

Minutes of the annual congregational meeting October 26, 2008

Opening Prayer

Rev David

Call to Order

Board President, Susan Miller called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM

Welcome & Introduction of Board and Staff

Susan Miller, President

introduced all of the current board members and the Center's professional staff.

Quorum Report -

John Rexroat, Secretary

At the start of the meeting the actual count was 93 persons present. 87 of which are members and 6 are non-voting guests.

Approval of Agenda

Susan Miller, President

The agenda was passed out to members as they entered the meeting. There were no additions or corrections to that agenda.

Election of Board of Trustees (voting members only) Lisa Langille

- ◆ Attributes of Board Candidates - Lisa read Bylaws Section 4.04(a) as is required by the bylaws, prior to opening nominations. .
 - ◆ Nominating Committee members are Rev. David, Susan Miller, Ron Salazar, Kathleen Eggleston, and Lisa Langille.
 - ◆ Introduction of Nominees: Lisa Langille introduced the four candidates proposed by the nominating committee. The chair opened the meeting for nominations from the floor. There were none. In the absence of any such nominations the nominations were closed:
 - ◆ The nominees for the three vacant three year terms are:
 - Donna Bedford
 - David Peterson
 - Jan Rudolph
- For the one year remaining on a vacated term:
- Kathy Bate
- ◆ There being no candidates other than the four presented by the nominating committee it was moved by Susan Miller and seconded by Rick Stober that

the slate be elected by Acclamation. The following persons were elected to the board of trustees for the Class of 2011

Donna Bedford, David Peterson, Jan Rudolph.

For the class of 2009: Kathy Bate.

After this election the final make up of the board of Trustees for the Unity Center of Walnut Creek, effective January 1, 2009 will be as follows:

Class of 2009: Kathy Bate, Susanne Perry-Paige, and John Rexroat.

Class of 2010 Mike McGuire, Lisa Nichols, Ron Salazar

Class of 2001: Donna Bedford, David Peterson, Jan Rudolph

President's Report

Susan Miller, President

Reported on the activities of the Center over the past year. Copy attached
Susan reported about some of the board events including Casino Royale.
We renewed David's contract for another four years.

Treasure's Report

Suzanne Perry Paige, Treasurer

Suzanne presented a brief summary of the Center financial picture as of the end of September. Copy Attached.

Presented the 2009 Budget (copy attached)

Minister's Report

Rev. David McArthur

David reported on highlights over the past year. Copy attached
Rev. David reported on some of the over 3000 activities that occurred during the year and identified many of our key players in the many volunteer tasks that are going on here. Our new director of LIA Don Shaw was welcomed to that important leadership role .

Our Center will also be presenting the Costa Rica Be Peace program here to the bay area, including bringing Rev. Rita Marie Johnson here to present their approach to manifesting Peace. .

Capital Development Project:

John gave a brief report on the financial implications of doing the project all at one time instead of doing the Community building and the sanctuary separately.

Copy on file.

Pursuant to this board decision we are resolved as follows.

The board requests Authorization to pledge the property of the Center as collateral for a loan to complete the love in action project. Further, that this new obligation shall not exceed 1.2 million dollars.

Moved by Susan Miller with second by Rick Stober
Motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum -

Ann Pieper: Will there be classes in people's home? Will not know until we determine what facilities we will have and whether we may need such loving space.

Rick Stober: Continuation of Sacred Gathering. Will LIA Teams please consider doing that.

Don Eggleston. Will we be using the Heather Farms community Center as our Sunday Morning Swing space.

Ali asked to speak: What a privilege it has been to participate in the Love in Action Program.

Vi Callaghan praised the board for all that has been accomplished this year. The board felt honored at the acknowledgement

Susan Kifer has volunteered to head up the Christmas Party this December.

Lisa Nichols: Offered a tribute from all of us to our President, Susan Miller. Pres. Miller was given a standing ovation as a sign of our love and appreciation.

Closing Prayer

Rev. David McArthur

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted

John F. Rexroat

Secretary, Board of Trustees.

Congregational Meeting - 10/26/08 - Treasurer's Report by Suzanne Perry-Paige

I have the great pleasure of presenting to you a very brief summary of our finances through September - the first three quarters of this year – and letting you know about our Unity budget for this coming year.

