



**February 12, 2023
Annual Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Diane Bustamante, President, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Reverend Shawn Moninger opened with a prayer.

Induction Ceremony for New Members

Will Elliot is now an active and voting member.

President's Report – Diane Bustamante presented the President's Report, as follows:

It is with some difficulty that I report that Unity Center of Norwalk experienced a significant decrease in revenue in 2022. Donations have declined, causing the Board to approve of the use of the building fund to meet regular operating expenses. Efforts to increase revenue have met with lower-than-expected returns.

During the Good News portion of our services and in conversations with Rev. Shawn and others, many people have expressed how Unity Center has made a difference in the way their lives have prospered through the practice of Unity principles and by exchanging thoughts of lack with those of correct perception and acting upon them.

Abundance is manifested through active participation and giving from our congregants. We call out to our community to put God first in your life. Make it a priority to attend services and events regularly, in-person. Even though we are a huggy group, social distancing and wearing masks are choices that are supported at Unity Center, so don't let that stop you. Bring your friends and family to our services and events so they too can experience the abundant, joy filled lives you live. Share our live-streamed service each week on your Facebook page.

We encourage and challenge our members and congregants to step up and breathe new life into our community. Bring ideas to Rev. Shawn or a board member and help to implement them. We have a diverse and multi-talented community from which to draw upon. Give of your time and talent and watch how your life is positively enriched and our community transformed into one that everyone wants to be part of.

We, the board, acknowledge and appreciate the staff and volunteers who give of themselves each week. We are grateful to everyone who calls Unity Center of Norwalk their Spiritual home and supports a vibrant community that makes a difference in the lives of its congregants.



Secretary's Report

- Betsy Woods Brooks read the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
- John Valentine made a motion to accept the minutes and the Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Carol Dubs, our Financial Director, provided a review of Fiscal Year 2022 and the Treasure's Report.
- There was discussion about ways to raise awareness about the financial health of the organization on a more frequent basis. Suggested ideas included posting monthly financials with brief narrative of salient points on the bulletin board or in the Sunday bulletin and providing a brief recap at services on a quarterly basis.
- David Friedman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and the Motion passed.

Minister's Report – Rev. Shawn Moninger presented the Minister's Report and expressed gratitude for our community.

- Our people are our greatest asset. Kenneth Gartman is a huge asset to our community.
- Our Board of Trustees is enthusiastic and keeps showing up with ideas for improving our financials and enhancing our community.
- Krista and Tim Erickson and the Greeting team make a terrific difference as they welcome people to Unity.
- Patricia Dube and the Hospitality team stepped up and people are staying after the service to commune with one another.
- Lee Canapetti and the Sound Team which is coming back with new volunteers.
- Our Office Staff: Manja Ferguson, Bookkeeping, Carol Dubs, Financial Director, Gloria Kitchen, Office Manager/Web Designer, Kenneth Gartman, Music Director and Instagram manager
- Steve Bustamante lets the world know that we're here through Audio/Visual, Facebook Live Stream, UCN YouTube, and Podcasts. We should be the worst kept secret in the world based on his contributions.
- Our Prayer Chaplains and Platform Assistants give of their time and talent
- Rev. Theresa Crisci shows up with new classes and talks that expand our consciousness.
- David Friedman, who supports our community – it wouldn't be as bright a place without him.
- Joyful Noise which is vital to our celebration service.
- The Community at Large – we have a lot of new people showing up and that's how we're going to grow.
- We're a place of great heart and great hope. Every single person's lives have shifted from being here.
- I pass along a message that I love to those who want it or need it. People want more than the message – they want community. Our retreats, classes and open mic night have created a community and spiritual home.



Board Member Nomination and Vote

- **Reading of section 4:04 of the Bylaws** (Diane Bustamante)
- **Nominees for Board Member:**
 - Diane Bustamante, re-election 2nd 3-year term
 - Manja Ferguson, election 1st 3-year term
 - Tim Erickson (Chair of Nominating Committee) read Manja's biography.
 - Nancy Sinacori asked for a motion to accept the Nominees.
 - Krista Erickson made a motion to accept Manja's nomination and the motion passed.
 - Bob Kahn made a motion to accept Diane's nomination and the motion passed.
- **Nominating Committee** (Diane Bustamante)
 - Theresa Chrisci volunteered to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee and David Friedman volunteered to serve as the Alternate.
 - Steve Bustamante made a motion to accept David and Theresa and the motion passed.

Open Forum

- David Friedman led a discussion about our pledge campaign and asked the congregation to help close the gap between our monthly expenses (\$16k/month) and our current pledges (\$3,900/month).
- As a result of the exercise our pledge for 2023 increased to \$8,717.
- David will summarize the discussion and request in an email to our mailing list.

Closing Prayer/Adjournment

- Rev. Shawn Moninger closed the meeting with a prayer and Diane Bustamante adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.