

UNITY OF FOX VALLEY ANNUAL BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Board Members Present: Rev. Mike, President Mickey Koziol, Treasurer Judy DeVoe, Secretary, Donna Beichel, and Trustee, Rick McKay.

Board Members Absent: Vice President Bonnie, who was ill, and Perry Hurtt, who was ~~off~~ out of town.

Congregation Members received an invitation to this meeting. Those who chose to attend were also present at this meeting.

**Opening Prayer**

Rev. Mike called the meeting to order at 11.45 AM, beginning the meeting with a prayer.

(Paraphrasing Prayer) “In a spirit of gratitude and appreciation for the abundance available to ~~to~~ us, we are thankful for the gift of understanding, Rev. Mike called to Spirit to be present to inspire us to elevate this church community.” He then turned the meeting over to Mickey, who introduced the Board members.

**Approval of Annual Board Meeting Minutes for 2022**

2022 Board Minutes

The Board Minutes for 2022 were presented to ~~to~~ those present to be accepted. Deb McQuaid made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Joey Nelson. All were in agreement.

**Nominations to the Board and Voting in of New Members**

There were two vacancies on the Board. Bonnie's term was up, and Rick McKay's. Rick had filled in for Larry after President, Larry Schaffer, passed away earlier in the year. Two new people, Joey Nelson and Dave ~~Rollins~~ Rolison sought positions on the Board. There were no other nominations. Mickey introduced Joey and Dave, who were given an opportunity to speak about why they wanted to be on the Board. Both Joey and Dave were voted in as members of the Board by congregants present at the meeting.

Kathleen was present for this meeting. Mickey thanked her for all her help in getting us ready for the Annual Meeting. We all appreciate how much Kathleen does above and beyond as our office manager.

**Treasurer's Report**

Judy DeVoe presented her report on the financial status of UFV, income and expenses. Rev. Mike took the opportunity to speak more about our finances. Before the pandemic, we were okay. Our mortgage payment was double before the pandemic. Also, during the pandemic, we were not using as much money for utilities. After the pandemic contributions did not come back to their prior level. It is important to think of money given as an investment in our church, and not a contribution, because money helps us grow. Rev. Mike asked, “How are you invested ?” Our contributions/investment, has seriously declined. Rev. Mike wants to elevate our consciousness, and said it is rare for us (the Board) to make such a plea. Susan asked how inflation has increased what we are paying? Inflation affects the cost of items and services for the church like it affects families. Rev. Mike shared that some people have taken salary cuts, and others have refused or resisted taking an increase in salary.

## **Questions and Comments from Congregants to the Board**

**Maria Cosentino** asked where the money from “Make It Happen” is going? Mickey replied that it is going to make up our shortage of money for the 2023, and for the upkeep of our new parking lot. She said that we have to anticipate what is needed for our spiritual home, and we are prioritizing what needs to be done.

**Beth Johnson** asked about the church's budget for 2024. Rev. Mike said that the 2024 Budget has been presented to the Board, and has had some revisions. It will be voted on at the next Board meeting December 4, and then available to everyone.

**Alex Christensen** suggested that we do a fiscal year instead of a yearly budget. He feels that we can get a better idea of annual expenses with a fiscal year.

**Carl Strang** made the comment, “That if we stay here in this building, we need money to pay for it.”

**Liz Haythorne** asked about the money (\$750 a month) we will receive from renting space in the basement. Rev. Mike responded that we had a legal agreement. However, the organization had to pull out of the agreement due to their sources for the money not working out. The space was Rev. Jan's old office. However, we will have a Garage Sale in 2024. **Mareia Marcie** wants to do the garage sale this year. Her agency has been collecting items that she will bring, and Congregants are also invited to bring items. Some types of items should not be brought to the sale. There is a list on the Unity website. We have not advertised the available space, because we will be using it for the sale.

**Maria C.** spoke about renting Rev. Jan's old office space to someone in the public.

**Rose Maxson** who works for the Association for Individual Development, posed an idea for a program funded by the state. Clients would come to our church for several hours every day, 5 days a week, Monday through Friday. AID has its own staff. We would receive money from the state. Rick M. wanted to know about how much money to anticipate. Rose responded that our space would have to be looked at by AID. She will speak to the people at AID for us.

**Rev. Mike** said, “Don't take a gloom and doom message from this meeting. It is not the Unity to think this way. UFV has a special consciousness. We share something special here.” Mike suggested inviting a friend to come to church. “It is a good place.” Rich shared with Rev. Mike how much this church means to him. He will be gone 4 months, but is coming back. Rev. Mike said that maybe it is time to stop live streaming. People miss a true connection watching on a screen.

**Wanda Faye Holmes** shared ideas from ministerial school.

1. Leaving a legacy to the church.
2. Make sure to do foundation classes regularly.
3. Prosperity programs needed to shift people's thinking, such as the 4T Prosperity Program

**Mickey** asked that people invest in the church by volunteering to lead or join an activity. Even if it's only one thing, WE NEED IT! Pass out our cards, and get people to try us. There is the idea of a New

People Sunday.

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**Mary Nowroozi** asked us not to forget the youth of UFV. “Come and see what we are doing and help. Share something with the youth. She likes live streaming of our services.

**Wanda Faye** said statistics show that people come back, if there is not live streaming.

**Mike N.** spoke in favor of live streaming.

**Rick M.** said that he can record services without live streaming.

**Rev. Mike** said that he is not seriously considering stopping live streaming. The number of people who watch the service later is greater than the number who watch it live on Sunday. We receive significant contributions from people who are not here.

**Maria C.** said that she believes we are splitting our energy. Some churches have gone exclusively to live streaming, and the numbers are much greater when it is all on line. Mickey questioned that.

**Susan Korpan** said “Kudos to the Board. Thanks to the Board, especially Mickey.”

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

**Bobby Bobbi Severson** made a motion to adjourn. **Rose** seconded the motion. All were in agreement.