

Unity Christian Church Board Meeting

AGENDA

ZOOM

March 14, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81897939234?pwd=SnZUVzJEUS9UdENRcE4vRk9Xb2RMZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 9793 9234

Passcode: 537256

One tap mobile

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- 1) **Opening Prayer and Call to Order**
- 2) **Quorum: Yes or No** (Requires 9 voting members. Pastor Wendy is non-voting)
- 3) **Additions to Agenda**
- 4) **Approval of Minutes** from previous meetings January 21, 2021 and February 17, 2020
- 5) **Reports:**
 - a. **Finance Team:** Attached
 - b. **Trustees:** Attached
 - c. **Minister's Report:** Attached
 - d. **Personnel Team:**
- 6) **New Business:**
 - a. **2021 Task Force:** Attached
 - b. **Retaining Faith Development Programs and Services**
- 7) **Old Business:**
 - a. **Sabbatical Preparations and Plans**
 - b. **Memory Garden Guidelines**
- 8) **Announcements:**
 - a. **Easter Services** – Maundy Service - April 1; Easter Services – April 4: Sunrise Service (TBD) and Worship 11 a.m.
 - b. **Board Meeting Dates:** May 16, 2021
Future Dates: July 11, Nov. 14, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12
- 9) **Adjournment with Closing Prayer:**

**Unity Christian Church
Board Meeting by Zoom
Minutes for January 17, 2021**

Members Present: Kathy Young, Pamela Vicars-Runnals, Jesse Shepherd, Frances Hunter, Hayden Cran, Wendy Wilson, Lisa Damboise, Carlton Altizer, Jenny Doud, Sonny Dodson, Treena Stike, Becky Moore, Alicia Sutherland, David Thompson

Upon establishing the presence of a quorum, Board Chair Jenny Doud called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

Sonny Dodson moved to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2020 Board meeting as presented. Becky Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes of the meeting were approved as submitted.

Reports

Finance: Carlton Altizer presented a review of the 2020 year-end budget highlighting additional expenses for telecommunication. He said it had been a good year considering everything that changed with the pandemic. He also mentioned that we had been able to give an increase to the officer manager and custodian at mid-year. A copy of the funds report from January-December 2020 is attached and is made a part of these minutes. The Chair suggested that a strategic plan be developed in conjunction with the financial plan. With regards to the continuing use of space by Radford City Schools, a question was raised concerning the cost of utilities for that usage. Wendy is in contact with Rob Graham and Pam will research the use to establish a percentage of the cost of utilities. The Chair announced that the Congregation has approved the operating budget for 2021 with the amount \$301,722. She also announced that we have applied for CARES Act forgiveness of \$32,000 granted in the Payroll Protection Plan in 2020.

Pastor: Wendy presented the Pastor's report, a copy of which is attached and is made a part of these minutes. She reported that Unity will participate in the ringing of the bells on Tuesday, January 19, to remember those lives lost due to Covid-19. The office will be closed on January 20.

Director of Faith Development: Hayden presented the Director of Faith Development report, a copy of which is attached and is made a part of these minutes.

Personnel: The Chair announced that Ben Bondurant has resigned as Trustees Chair and as a member of the Trustees. This item will be referred to the Personnel Team. Also, Pam announced that the staff review process will be moved to August.

Announcements

Upcoming meeting: March 14, 2021

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m. and closed with prayer by Wendy.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Hunter, Recording Secretary

**Unity Christian Church
Called Board Meeting on Zoom
Minutes for February 21, 2021**

Members Present: Becky Moore, Sonny Dodson, Pamela Vicars-Runnals, Jesse Shepherd, Alicia Sutherland, Kathy Young, Lisa Damboise, Carlton Altizer, Ben Bondurant, Jenny Doud, Frances Hunter, Natasha Pappas, Wendy Wilson.

Upon establishing the presence of a quorum, Chair Jenny Doud called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

The Chair announced the purpose for the called meeting was to accept the resignation of Ben Bondurant from the Trustees and to appoint a replacement. The Chair expressed deep appreciation to Ben for his all of his service as the resignation was accepted. Pam brought forth a motion from the Personnel/Nominating Committees to appoint Dan Cheverton as a Trustee to fill the unexpired term through December, 2022. The Board passed the motion unanimously.

Wendy announced that the Elders have selected Wes Wilson as a representative to the Board after the term of Lisa Altizer expired.

