKO-Snow-Dusted-Holiday-Christmas-Wreath-with-Berry-Clusters/264754675?wmlspartner=wlp&selectedSellerId=0>

costs \$17 plus \$1.38 tax, plus \$5.99 shipping. It would cost around \$24.50 and sell for \$40.

Again have it shipped directly to the parishioners. Collect info using a Google Form, have them pay through Text to Give or check, and ship directly to parishioners.

There is also another fundraiser company that organizes wreath sales for the holidays:

<https://www.evergreenindustries.com/christmas-wreath-fundraiser-how-to-fundraise/>

3. Online Wine Auction

Do we have enough donated wine that it can be it's own auction? There are lots of wine drinkers at our church. Maybe some of them will like this.

4. Virtual Bingo

Bingo at church seemed to have good turnout. Maybe this is something we could bring back again using Zoom.

5. Virtual Movie Nights Using Zoom

I saw a church online using Zoom to do movie nights, with movies focusing on social justice. (Jaime included several links that I have deleted to shorten this report)

6. Annual Unity Auction

Are we going to be doing the auction this year? Most of the activities required interaction. This year people need to think out of the box and do virtual stuff. Some examples: Online Zoom tarot Reading with Jean Walker Wiley using Zoom, Zoom Musical Concert with Debi Smith or other talented Unity artists (we have so many), donations of items for sale such as gift cards, etc, Zoom art lessons, etc.

7. Online Zoom Guest Event

I remember Eben Alexander did a talk at Unity that was immensely successful. Is there someone we can find that is also popular that people would pay to hear on Zoom? they advertised it on Facebook. This organization named JELF has popular educational researcher Angela Duckworth do a Zoom forum thing and they got a lot of donations. See link:
<https://jelf.org/jelfs-no-go-virtual-event/>

8. Variety Shows

Do you think we should do our youth and adult variety shows on zoom?

9. ECampus

What if there was a way you and other Unity Fairfax teachers can offer masterclasses that parishioners would pay to attend? These would be self-paced, asynchronous classes. Have we done this before? See these links to see if this is something that could work:

<https://www.thinkific.com/>

Teachable is another one but I don't like them

10. Unity in a Box

I have been seeing subscription boxes of goods be popular. What if we did Unity in a Box 3 times a year and focus on something as a part of our practice. the first box could focus on meditation and feature a candle, essential oil, meditation chime, chakra bracelet, and mantra book. (Note: Jaime attached several websites which I've deleted in order to shorten this report)

11. Facebook Live

Besides our livestream, is our church service also posted on Facebook live? I'm not sure but hoping this could be one way to increase church member numbers and donations.

From Beverly Weise -

1) A name for the project. The national sports teams call theirs "**Fans in the Stands.**" How about we call ours "**Pals in The Pews**" or "**Pew Pals.**"

2) Goals: To serve as a fundraiser for the church, while bringing some fun and whimsy and maintain a sense of community during the virtual Sunday experience. Also, people would have the fun of watching for their "avatar" during the live-stream on Sunday mornings. (Personally I find it kind of depressing to see the empty pews).

3) How - I don't think this is going to work as a team-DIY project. With Covid-19, some of us are really hunkering down still, isolating, self-quarantining which makes it hard to pull off a terrific group art activity. It also appears to me we would need a large-scale color plotter printer and that a lot of time and effort would go into doing a beautiful job. We want to get our pals in the pews, over the next few weeks – so the church hasn't reopened by the time we have completed the cardboard characters.

4) Options - I think we should give our members a choice:

A. Contract Out – We could ask members to send a photo, waist up, and payment, and we could coordinate with a company to prepare a seating figure. A general view of cardboard cutouts of fans in the stands...

From Dave Wiley -

Some ideas for services outside: The church still has the prior large screen and projector after the projector upgrade project.

The projector could be placed on a cart and moved out, using the power provided at the L. The screen needs a couple hooks to be mounted. The screen bottom could be stabilized with tie downs to blocks. Up and down each Sunday.

The area of the plaza is 7850 sq ft. Roughly, every seating group is in a six foot circle (113 sq. ft. So there are ~69 seating circles in the plaza. People pick chairs from a rack to place at small poles marking recommended spacing. Leave in place and spray down with disinfectant, then stack. (or people bring their own picnic chairs).

The largest drawback could be the sun at 11 AM. I have investigated suspended sun fabric on wires strung between the building and arch structure. 12 strips of 5 foot (60") wide, 50 foot long pieces of material would be the main cost, so ~200 yds. is ~\$5000. The strips could be pulled to the side of the education wing for stowing during high winds, obviously changing the Ed. wing look. It would need to be stowed for winter. Or move the services earlier to have sun lower in the sky and a cooler temperature. With a sunshade, options for L use increase beyond services.

We would need mobile streaming gear / a camera for those attending remotely. Midd has mentioned these. Street noise a consideration.

From Carolee Egan –

Online classes and events. Phil Goldberg and Matthew Fox proposals expected to Unisync for September 8 meeting.

From Nina Gibson–

Virtual 5K walk/run/roll done in conjunction with Unity of Springfield. Proposal will be made to Unisync for September 8 meeting.

From Lenny Weltman –

Have people save items from covid cleaning and arrange another church yard sale.