At the end of the third quarter, we had \$183K in Checking and Savings Accounts, an increase of \$46,500 over the same date last year. We have experienced prosperity in both supporting our general operating expenses and giving to our church growth through Love in Action. During this year, we have gratefully paid all operating expenses when they were needed. Love in Action giving has abundantly paid for the children's playground, professional and other services including architectural design, planning, engineering and project management for the opening of our spiritual home during this next year.

Although we had many strong months earlier in the year, the last few months have shown slightly lower operating income with the third quarter ending very slightly under budget. Expenses, however, have also been below budget throughout the year.

Our several fund-raising events throughout the year – and especially our Fall event – significantly contribute to the funds needed to support the operations of the Church. With the Fall Casino night and auction quickly approaching, revenues through year end should easily exceed budget. And, we are starting to look toward the 2009 gala live auction and party night – an event that many of us, and our friends, so much enjoyed and that so greatly contributed to our abundance.

Our budgeting team – that's Reverend David and Board officers Susan, John, Ron and me - completed the 2009 budget and presented it to the Board for review and approval. Copies are available through the office. And we – the Board President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary - welcome any questions that you may have at any time throughout the year. In very brief, our 2009 budgeted operating income is \$462,900 and operating expense is expected to be \$430,200 providing us with an expected net ordinary income, after expenses, of more than \$22,000.

We sincerely thank each and every one of you for your generous and loving giving throughout this year and look forward to all of us working together to be spiritual beacons of abundance and love.



Unity Center — inclusive, heart-centered spirituality

1871 Geary Rd. Walnut Creek, CA 94597 • 925-937-2191 • www.unitycenter.net

President's Report
October 26, 2008
Annual Membership Meeting

Dear Members,

During 2008 our Board of Trustees has visioned, prayed, laughed, dialogued, decided, planned, and served this Unity Center of Walnut Creek. It has been a privilege, an honor and a growth experience!

The year has brought many special moments. Here are just a few:

Board Retreat in February at Susan Miller's. A time of bonding, exploring and committing.

Planning began in April with Lisa Nichols as the chairperson for the upcoming November 7th Casino Royale Event. That dream is soon to be realized.

Unanimous decision to proceed with the LIA construction project as a whole. And to that end agreed to seek congregational approval to seek loan funding.

In September our Staff and Board hosted the UCWC Volunteer "Thank You" Picnic.

The Board of Trustees renewed Rev. David's contract for the next four years.

The LIA project moved forward under the capable guidance of our architect, Jeri Holan. Our plans were submitted to the City of Walnut Creek for design review. About forty of our neighbors were personally visited by the Communications Team, under Veronica Wolfe's able guidance, to share our construction project plans and intentions.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 2009 budget for our Center.

The integrity, harmony and warmth of this 2009 Board of Trustees has made it a BLESSED year!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E Miller
President, UCWC Board of Trustees



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Minister's Report - Rev. David McArthur Annual Membership Meeting 2008, - Creating with Love

Spiritual Inspiration from guest speakers and seminars

- Susan Hanshaw - Dec 30
- Treasure Mapping with Deandra – Jan 27
- Dreams with Lee Haworth – Jan 20
- Board Retreat - Jan 19 & 20
- Georgia Stathis January 24
- Rev. Max Lafser Feb 1, 2 & 3 Conflict Resolution workshop & services
- Center Renewal Retreat, Villa Maria del Mar in Santa Cruz – Feb 19-21.
- Season for Nonviolence
- HeartMath Solution seminar - March 1
- Radical forgiveness, Rev. Sheila Gautreaux - April 6
- Mike Robbins - April 27
- Universal Laws workshop with Rev. David - May 10
- Dr Robert Freedman June 1
- Tama Keives - June 29
- Suzanne Leonard - July 13
- Advanced HeartMath Workshop - July 26
- Rev. Grace Nichodemus - Aug. 3
- Patricia Grabow - Aug. 31
- Costa Rica celebration Sept. 5
- 11 Days of Global Unity - Sept. 11 – 21
- World Day of Prayer Heart Ministers September 11
- International Day of Peace - Sept 21
- Day at HeartMath - Oct. 18
- Charles Fillmore's Prosperity Workshop Oct. 19

Special Community Events

- Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 22
- Christmas Party December 8th (Barbara Tuck-Smith and Linda Stevens)
- Christmas Concert - Dec. 14
- Family Christmas party - Dec. 22
- Crab Feed - Jan. 18
- Easter at the Dean Leshner Regional Theater for the Arts March 23
- Town Hall Meeting - April 20
- E-waste recycling – June 21
- Kathleen Eggleston Day June 8
- Circulation Day - June 30
- 4th of July picnic
- Volunteer Picnic – wonderful and enjoyed by all Sept. 13
- Asilomar Retreat - Oct. 3-5
- Town Hall Meeting - Oct. 12
- Annual Membership Meeting - Oct 26