Jenny announced the next regular Board meeting will be held March 14, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. and closed with prayer by Wendy.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Hunter
Recording Secretary

Unity Christian Church
Minister's Report
March 2021

Worship

- We are half way through Lent! "Holy Vessels—A Season of Recovery."
- Lent packets went out for anyone interested for personal study and reflection.
- Glad to be back having in-person services
- Worship Numbers

in house	FB reached	FB engaged	Youtube	
2/7	0	271	181	23
2/14	0	216	177	?
2/21	57	210	156	7
2/28	47	335	114	14
3/7	58	207	114	13

- We will have an in-person and virtual Maundy Thursday Service on April 1 at 7:00.
- Easter Services—Sunrise (TBD) and 11:00 am
Angela and David are working on putting together a digital choir piece for Easter
- Praise Team—Angela will now work with the Praise Team. She is committed to having them still sing every other week. She is also trying to recruit some more young people for this.
- Children's Worship and Wonder is back in-person. We are still sorting out the schedule and are in need of some new greeters. Our newest three year olds will join CWW after Easter.
- I thought we had a wonderful send off for Hayden.
- We are having fun with the Daily Lent Challenges and Walking to Jerusalem.
- I hope for us to do a dedication of our new piano in April.
- We will have graduate recognition Sunday probably in May

Pastoral

- Daily phone calls with people and some one on one in person visits
- Weekly Check-In Emails
- Prayer via phone with folks having surgery
- Served at the Memorial Service for Norman Jones
- Elders will take a break from the Flock Ministry so I will be trying to find other ways to reach out to our shut-ins and those sick, having surgery, in hospital.

Outreach

- Radford City Schools continues to use the basement for learning experiences and childcare for children of teachers. They are so very grateful.
- Community Table is Back—We are serving between 74-100 meals. The left over meals go to Women's Resource Center and Ridgewood Place. Still trying to get the word out that we are doing this again. I'm so pleased for the addition of delivering to our members. It truly is a great check-in. More people all volunteering to serve meals. Make sure to check out the new signs for Community Table—a big thank you to Teresa and her son Andy for getting those hung.
- Neighbors in Need collected over \$3,000.
- Love Offering for Hayden over \$2,000

--Week of Compassion—\$1,120.00

--To Our House—Dan Cheverton as Outreach Team Leader took charge of this. He said it went very well. He prepared several meals and Betty Jones and one of her friends prepared a meal. We partnered with Grove again this year.

--This was our month for the Clothing Bank. Participants from Unity that are working are—Becky Moore, Penny Burghett, Lisa Altizer, Alice Gallimore, Frances Hunter, Gloria Boyd

--Since January we have helped pay groceries for two families, utilities for one person, and provided 2 night hotel stay for one woman, funds for on man's prescriptions.

--Teresa was able to get us an account set up at the Best Western for \$50/night and we will be billed so there is no involvement with credit card.

--Scholarship Info for College Students will go out in April.

Evangelism

--Hayden and I both work on Facebook for outreach and evangelism. Hayden scheduled the posts he does up through April which is greatly appreciated.

--Haley Stike has taken on a page for our Church's Facebook called "The Joy of God's People." She posts music, scripture, and faith sayings.

Transformation

--I will be putting together an advisory board to help keep us moving forward. The advisory board will do work and study while I am on sabbatical. I will be looking at the same material.

--Jenny, Pam, and I have put together a task force for listening groups to help us ask members their feelings thoughts about church and their ideas about moving forward. It is a great opportunity to have people reengage in the ministry of Unity. This will help us get a clearer idea of what we need staffing-wise as well.

--re-connect (4 week engagement to help reconnect our members with one another and their faith. This will begin the week of April 18 and end the week of May 9. This will be a small group ministry using various ways to gather—in-person, Facebook, Zoom.

Property

--Spring Work Day is scheduled for April 24. There are a lot of things that need to be cleaned, organized, etc. Gina Rhea is taking up the organizing of this.

--Dottie and Ronnie Wheeler have been working hard on the prayer garden—pulling weeds, mulching, cleaning up.

--We finally have guidelines named for the Prayer Garden that need to be voted on. Thanks to Dottie for working with me on this. (See Attachment)

Educational/Small Groups

--God and My Girlfriends has going very well through Zoom and we have picked up some new girlfriends.

--The book study taking place on Wednesdays is going great. We meet through Zoom. The noon group has 7 participants and the 6:00 group has 6.

--Gina Rhea will teach a study on the Old Testament on Wednesdays at the same times starting mid April

--Young Adult Group continues to meet through Zoom. Emily Jackson is leading this now that Hayden is gone.

Denominational Ministries

- Teresa, Gina, Treena, and I worked on the yearbook report for 2020 and were pleasantly surprised by some of the findings.
- There will be summer camp at Craig Springs. They are working on making safety precautions in place for COVID
- There is now a Camp Pastor at Craig Springs year round—more info to follow

Community Involvement

I continue to work closely with Daily Bread. We have a board meeting on March 30.