Special Services

- Thanksgiving service - Nov. 2, 2007
- Native American service - Nov. 25
- Remembrance Service - Dec. 12

- Family Christmas Eve service Dec. 24
- Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24
- Burning Bowl Service Dec. 31
- Easter – March 23 - Our Easter service was a wonderful success and the music magnificent

Love in Action

- Wow, Wow, Wow our love in action teams were wonderful and inspirational
- Ali True led our love in action teams as they refocused their amazing talent and helped us go forward joyously and successfully plus creating a retreat for LIA leaders in Napa Aug. 16

Capital Development Team

- Jack Shaffer is leading our wise and committed Capital Development Team with architect Jeri Hollin and project manager Jeff Cushing.
- The Board of Trustees after much prayer and reflection made the decision to build both parts of the project at the same time.
- Plans are drawn, estimates established, our plans are before the Walnut Creek planning department.
- We are expecting notice of a public hearing to be issued soon.
- Our communication team led by Veronica Wolfe let the people in our neighborhood know about our plans.
- Our financial team has been preparing for our application for the loan for construction and the resulting mortgage to secure the loan for the amount not covered by the Love in Action pledges.
- Marian Crew is leading the effort us our swing space while the building project takes place.
- Our Children's' Play Area is a wonderful addition. Many thanks to Jeff and all those who helped him bring this first part of our project to fruition.
- During construction we anticipate: AND ASK YOU TO HOLD IN PRAYER WITH US
 - construction starting in April and ending by Christmas (8mos) to March (12mos)
 - having a wonderful space to meet each Sunday for our services
 - having space for our children each Sunday
 - having an office/meeting room space we rent during the week

Youth Education

- Every Sunday during two services our children are treasured and loved by Lani & Jeremy and their wonderful team of leaders
- Family events
- Family Christmas party
- Family Christmas Eve service
- Uniteens with their campout
- YOUers with regional and national rallies and retreats
- The brought us Circulation Day
- Prayed for and blessed potted plants for us near Mother's Day
- Special music for our services and for Family Christmas Eve
- Children's choir on Easter
- The great play they gave us at our volunteer picnic

Community Action Committee

- Every Saturday – sandwiches for the homeless
- Shelter Dinners for several weeks at Martinez and Concord shelters
- Christmas Giving Tree for STAND
- Warm clothing for the homeless
- Food Bank
- Teddy Bears for children in need
- Books for children
- School supplies for children
- BART tickets for STAND

Classes

- Unity Center of Spiritual Learning has offered **over 26 Classes** most for 8 weeks each.
- 9 ongoing classes most meeting weekly
- 4 ongoing 12 step related meetings/week
- Three to eight study groups meeting each week.
- This means some weeks there were over forty meetings at our Center.
- Our curriculum team guides and facilitates our class selections.
- Healing nights the first and third Wednesdays of each month continue to be very meaningful to all.

Small Groups

- We have many small groups that meet for spiritual growth on a regular basis.
- At times we have had up to 8 active study groups/week between HeartMath and POD groups with up to 40 participants collectively.
- Special groups such as Women, Poetry, Book Club, Next Generation Unity, Nonviolent Communication, Course in Miracles and more.
- We also support a number of 12-step groups that meet at our Center.

Peace Tour – Costa Rica

- This coming February we are going to Costa Rica in a return journey to explore this beautiful country and learn the powerful BePeace tools that we will bring back to our own community.
- There are still a few places available.

Book Center

- We have a great retail team, with Barbara Cain handling Sunday sales and Karin Lefler handling our book ordering and display. Thank you for its beauty and the care you extend to us.
- Wonderful volunteers in our beautiful Book Center make Unity a welcoming place for all.

Our Gifts to Unity Internationally

- Our tithes every month to The Association of Unity Churches International, The West Central Region, Silent Unity, local Unity churches, Rev. Kitty Benson's church, and our Interfaith Council
- Rev. David serves on the Board of Trustees of The Association of Unity Churches International, and on the Bylaws and Spiritual Renewal teams of the Association.
- He was elected to the position of second vice chair which means he is a part of the executive team and will be the Chair of the Board, Unity's highest elected position, for the 2010-2011 year.
- John Rexroat serves on the Association's Budget and Finance Team.
- Rev. David meets weekly by phone with the executive team, monthly by phone with the Board of Trustees, and quarterly with the Board of Trustees at Unity Village.
- This year was filled with breakthrough firsts that he has been championing.
 - The Board of Trustees for the Association of Unity Churches International met for the first time with the Board of Trustees of Unity School of Christianity at Unity Village. This historic meeting opened new levels of cooperation between Unity's two major organizations.
 - The Board of Trustees of the Association of Unity Churches International met in the Dominican Republic with the leaders of Unity from Latin America. They developed an international strategy for promoting Spanish Speaking Unity.
- Our Center supports Rev. David's service to the Unity movement through our tithes to the Association of Unity Churches International. Those tithes provide for our collective gift of Rev. David's leadership to Unity and financial support for the Association as well.

Sunday Blessings

- Our wonderful Unity musicians, who help with so many services, including Heartdream and Charlene Marchi as our new music director
- Joyful Noise Choir with Rick Stober as our director continues to be awesome
- Our Audio/Video team brings us not only a high quality multimedia experience in our services, it also has our CD of the service available as you leave and a monthly DVD of the talks.
- Our Sunday greeters, announcers and all those that support them and make us welcome

Grounds and facilities

- OVER 1392 MEETINGS AT UCWC LAST YEAR
 - Meeting sizes ranged from a few people to hundreds
- Cared for every week , repaired, repainted, and cleaned
- Volunteers work with Charlene as well as purchased services.

Upcoming Special Services

- Thanksgiving Appreciation Service November 26 – Heart Ministers
- Native American Tradition November 31
- Remembrance – (Dec. 10) Honoring dear ones who have transitioned
- Christmas Eve – two special evening services on Christmas Eve (Wednesday)
- Burning Bowl – New Years Eve

Our Publications

- Centerpoint every month to your homes- Kathryn McArthur editor
- Centerpoint weekly by email – Charlene Balderston and Don Eggleston
- Our Website www.unitycenter.net constantly updated by Norma Fox

Your Board

- Nov. 3 – Board Key leader training on Church leadership in Sacramento
- Met faithfully and was very actively involved in every aspect of our Center
- Guided our decisions with faith and love & sought to live the principles we teach

Your Staff – all who serve with great love way beyond any job descriptions

- Ministerial Assistant – Patricia deMichele (monday support from Barbara Cain)
- Sunday Coordinator – Mike McGarvey
- Facilities Director – Charlene Balderston
- Youth Education Directors – Lani & Jeremy Branch
- Music Director – Charlene Marchi
- Volunteer coordinator – Jeanne Fuson
- Bookkeeper – John Rexroat
- Book Center sales – Karin Lefler, Barbara Cain
- We have so many people who work miracles here, only a few for pay, most as volunteers and we are so very, very blessed by them all!!

Volunteers

- **We have over 260 volunteers**
- **Our new volunteer coordinator is Jeanne Fuson**
- We have volunteers who give tremendous amounts of time every week, show up regularly to give their care, lead big projects and teams of skilled, caring people who help us accomplish our work
- We have many, many volunteers who jump in when needed and say, “How can I help?”

Heart Ministers

- Led by Don Eggleston’s wonderful prayer consciousness
- They are constantly holding the high watch at all services, prayer with all requests, visiting members in hospitals or homebound, special leadership at services on request, calling with prayer when requested, plus their support on Sunday during and after services

Next Year

- Excellent classes continue (through our teachers and our curriculum team)
- More inspiring speakers (through the efforts of our Presenters Team)
- More joyous and meaningful celebrations
- Consciously examining, what is Spirit’s next assignment for our Center
- Ideas we are exploring in the upcoming year
 - A coaching Center with our own professional coaches

- A virtual church where our wonderful spiritual classes and support are made available to those who can't be with us physically through the internet

We are committed to

- Creating a spiritual sanctuary where spiritual understanding is nurtured
- Choosing our hearts as we work together
- Creating peace within ourselves and our world
- Responding with wisdom and compassion to the world around us
- Expanding our awareness of God's goodness in our lives, our Center and our world
- Doing so with our hearts so full that we "Have Fun!"

It is my honor to work with all of you.
Rev. David

God's infinite love flows through Unity Center of Walnut Creek and through all our hearts, lifting us to the very highest levels of service.