Sabbatical Plans

- May 23-August 15
- I will do the original trips planned with the exception of the Africa trip. We will hold on to two of the sabbatical weeks and wait to use them next summer so we can go to Africa safely.
- We will have a special service to kick-off the sabbatical.
- Clergy Renewal Grant included funds for both the congregation and myself to have opportunities for learning, faith growing, relaxation, and spiritual nourishment.

Faithfully,
Wendy Wilson

(Letter Head)

March 15, 2021

Dear Church Family,

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the pandemic and how it has changed our lives and how we do church, the leadership team is taking some time to evaluate where we have been, where we are, and where God is calling us next. This has truly been a year where we have all been disconnected from each other and we have all missed one another. As one way to reconnect and show our shared love and hope for Unity, we are reaching out to everyone to get a clear assessment of how you feel and think about the church and where you see God leading us both in the near and distant future.

A Task Force has been established with members representing the different generations of our church and the various ministries we support. Someone from the Task Force will be contacting you to discuss and share the questions included. Our motto and mission is still to “Reach Up, Reach In, and Reach Out” but we need to ask ourselves, “What does that look like in the post-pandemic world?”

Our immediate sights are on reconnecting and renewing our commitment with followers, but also expanding our reach with our community. You are part of this journey of faith and your input is needed. As we develop our future, we are asking what realignments and staffing are beneficial and what will these do to help aid our commitment to our goals of:

- Making and transforming disciples
- Growing spiritually through prayer and other spiritual disciplines
- Learning more about the Bible and our understanding of faith and how it affects our daily lives
- Providing opportunities to serve our neighbors through mission

We’ve witnessed what stepping out in faith can do for Unity in the hiring of a director of faith development. During the last two years we’ve seen our youth and young adult ministries flourish with an expansion of our Children Worship and Wonder ministry, new growth in a community of families with children, and a second service added with a praise music team. We experienced almost a fivefold increase in our ministry’s ability to reach individuals through virtual services on Facebook, Wednesday Word and Witness, weekday studies and other connections through virtual services and digital media. Last year alone our average weekly worship attendance was 609 people. We served approximately 2,095 people in our own community, and from 2019-2020 gifts and special offerings totaling over \$375,000 have blessed us with enormous opportunities. In spite of COVID, we were able to continue our commitment to reach up, reach in, and reach out.

As we look to the future, let us all ask, “How do we continue to build upon what Unity has started? How do we expand our ministry to further share the Gospel with our community and beyond?” Please take time to pray and reflect upon these questions. Your participation will help us understand God’s vision for Unity in this new reality we find ourselves.

Faithfully,

Listening Session and Focus Group Meetings

Questions

Attitudes Toward Unity CC

1. What three words come to mind to describe Unity Christian Church?
2. How would you characterize Unity's reputation and standing in the community?
3. What are the strengths of Unity Christian Church? Weaknesses?
4. How would you characterize the Board and Leadership?
5. What do you think are some of the most beneficial changes that have taken place at Unity during the pandemic?
6. During the last year, in what ways have your attitudes toward Unity changed?
7. What programs and ministries do you think are most important at Unity?

Case for The Future

1. Have you had a chance to read the Vision Statement for future ministries and outreach?

2. What appeals to you most and would motivate your personal support and involvement?
3. What things do you find troublesome?
4. Do you feel the church members are willing to support future missions and outwardly focused growth?
5. What is your definition of evangelism and outreach for Unity?
6. Do you support staffing to pre-pandemic levels? What about future staffing?
7. What do you think will be Unity's greatest challenges in adapting and changing in the post-pandemic era?
8. What do you think is God's plan for Unity CC?

Guidelines For Interment in the Unity Memorial Garden

- * The cremated remains of anyone who is a member and/or has a close relationship with Unity Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Radford, VA, may be placed in the Unity Memorial Garden. The burial of cremated remains of any other person will need to be approved by the General Board of Unity Christian Church.
- * Containers that are watertight may be used. Ashes cannot be spread but must be in an urn and buried in the appropriate area of the garden.
- * Markers will be placed where the ashes are buried. A record of placement for each urn and a map of the garden will be kept.
- * Plaque name tabs can be obtained from Unity Christian Church. Only names of the interred and dates are to be noted on the tabs. The cost of the tab will be paid by the family of the deceased.
- * The memorial garden must be kept as a serene, meditative area of the church property.
- * The Property Team of Unity Christian Church will oversee the care of the garden.

Approved by the General Board of Unity Christian Church on:

(Date) _____

Signature of Board Chair:
